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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. Knoxville Renaissance Hosts Town Hall Tonight

[Knoxville Renaissance](#) will host a [virtual town hall meeting](#) with Mayor Indya Kincannon and local members of the Black Community today, Tuesday, June 9, from 4-5:30 p.m.

Knoxville Renaissance's mission is to "enact people, policies, businesses, and social networks to re-establish what was once a thriving community in East Knoxville." Tonight's Town Hall, moderated by WATE's Tearsa Smith, will address topics like education, black economic conditions, and police force in the community.

For more information and to view the livestream, visit the [event page](#) on Facebook.

2. Vestal Community Stays Connected During COVID-19

Through each phase of Knoxville's reopening plan, it remains important to wear masks and maintain physical distance when interacting with our neighbors. Some neighbors, like the Vestal Community, have found ways to stay engaged and connected all while keeping each other safe.

The **Vestal Community Organization** has been working on various outdoor projects—a perfect way to get some fresh air and allow for physical distancing. They have been working to clean up Goose Creek by clearing the invasive vegetation alongside the Mary Vestal Greenway, all the way up to the end of Mary Vestal Park where the railroad tracks meet up with West Blount Ave.

Additionally, there are plans to extend the trail or Mary Vestal Greenway to Ft. Dickerson. Working alongside community partners, this project is “moving at great speed.” They recommend contacting their City Councilperson, Tommy Smith, for more information on this project.

Beyond their environmental projects, the Vestal Community has been helping neighbors complete the 2020 Census. If you’d like their assistance, head over to the South Knoxville Fish Hospitality Food Pantry on Friday, June 12, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

What have you and your neighbors been trying in order to feel engaged and connected during this time of physical distancing? Contact Bailey Walker at bwalker@knoxvilletn.gov to tell her what your group has been doing.

3. Neighborhood Advisory Council Meets Tomorrow

The [Neighborhood Advisory Council](#) (NAC) will meet during its regularly scheduled time, Wednesday, June 10, from 4:30-6 p.m. via Zoom.

Members will discuss “How COVID-19 has affected neighborhoods – What has been difficult and what has gotten better? And, where do we go from here?”

To join the webinar, click the link below:

<https://zoom.us/j/94222403637?pwd=U1lxWVV4NmNNTGxTdytzVCtPR2EzQT09>

Password: 835739

Or you may call in with one of the numbers below:

US: +1-301-715-8592 or +1-312-626-6799 or +1-646-558-8656 or +1-253-215-8782 or +1-346-248-7799 or +1-669-900-9128

Webinar ID: 942 2240 3637

Password: 835739

All are welcome to Zoom in with us. If time allows, guests will be able to speak in the webinar as well.

If you have any questions, contact Debbie Sharp at dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-4382.

4. OON Hosts Mandatory Small Grants Meetings

The Office of Neighborhoods is hosting three mandatory workshops for the Neighborhood Small Grants Program (NSGP).

All applicants must be resident-led, resident-controlled, and democratically run neighborhood organizations and attend ONE of the three mandatory grant workshops. The dates are as follows:

- Tuesday, June 23, at 6 p.m.
- Saturday, June 27, at 10 a.m.

- Wednesday, July 8, at 6 p.m.

In order to practice effective social distancing, the workshops are limited to 10 participants each. Please send one neighbor per neighborhood to allow space for other neighborhoods to participate. Contact Eden Slater at eslater@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-2113 to register and receive the location.

Do you have a fun project you would like to see come to fruition in your neighborhood? Maybe you want to plan an event to gain more participants for your neighborhood organization, buy some materials and signs to calm traffic, or buy fruit trees to plant in your neighborhood green space.

Each neighborhood is unique! Regardless of your neighborhood project, consider applying for the NSGP. The NSGP offers neighborhoods grants from \$500 to \$3,000 (or up to \$4,500 if you partner with another non-profit or neighborhood organization). You can apply for projects specific to your neighborhood, so long as they are neighborhood-centric and designed to bring neighbors together.

For more information, to view the guidelines and application, and to view details about past projects, visit the OON [website](#).

5. Community Empowerment Director Makes Statement

“The Department of Community Empowerment is committed to ensuring that all Knoxville residents regardless of race, ethnicity, or nationality are treated in an equitable and just manner. We stand ready to engage in the difficult conversations and to push for policy changes that will finally help us to achieve liberty and justice for all,” the City of Knoxville Community Empowerment Director Charles Lomax Jr. vowed in his June 3 public statement.

