

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 12, No. 3 – Tuesday, January 22, 2019

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Newsletter (PDF version): <http://bit.ly/NeighborhoodAdvisory-2018-01-22>

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Published by the City of Knoxville's Office of Neighborhoods to report news important to Knoxville's residential neighborhoods. Include your neighborhood-related event or meeting in this space. Call 215-4382. News deadline: 5 p.m. Mondays.

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1. Schedule Set for KKCP (MPC) One Year Plan Meetings

Big News is coming for Knoxville Knox County Planning (KKCP)! The organization, formally known as the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC), has not only changed their name, but is also setting big plans for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

KKCP is looking for your input on updates for amendments to the 2018 plan, permitted land use and zoning districts, and development policies. One Year Plan Update Meetings are scheduled at 6 p.m. at the following locations across Knoxville:

- Monday, Feb. 4, Middlebrook Pike, United Methodist Church, 7234 Middlebrook Pike
- Monday, Feb. 11, South Doyle Middle School Library, 3900 Decatur Rd.
- Monday, Feb. 19, New Harvest Park Community Building, 4775 New Harvest Ln.

Come out and help KKCP plan for a better Knoxville. For more information, visit their [website](#).

2. Grant Opportunities Workshops Offered

Learn about ways to raise money for your neighborhood through a City of Knoxville workshop.

The Office of Neighborhoods and Parks and Recreation will jointly host a workshop to assist neighborhood organizations that apply for funds.

The same workshop will be offered on two dates, Thursday, Jan. 31, from 5:30-7 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 2, from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Public Works Building, 3131 Morris Ave.

Kevin Jeske-Polyak will also present information about the Knoxville Neighborhood Treasure Hunt and Online Auction coming up in May.

Additional tips on fundraising for neighborhood projects will be offered, including crowd sourcing and advocacy with public officials.

All are welcome to attend. If you have questions, please email Debbie Sharp at dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov.

Anyone needing a disability accommodation to be able to attend these workshops or any public meeting should contact Stephanie Cook at scook@knoxvilletn.gov or 865-215-2034. For an English interpreter, contact Title VI Coordinator Tatia M. Harris at 865-215-2831.

3. Save the Date: Active Shooter Workshop Offered

Knoxville Police Department and Office of Neighborhoods are sponsoring a workshop on how to protect yourself in an active shooter situation, Thursday, Feb. 28, from 6-8 p.m. in the Civic Coliseum Reception Hall.

As a society, we are hearing more about these situations and we want people to feel prepared if faced with a situation in your neighborhood.

More details to follow in this newsletter. If you have questions, please contact Debbie Sharp at dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov, or 215-4382.

Anyone needing a disability accommodation to be able to attend this meeting or any public meeting should contact Stephanie Cook at scook@knoxvilletn.gov or 865-215-2034. For an English interpreter, contact Title VI Coordinator Tatia M. Harris at 865-215-2831.

4. Free Tax Assistance

There are several programs by which people may qualify to receive free tax assistance. Phone 2-1-1 to find out about area providers.

If you are an employee of the City of Knoxville, family-member, or City retiree, the L.T. Ross Building Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax preparation.

VITA is a free and confidential service offered to low and moderate income individuals and families on a first come, first serve basis. VITA taxes are filed with the help of highly qualified, IRS certified volunteers. VITA volunteers are practiced at filing most types of

basic tax returns, and many are current or retired business, educational, or financial professionals.

The L.T. Ross VITA program runs now through Monday, Apr. 15, at the L.T. Ross Building, 2247 Western Ave., on the following days and times:

- Mondays & Wednesdays: 3 to 7 p.m.
- Tuesdays & Thursdays: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Saturdays (February Only): 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, please call (865) 546-3500. For more information and other appointment only free tax sites, visit their [website](#).

VITA is totally free and confidential. Tax returns are filed electronically, unless otherwise specified.

5. Treasure Hunt and Online Auction

Are you looking for a creative way to raise money for your neighborhood projects and engage your neighbors?

Office of Neighborhoods (OON) is partnering with Community Television of Knoxville (CTV) and registered neighborhood organizations to present the inaugural Knoxville Neighborhood Treasure Hunt.

This will feature a three week online neighborhood fundraising auction that will culminate with a live, televised, 3 hour event.

What do neighborhood organizations need to be doing now?

- Start looking around in your attic, basement, closets, and storage units.
- Identify items in good condition to donate to the treasure hunt.
- Alert neighbors, family members, and friends to do the same.
- Identify a neighborhood representative to “approve” items donated on the neighborhood’s behalf.
- Have the neighborhood representative call Kevin to have all questions answered.

Here is how the auction will work:

Registered neighborhood groups will invite neighbors and neighborhood businesses to donate “treasures” to raise money for their neighborhood organization. Donations can include new items, slightly used items, and antiques. Anyone may donate an item on behalf of a neighborhood group.

