

**Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 12, No. 15 – Tuesday, April 16, 2019**

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Newsletter (PDF version): <http://bit.ly/NeighborhoodAdvisory2019-04-16>

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*Published by the City of Knoxville's Office of Neighborhoods, we report news important to Knoxville's residential neighborhoods. Include your neighborhood-related event or meeting in this space. Call 215-3232. News deadline: 12 noon on Fridays.*

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**1. Booth Slots Open for The Neighborhood Conference**

If you are a non-profit that works in or with neighborhood organizations and are not already signed up for a booth at The Neighborhood Conference on Saturday, May 18, please contact Sarah Henson at [shenson@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:shenson@knoxvilletn.gov) or 215-3232.

There are several slots open, but they are filling fast.

Please provide Sarah with the following information:

- \*\* Organization name
- \*\* Contact Person
- \*\* Contact Person's email address
- \*\* Contact Person's phone number
- \*\* Need for Wi-Fi (yes/no)
- \*\* Need for electricity (yes/no)
- \*\* Number of booths needed\*\*\*
- \*\* The name of your booth(s) listed in our marketing materials

Giving a brief explanation of your work in neighborhoods or with neighborhood organizations will be helpful.

The deadline to apply is Monday, Apr. 22. We will let you know as soon as possible if you have been selected to have a booth.

Booths are available to for-profit organizations and businesses as part of our Neighborhoods Conference sponsorship package. If you would like to secure a booth as a sponsor, please contact Courtney Durrett at [cdurrett@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:cdurrett@knoxvilletn.gov) or 215-3077.

## **2. Neighborhoods Get Healthy – Staring with their Youngest Members**

**Forest Heights Neighborhood Association** (FHNA) and **Westwood Homeowners Association**, in partnership with Bearden Elementary and [Bike Walk Knoxville](#), have joined together to begin a [Walking School Bus](#) program for Bearden students.

As a newly registered [Healthier Tennessee](#) neighborhood, Forest Heights is looking to encourage neighborhood walkability, starting with the youngest Knoxvilleians. In an effort to get the whole neighborhood out and moving, FHNA chose to partner with Bearden Elementary School to start the Walking School Bus. As neighbors, Westwood volunteered to join in the effort!

The Walking School Bus, known by students as “Walking Wednesdays,” encourages students to take one of two routes to and from school, every Wednesday, through the end of the school year. As the newest addition of Knox County’s [Safe Routes to School Program](#), the program encourages volunteers to help safely walk kids to and from school, get exercise, and give students extra time to be outside and spend time with friends.

For more information on starting a Walking School Bus program in your neighborhood or joining an existing effort, contact [Bike Walk Knoxville](#).

## **3. The Wiffleball Tournament is BACK**

Mark your calendars for the Third Annual Neighborhoods Wiffleball Tournament to be held on Saturday, June 22.

Registration for the tournament will open in May. Keep your eyes open for more details regarding registration deadlines for your neighborhood/team, new rules, and the day’s agenda. In the meantime, start planning your teams and practicing!

Westwood has won both the 2017 and 2018 tournaments. Who will challenge them for the win in 2019!?

## **4. Seven Neighborhoods Apply For Neighborhood Achievement Awards**

Seven groups have applied for Neighborhood Achievement Awards: **Historic Fourth and Gill Neighborhood Organization**; **Residence of Eastport**; **RiverHill Gateway Neighborhood Association**; **South Woodlawn Neighborhood Association**; **The Highlands HOA**; **Timbercrest Neighborhood Association**; and **Wesley Neighbors/West Hills Community Association** are all working to better their neighborhoods one project at a time. Learn about their progress at The Neighborhood Conference on May 18.

To register for the conference, visit the [Office of Neighborhoods](#) website.

