

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 13, No. 15 – Tuesday, April 21, 2020

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Newsletter (PDF version): <https://bit.ly/NeighborhoodAdvisory-2020-04-21>

1. Will I Be Evicted During COVID-19?
2. VMC Hosts Meeting to Discuss E. Fifth Ave. Development
3. Mandatory Grant Workshops Are on Hold
4. KCHD Offers COVID-19 Testing
5. Coronavirus Text Scams: How to Protect Yourself
6. Food Access Available During COVID-19 Pandemic
7. Volunteer Opportunity: Sew Masks for Essential Workers
8. Open Streets Postponed Until June
9. Public Meeting for Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice
10. April Is Child Abuse Prevention Month
11. Earth Day Celebrates 50 Years
12. Free Compost for Home Gardeners
13. [Knoxville Neighborhoods Calendar](#) (click link for online calendar)

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. Will I Be Evicted During COVID-19?

Tennessee Supreme Court issued an Order on March 17, 2020, stating that courts may not take any action to evict or otherwise displace a tenant from his/her residence through April 30, 2020.

If you live in public housing (like KCDC properties) or have federal assistance for your rent (like a Section 8 voucher), there is a temporary moratorium (pause) on the eviction process through July 23, 2020.

If you are facing eviction or have any related questions, please visit the City's [Renter Resource Center](#).

2. VMC Hosts Meeting to Discuss E. Fifth Ave. Development

Volunteer Ministry Center, Inc. (VMC) and the City of Knoxville will host a Zoom meeting to discuss the proposed housing development planned for 1501 E. Fifth Ave. on Thursday, April 23, at 6 p.m.

The development of 48 one-bedroom apartments is designed to provide affordable and permanent supportive housing for former chronically homeless persons.

To see the plans, visit VMC's [website](#).

Attendees will have the opportunity to submit questions in the chat function on Zoom, or send an e-mail to Debbie Thomas dkthomas@knoxvilletn.gov by noon on April 23, to sign up as a speaker. During the meeting if you have technical difficulties, you can also email Debbie Thomas.

To "attend" the meeting, click on the [Zoom.us link](#), type in the meeting number, and the password. Or you can call the number below.

Meeting ID: 912 3207 8331

Password: 241749

One tap mobile

+1-646-558-8656, 91232078331# US (New York)

All are invited to join in.

3. Mandatory Grant Workshops Are on Hold

The Office of Neighborhoods' three mandatory grant workshops scheduled for Saturday, May 2, Wednesday, May 6, and Tuesday, May 12, are put on hold for the time being.

If the Office of Neighborhoods is able to secure the funding for the Neighborhood Small Grant Program (NSGP) for 2020-2021, we will set up these mandatory meetings for June or July 2020, depending on the status of the "Safer at Home" order. A delay would also push our grant cycle back by a couple of months.

The NSGP allows neighborhoods to apply for up to \$3,000 (or \$4,500 if they are partnering with another neighborhood or non-profit) to tackle a neighborhood project or carry out an event or idea that benefits the whole neighborhood.

Contact Eden Slater at eslater@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-2113 if you have any questions.

If you would like to take a look at the forms, copies of the NSGP Guidelines and Application can be found on the Office of Neighborhoods' [web page](#).

4. KCHD Offers COVID-19 Testing

Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is now offering free COVID-19 testing Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Knox County Engineering and Public Works Building, Baxter Ave. You do NOT have to have symptoms.

Expect high volumes of people waiting in line, so please be patient.

While KCHD is pleased to be able to offer testing to anyone concerned about their health, KCHD encourages people go to their primary care provider first, as a full health assessment is ideal. Due to limited staffing, PPE, and testing kits, they will have to pace out resources and will continue to work to secure more supplies in hopes to continue this level of testing.

5. Coronavirus Text Scams: How to Protect Yourself

With more people working from home, relying on technology, and experiencing new and troubling situations, text scams are on the rise. While there are many types of scams circling these days, coronavirus text scams are also increasingly prevalent.

What should you do if you think you may have a text scam? The Knoxville Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC) put together these five steps to help keep your information safe from scammers:

1. Don't Open Any Links

Scammers are tricky and may send texts that appear to come from a legitimate company: a cell phone service provider, power company, bank, etc. If you receive an unexpected text that includes a link, do not open it, and if you do, do not fill in information on the site.

2. Do Your Research Before Replying STOP

While many organizations use STOP as a valid means to end automatic texting, scammers can use it to see if your number is valid. If you text STOP back to a scammer, they will know your number is active and use that information to send robocalls later. Instead of just replying STOP, take a few seconds to look up the number texting you; if it is linked to the company it's claiming to be from, it will likely be on the company's support page.

3. Report Bad Messages to Your Carrier

If you are unable to verify the number or clearly know it is a scam, forward the message to 7726, spelling "scam." AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon all accept scam reports through this number.

4. Use Your Phone's Built-In Blocking Tool

Use your phone's "Block Caller" function to block the call yourself. The location of this function may vary by phone type and model.

5. File a Complaint with the FCC

To help combat current and future spam messages, you can file a complaint with the [Federal Communications Commission](#) (FCC). This will not solve your problem immediately, but it will help the FCC track down bad actors.

For more, check out the full [CAC Coronavirus Texting Scams: 5 Ways to Protect Yourself on the phone](#).

For a list of common scams, check the [Federal Trade Commission](#); for a list of common COVID-19 Scams, visit the FCC's [website](#).

6. Food Access Available During COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about hardship for many people across the county. For some, food access has also become a major issue.

