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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. OON Welcomes New Mayor and Councilmembers

The Office of Neighborhoods (OON) wants to welcome Mayor-elect Indya Kincannon and Council members-elect Lynne Fugate (At Large Seat A), Janet Testerman (At Large Seat B), Amelia Parker (At Large Seat C) and Charles Thomas (5th District) on their election victories this past week.

2. North Hills Garden Club Receives Arboretum Designation

This past Thursday, the North Hills Garden Club (NHGC) opened their community arboretum. Mayor Rogero attended the ribbon cutting along with members and the executive board of the NHGC. The opening of the arboretum was made possible through the efforts of the NHGC, a City of Knoxville Parks and Recreation Challenge Grant, and support from City Urban Forester, Kasey Krouse.

The arboretum is the first of its kind in Knoxville, and serves as an educational guide about tree species. There are signs labeling 40 different tree species, and the club has plans to add 60 more. There are several benches and signs throughout the arboretum as well.

3. Win a \$75 Neighborhood Achievement Award

What creative, interesting, resourceful, clever projects has your neighborhood organization been doing over the past year?

Whether your organization is large or small, well established or brand new, your group is encouraged to apply for the Neighborhood Achievement Award. The awards will showcase accomplishments by neighborhood groups during the 2019 calendar year.

Neighborhood Achievement Awards are recognized every year at The Neighborhood Conference, which will be held on March 28, 2020 at the Knoxville Convention Center this year. Winners receive \$75 for their Neighborhood Organization to use on future initiatives.

NOTE: The deadline is early this year because we are hoping to create a very short video of neighbors explaining their neighborhood's accomplishments.

To apply, fill in the [application](#) and email it to Debbie Sharp at dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov OR mail it to Office of Neighborhoods, P.O. Box 1631, Knoxville, TN, 37901, no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20. If you have questions or need a hard copy mailed to you, contact Debbie Sharp at 215-4382 or the above email.

Examples of accomplishments include, but are not limited to:

- Beautification and place-making projects, green spaces and community gardens, and other physical improvements to the neighborhood;
- Projects, events, and activities that focus on connecting neighbors with one another, such as street fairs, potlucks, home tours, holiday celebrations, and neighbors helping neighbors;
- New or ongoing communication efforts such as newsletters, social media, and phone tree networks; and
- Activities involved in launching, reviving, or strengthening a neighborhood group.

4. OON Requests Input on BSNO Dates

Mark your calendars! The Office of Neighborhoods is planning the highly anticipated Building Strong Neighborhood Organizations (BSNO) Leadership Program for Spring/Summer 2020.

Spanning over 40 hours, the BSNO curriculum will cover a wide range of topics designed to equip neighbors with the tools to start and sustain effective neighborhood organizations.

BSNO is an important program for neighborhood activists, organization board members, anyone looking to enhance their skills in community organizing, etc. Topics covered in BSNO, include: styles of leadership, identifying and utilizing a neighborhood's most important asset, how to facilitate effective meetings, recruiting and retaining members, internal and external communications, decision-making, conflict resolution, and strategic planning, just to name a few.

If you are interested in participating in the 2020 BSNO program, please fill out the [survey](#) and let us know which of the three options work best for you.

For more information on BSNO, check out the [website](#) or contact Debbie Sharp at dessharp@knoxvilletn.gov.

5. Save The Date: 2020 The Neighborhood Conference Is Scheduled

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 28, 2020 for the City of Knoxville's Neighborhood Conference. The conference will be held at the Knoxville Convention Center and have workshops on community engagement, over 80 booths from local vendors, time to network with and learn from others, and an awards luncheon. The event is free. Additional information will be provided in upcoming newsletters.

6. City Hosts Illumination Ceremony to Celebrate LED Light Project

As part of becoming a more sustainable community, the City of Knoxville contracted with Siemens to convert 28,500 city streetlights from high pressure sodium (HPS) lights to modern light emitting diode (LED) technology.

The turn-key operation design phase began in summer of 2017, with installation starting in September 2018. November 2019 marks completion of the project, which will save the city over \$2 million dollars each year, moving forward, on the street light system.

To celebrate this step in a brighter direction, Mayor Rogero, Sustainability Director Erin Gill, Sustainability Coordinator Brian Blackmon, and other city staff, partners, and councilmembers will gather in Emory Place on N. Gay St., at 5:15 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 13, for an illumination celebration.

Come out and see the lights!

This project is a major piece in accomplishing the City's goal to reduce municipal greenhouse gas emissions 20% by 2020. For more information, check out the [Knoxville LED project](#).

7. Special Events Seeks Volunteers for Holiday Festivities

The Office of Special Events would like to invite you to participate in helping kick-off the holiday season by volunteering for the Christmas in the City Events! Friday, November 22, 2019 is Christmas at Chilhowee in Chilhowee Park, and Friday November 29, 2019 is the Regal Celebration of Lights in Downtown Knoxville.

These events are free and family-friendly. Each location transforms into a Christmas Village and will feature free refreshments and local entertainment. It is the perfect way to begin the holiday season, but we need your help to make this year's celebration a success.

Christmas at Chilhowee

November 22, 2019

Volunteers are needed for the following shifts:

5:30 p.m. Chilhowee Park

- Santa's Helpers: helping to keep the line for pictures with Santa running smoothly and assisting with line for the train. Shift: 6-7:30 p.m. OR 7:30- 9 p.m.
- Santa's Elves: helping to close lines at 8:30 p.m. for train rides, face painting, balloon artist, and Santa Claus pictures

The Regal Celebration of Lights

November 29, 2019

Volunteers are needed for the following shifts:

- Information Booth: need assistance checking in volunteers, answering questions, and assisting with a very easy craft - helping children make Gingerbread Man Magnet. All the items will be provided and set in place for you. Shifts: 4-6:30 p.m. OR 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Santa's Helpers: helping to keep the line for pictures with Santa running smoothly! Shifts: 6-7:30 p.m. OR 7:30-9 p.m.
- Santa's Elves: helping to close lines at 8:30 p.m. for train rides, face painting, balloon artist, and Santa Claus pictures.

These are both family centered events, so please feel free to bring the entire family with you.

The City thanks you for your time making Christmas in the City a citywide success. For more, call 215-4248.

8. Knoxville History Project Seeks Input on Art Wraps For Magnolia

The Knoxville History Project (KHP) partnered with the City of Knoxville's Offices of Redevelopment and Neighborhoods to get feedback from the community on the potential art wraps that KHP has available for the first four metal signal boxes in the Magnolia Avenue Streetscapes Project.

Watch this [10 minute video](#) to see what KHP has proposed. Feedback can be sent to Paul James with KHP at paul@knoxhistoryproject.org and Debbie Sharp with the Office of Neighborhoods at dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov.

The deadline to give feedback on the recommended artworks for Magnolia Avenue signal boxes is Friday, Nov. 22.

As you will hear in the video, KHP is also interested in expanding its collection of artworks to include in future signal boxes for Magnolia Avenue or around town. Criteria for the artwork: it has to be done by a Knoxville or area artist from the past, we can obtain permission from the owner of the artwork to include in the program, and be able to obtain a very high resolution digital file to reproduce as a graphic wrap. An added bonus is that potential artworks reflect the history and culture of Magnolia Avenue.

To suggest or share artworks or photos of artworks, please email them to Paul James and Debbie Sharp at the emails listed above. There is no deadline to add to KHP's artwork collection.

9. 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 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](#)
- [Parks and Rec Community Programming](#)

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.*