## **5. New Sponsors Added for The Neighborhood Conference**

[The Neighborhood Conference](#) has a new Gold Level sponsor, Prestige Cleaners at \$3,000; a new Silver Level sponsor, Vaughn and Melton with \$1,500; a new Bronze Level sponsor, Dover Developer at \$500; and a \$250 sponsor by PYA.

A huge thank you goes out to our newest sponsors as well as our current sponsors:

- Platinum Level (\$5,000): Waste Connections
- Silver Level (\$1500): Coldwell Banker Wallace & Wallace and Home Federal Bank
- Bronze Level sponsors (\$500): Cannon & Cannon, Elizabeth Eason, First Tennessee Bank, Hatcher Hill, Knoxville Area Association of Realtors, Realty Executives Associates, and UT Federal Credit Union

We appreciate the support of these sponsors for this important community event and are still accepting sponsorships. For more information, contact Debbie Sharp at [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov) or 215-4382.

The Neighborhood Conference will be held on Saturday, May 18, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Knoxville Convention Center. [Register](#) now to save your spot.

## **6. Board of Zoning Appeals Meets April 18**

Two properties are on the agenda for this week's meeting of the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA).

Established by city ordinance, BZA hears appeals on properties denied building permits by the city's Building Inspections Department. The board, consisting of five citizens appointed by the Mayor, meets at 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the City County Building Small Assembly Room, 400 Main St.

BZA meets Thursday, Apr. 18. Addresses on the agenda include 3039 Alcoa Hwy. and 513 Carta Rd.

Keep up with how the BZA might impact your neighborhood. Watch for signs indicating a pending decision on a particular piece of property. Most signs are for Metropolitan Planning Commission issues --- which are also important --- but signs with the word "variance" are BZA items. (Learn how MPC changed the way it handles [notification signs](#).)

The BZA agenda is posted on the city website. Browse the [City Boards](#) and click on Board of Zoning Appeals. The agenda is posted no later than the Monday prior to the BZA meeting each month.

A neighborhood group interested in BZA concerns can call the Plans Review & Inspections Department at 215-3669 to request and study the paperwork on a particular appeal, decide whether to take a position on the appeal, and then attend the BZA meeting to voice the group's support or objections. A group can also request a postponement to allow time to meet with the applicant.

Decisions of the BZA can be appealed within 15 days of the BZA decision to Knoxville City Council. Appeals of a City Council decision are made to Chancery Court within 60 days of a City Council decision related to BZA.

The next BZA Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16, at 4 p.m., in the Small Assembly Room.

### **7. City Closed April 19 for Spring Holiday**

City of Knoxville offices will be closed Friday, April 19, in observance of the Good Friday holiday.

While this closure does include the Office of Neighborhoods, it will not affect Waste Connections garbage and recycling pickup. Waste Connections WILL run residential garbage, downtown garbage, and recycling routes as usual on Apr. 19. Additionally, the City's recycling centers will be open for recycling use, but the Solid Waste Management Facility is closed Apr. 19 and 20.

Click the link for a full list of [City of Knoxville Holidays](#). For more information on City recycling and garbage pickup, visit [Solid Waste](#).

### **8. KGIS Workshop to Show Advanced Material**

The Office of Neighborhoods will host an advanced workshop on how to make full use of [www.kgis.org](http://www.kgis.org) on Thursday, Apr. 25. The workshop will be held at the City's Public Works Building, 3131 Morris Ave., from 6 to 8 p.m.

Previously, the Office of Neighborhoods held a beginner's workshop on the use of KGIS --- the Knoxville, Knox County, KUB Geographical Information System --- by neighborhood groups.

In addition to picking up tips and understanding how to use various tools and applications, participants will learn how to navigate the neighborhood KGIS app -- the [Neighborhood Groups Viewer](#), which maps the boundaries of neighborhood groups in the city.

Wi-Fi is available. The first 15 participants to bring a laptop will be able to log on to the website during the workshop. If you plan to attend, please notify Debbie Sharp at [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov) or leave your name and contact information at 215-4382.