The City of Knoxville and Knox County have created a flyer to share food access resources with the community. Whether you are a senior, family with children, or individual adult, there are food access opportunities for you.

Visit the City of Knoxville's COVID-19 [Food Access](#) page, or see the [flyer](#).

For all social service needs, call 211, and check out the City of Knoxville [COVID-19](#) page for resources and updated information related to the coronavirus.

7. Volunteer Opportunity: Sew Masks for Essential Workers

[Knox Makes Masks](#) is a network of local makers who are sewing protective face masks for essential workers on the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis.

The group provides materials to its volunteers, picks up completed masks, and delivers masks to designated contacts at facilities in Knox County and the surrounding area. This system allows them to gather large quantities of masks to fill facility requests without increasing unnecessary travel to these facilities. And it empowers a community of makers who want to help others during this crisis!

To continue to fill the many mask requests coming in from local medical and frontline workers, Knox Makes Masks seeks more volunteers to sew masks. If you are able and willing to help make masks, please consider joining the effort.

For more information, to place an order request, or to volunteer, visit their [Facebook group](#).

8. Open Streets Postponed Until June

Due to continued concerns over COVID-19 and guidance from the Knox County Health Department, Bike Walk Knoxville has decided to postpone Open Streets Knoxville from its original date of May 3 to Sunday, June 14.

Open Streets Knoxville will still take place on Sevier Avenue in South Knoxville, from Atchley Street down to Suttree Landing via Foggy Bottom Street

Please mark your calendar and come out to ride, run, bike, and play on an open street! The road will be closed to all car traffic, and there will be lots of activities to get into!

Open Streets Knoxville is still seeking [sponsors](#) and [activity providers](#), for more information, contact Lindsey Kimble at openstreetsknoxville@gmail.com.

9. Public Meeting for Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice

Farmer-Morgan will present an overview of the analysis of impediments to fair housing choice in Knoxville during a webinar planned for Thursday, April 30, at 5:30 p.m. via RingCentral.

The Analysis of Impediments Study to Fair Housing Choice (AI) provides jurisdictions with information related to policies, procedures, and practices in place that impede fair housing choice for all its citizens. The City of Knoxville engaged the consulting firm of

Farmer-Morgan to complete the AI for the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan. The study is a requirement by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to ensure that its entitlement jurisdictions, like Knoxville, are affirmatively furthering fair housing choice through its federally funded programs and projects.

Farmer-Morgan will present an overview of the AI during the [webinar](#). You can click the webinar link, iPhone one-tap or telephone in with the phone number listed below to listen in. You might need to type in the webinar ID and Participant ID.

Or iPhone one-tap:

US: +1(650)2424929, 1499347208#

Or Telephone:

US: +1-650-242-4929

Webinar ID: 149 934 7208

Participant ID: 16

All are invited to join and share comments.

10. April Is Child Abuse Prevention Month

National Child Abuse Prevention Month (April) recognizes the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect and promotes the social and emotional wellbeing of children and families.

As a result of COVID-19 crisis, there has been a rise in stress on families. Vulnerable populations are struggling to find resources to meet their needs. School and daycare closures are making the situation worse as families struggle to take care of children while trying to work. Presently, national child abuse hotlines are seeing a rise in abuse and neglect reports.

Child abuse can be difficult to discuss or address. Learn the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect and report instances to the Tennessee Child Abuse Hotline at 877-237-0004. Here are some [tips](#) in Spanish and English that might be helpful.

CASA of East Tennessee, Sexual Assault Center of East Tennessee, Catholic Charities of East Tennessee, as well as others work in our community to combat child abuse and neglect.

Volunteer your time or donate to support one of the organizations in Knox County if you are able.

11. Earth Day Celebrates 50 Years

This year marks the 50 Year Anniversary of Earth Day. In 1970, [the first Earth Day](#) brought together 20 million Americans from all walks of life and led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of other first-of-their-kind environmental laws.

Our Earth Day celebrations may be different this year due to COVID-19, but we are still committed to a green, sustainable Knoxville. The Earth Day Network has various [online](#)

[resources](#) to aid your digital celebrations. On a local level, [East TN EarthRise](#) is hosting an [Earth Day Virtual Rally](#), which you can participate in via Zoom.

However you choose to celebrate, [Mayor Inyda Kincannon](#) encourages everyone to post an Earth Day Selfie this Wednesday, April 22, and share what you're doing for Earth Day 2020!

12. Free Compost for Home Gardeners

Have you been busy in your garden while stuck at home? Are you practicing social distancing and hesitant about visiting a big box store to purchase compost? Four community partners are hosting piles of manure that are free for neighbors. The manure is aged: it doesn't smell, and it is great for helping your garden grow.

The compost will be delivered to four drop sites within the city on Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22. Starting Thursday, April 23, neighbors are welcome to come and self-load what they need – limit: one-half truckload per household. Please bring your own shovel. Please load during weekday daylight hours and avoid weekends, if possible. Allow people space for social distancing.

Donations to the host non-profits are appreciated but not required.

Locations are:

South Knoxville, 1015 England Dr

North Knoxville, [Beardsley Community Farm](#), 1741 Reynolds St

East Knoxville, [Knoxville Botanical Garden](#), 2649 Boyd's Bridge Pike

East Knoxville, [SEED](#), 1617 Dandridge Ave

For more information, please call Chad Hellwinckel at 206-3864.

13. 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: 12 p.m. Fridays.*
- ** 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.*