Between now and April, neighborhood groups will inventory, approve, and photograph their items to be auctioned.

CTV and OON will co-produce short neighborhood videos featuring interviews with neighborhood residents highlighting activities and events that take place in the neighborhoods.

The online auction will launch, Friday, Apr. 12 and begin taking bids. The auction will run from Apr. 12 through Friday, May 3.

CTV will air a three hour televised special on Friday, May 3, from 6-9 p.m., featuring recorded neighborhood videos and live auction bid updates. Winning bids will be announced at 9:00 p.m.

Neighborhood representatives will coordinate treasure item pickups and payments. There is a simple way to keep track of this online. Neighborhood groups will keep 100% of the proceeds from the sale of treasures donated on their behalf. Which neighborhood will bring in the most amount of money?

There will be two opportunities to learn more about this unique fundraising idea at the OON Grant Opportunities Workshops on Thursday, Jan. 31, and Saturday, Feb. 2. See article two for additional information.

If you have questions, please contact Kevin Jeske-Polyak at CTV 865-215-4352 or at Kevin@ctvknox.org.

6. Trees Knoxville Tree Give-Away

Trees Knoxville will give away a variety of native trees on Saturday, Jan. 26, at the Knoxville Botanical Gardens, 2649 Boyd's Bridge Pike, from 10 a.m.-noon (or until the trees are gone). For easy access, use the Boyd's Bridge Pike entrance to the Knoxville Botanical Gardens.

This give-away is open to residents and businesses of Knoxville and Knox County. Recipients may obtain up to five free trees to plant on their private property. In addition, Trees Knoxville will provide instructions on how to care for the trees given away. There are six different varieties of native trees species to be given away: black gum, redbud, red maple, bald cypress, swamp white oak, and tulip poplar. Trees will be comparable in size to those sold at retail stores.

The Tree Give-Away will be held inside the Knoxville Botanical Gardens' Mule Barn and is a rain or shine event. The opportunity for Trees Knoxville to give away trees is made possible through the support of Pattison Sign Group. Trees Knoxville also thanks the Knoxville Botanical Garden for sharing its grounds for this event.

For more, contact Trees Knoxville at treesknoxville@gmail.com or Tom Welborn, chair of Trees Knoxville at tcwelborn@gmail.com.

7. Disability Services Office Hosts Training for City, County Employees

The ADA coordinators for Knox County and the City of Knoxville will host a collaborative training for all City and County employees.

This training opportunity will give City and County employees the opportunity to learn about ADA as a civil rights law, how it applies to public employees and their supervisors, disability history, and etiquette. Thank you to Cindy Pionke, Knox County ADA coordinator, and Stephanie Cook, City of Knoxville's ADA coordinator, for providing this great opportunity!

There will be two, identical opportunities to attend the training session. However employees must RSVP as seating is limited.

For event details and to RSVP for this training, contact Stephanie Cook, City of Knoxville's ADA coordinator, at scCook@knoxvilletn.gov.

8. City Council Plans Workshop to Discuss Recode

Have you been following [Recode Knoxville](#)? The fourth draft of the city-wide zoning code update was approved by Knoxville-Knox County Planning at the January meeting and is headed to City Council.

Council plans to hold workshops to discuss Recode before voting to approve the ordinance. The first Zoning Code Update/Recode Knoxville workshop will be held on Thursday, Feb. 7, at 5:30 p.m. in the City County Building Main Assemble Room, 400 Main St.

This meeting is open for the public to observe. More details on specific topics will be released closer to the date. To see proposed zoning changes where you live, check out the [Recode Proposed Zoning Map](#). Any public comments or input can be directed to City Council members.

9. Knoxville Neighborhoods Calendar (click link for online calendar)

Call 215-4382 to include your neighborhood event or meeting in [this Google calendar](#).

If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation in order to attend a City of Knoxville public meeting, please contact Stephanie Brewer Cook at scCook@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-2034 no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. For an English interpreter, contact Title VI Coordinator Tatia M. Harris at 215-2831.

Other Calendars

Here are other online calendars that cover events outside of the neighborhood realm:

- [Arts & Culture Alliance](#) (There's More to Knoxville)
- [Arts & Fine Crafts Center Classes](#) (City of Knoxville)
- [City of Knoxville General Calendar](#)

About This Newsletter

*** This Advisory is produced on most Tuesdays of the year.*

*** Ideas and contributions are welcome. We reserve the right to edit submissions.*

*** Deadline for news & calendar items: 5 p.m. Mondays*

*** May be copied and forwarded via neighborhood e-mail lists and newsletters.*

*** See past issues at our Website: <http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/neighborhoods>*

*** Don't have Internet access? Call 215-4382 if you need a copy of a particular document.*