### **9. Get On Board with KAT**

[Knoxville Area Transit](#) (KAT) will offer service *fare-free* to encourage the public to ride and show their support for transit on April 25<sup>th</sup>, joining with other public transportation systems nationwide to participate in “[National Get On Board Day](#)”.

Public transportation is a cornerstone of local economies in urban, suburban, and rural communities. In fact, public transportation helps to make a community economically prosperous and competitive. Each weekday in the U.S., 34 million people board public transportation. Every \$1 invested in public transportation generates approximately \$4 in economic returns, powering community growth and revitalization.

Over the past several years, KAT has been working on service improvements to neighborhoods, with later and more frequent service. Neighborhoods like Island Home and South Haven, as well as Vestal, Burlington, and Five Points now have service every 30 minutes, while the neighborhoods of Inskip, Lincoln Park, and Parkridge have services that run late.

“Now is a great time to try transit in Knoxville,” says Melissa Roberson, Interim Director of Transit for the City of Knoxville. “Our new [KATbus Tracker app](#) can track your bus in real time as well as [plan your trip](#). Or, if you prefer, the texting feature at each bus stop also offers real-time bus arrival times. Once on the bus, the free Wi-Fi is a great way to get some work done or just relax with some good music.”

KAT is encouraging neighborhood leaders to share Get on Board Day with their neighbors, and KAT staff are available to assist with group ride activities. Passengers are encouraged to use social media on the 25<sup>th</sup> to share why public transit is important to them.

For more information, contact Belinda Woodiel-Brill at 865-215-7828.

## **10. Parks and Recreation Seeks Challenge Grant Applicants**

Do you have a park in your neighborhood that needs a little makeover? Could your neighborhood gathering place use some TLC? Have you been envisioning a new bench along that neighborhood greenway?

Well...there is a grant program for these types of projects!

The City of Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting applications for the [2019 Challenge Grant Program](#).

Grants are available for any nonprofit project associated with public parks or recreation facilities within city limits. Whether improving playground equipment, adding a water fountain, or brightening up the landscape; Challenge Grants are provided to improve public spaces for all who enjoy them.

This year, grants are available to any community groups, homeowner associations, schools, and organizations with 501c3, 501c4, and 501c6 status.

All recipients of the Challenge Grant will be reimbursed 50 percent of the cost of any single project, up to \$2,500. The community match can be made from dollar contributions or the dollar estimate associated with donated volunteer hours.

All grants must be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Department by **Thursday, May 30, 2019**.

All applicant awards will be announced by Sunday, June 30, 2019, and work must be completed by Friday, Dec. 13, 2019.

For more, visit [Parks and Rec Challenge Grant](#). Please call 311 or 865-215-4311, for questions regarding the Parks and Recreation Challenge Grants.

### **11. On-line bidding is now LIVE for the Neighborhood Treasure Hunt**

The Neighborhood Treasure Hunt and Online Auction is an exciting neighborhood fundraising event running from now until Friday, May 3, and concluding with a live three-hour televised event from 6 to 9 p.m. that same night.

Don't miss this opportunity to bid on more than 150 new and gently used treasures donated by community residents and local businesses.

This event is a collaboration effort between Community Television of Knoxville, the Office of Neighborhoods, and participating neighborhood organizations. The purpose of this event is to promote neighbor engagement and raise much needed funds for neighborhood projects.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from the sale of all donated items will go to support the specific neighborhoods designated by each donor.

Be sure to check the Treasure Hunt website often at [ctvknox.org/hunt](http://ctvknox.org/hunt). Register today, bid often, and support Knoxville neighborhoods!

### **12. Knoxville Neighborhoods Calendar** (click link for online calendar)

Call 215-3232 to include your neighborhood event or meeting in [this Google calendar](#).

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

### **Other Calendars**

Additional online calendars that cover events outside the neighborhood realm include:

- [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 email 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.*