In light of the recent deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, Lomax expressed his shared feelings of “anger, animosity, fear, and a deep sense of sadness shared across the community.”

As part of the Department of Community Empowerment, Office of Neighborhoods staffers are proud to be members of a city and department dedicated to standing up for the rights of all Knoxville residents. As Charles so eloquently states, “We must also ensure that injustices of this magnitude are irradiated and never take root in the City of Knoxville.”

“We will engage the members of our various committees, as well as the public, so that all voices and perspectives are taken into consideration.” He said, “Our efforts, coupled with those of community activists, faith leaders, elected officials, and concerned citizens can truly be the difference maker if we’re willing to work together.”

The Office of Neighborhoods vows to stand by these statements, working with citizens and groups throughout Knoxville to have the difficult conversations, addressing the underlying issues, and working to create a city that is fair and just for all.

Please take a moment to watch the video of Charles’s entire [statement](#).

To continue the conversation, we invite you to reach out to the Office of Neighborhood at 215-3232.

6. COVID-19 Related Housing Assistance Available

Many Knoxville residents have lost jobs and income due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are under serious threat of losing their homes.

The City of Knoxville's new COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program will assist renters and homeowners struggling to pay for housing due to income lost because of the pandemic. The goal of the program is to help an estimated 570 renter households and 140 homeowner households make their current and overdue housing payments.

The City received funds as part of the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which, in addition to funding the Housing Assistance Program, will be designated for homeless emergency shelter services and the Mobile Meals program.

If you have lost employment or income due to COVID-19, or are unable to work because of being diagnosed and/or quarantined with COVID-19, **call 2-1-1 to ask about the Housing Assistance Program.** 2-1-1 is also the hotline for additional community resources available, including food and utilities assistance.

For more information about the program, view the full [press release](#) and visit the City's [COVID-19 information page](#).

7. Register For Trails of Red, White, & Blue by June 10

This year, in lieu of the annual Festival on the Fourth Celebration, the City of Knoxville will celebrate the "[Neighborhood Trails of Red, White, and Blue](#)." This fun, new, neighborhood-centric event encourages neighborhoods to decorate your homes, porches, mail boxes, cars, siblings, pets, and whatever else you want, in red and white and blue!

So far, eight neighborhoods are registered! Join **Historic Fourth and Gill Neighborhood Organization, Historic Gibbs Drive Neighborhood Association, Northwest Hills Subdivision, Old North Knoxville Inc., Southside Waterfront Neighborhood Association, RiverHill Gateway Neighborhood Association, Vestal Community Organization, and We Care Neighborhood Watch** in showing off your neighborhood spirit! Register a couple streets in your neighborhood by **June 10**, and be featured on the "Neighborhood Trails of Red, White, and Blue," trails from July 3 to 5!

Neighbors from across Knoxville will get a map and follow the "blue" trail to see all the creative ideas your neighborhood has on display. Judges and a caravan parade will come through on the 4th to spread more celebration and see whose neighborhood is the most "red, white, and blue."

Register by June 10, by contacting Eden Slater at eslater@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-2113, and take part in the fun!

8. Planning Commission Meets This Week

The Planning Commission meeting will take place electronically this Thursday, June 11, at 1:30 p.m.

The [agenda](#) lists 30 items, which include the following addresses: 0 Sanders Dr.; 0 N. Broadway Ave.; 9805 Dutchtown Rd. & 801 Bob Kirby Rd.; 745 N. Broadway Ave.; 5628 Lyons View Pike; 702 704 & 706 W. Emory Rd.; 8512 S. Northshore Dr.; 3029 & 3107 Chapman Highway; 7711 Thompson School Rd.; 7605 Twin Oak Ln.; 7366 Coatney Rd., 0 Tribe Rd., 1401-1497 Dream Catcher Dr. & 1507-1564 Cherokee Landing Dr.; 1705 and 1707 Forrester Rd.; 7700 Dannaher Dr.; 1629 & 0 Polkwright Ln.; 7605 Cedarcrest Rd.; 529 & 0 Nixon Rd. & 0 John Norton Rd.; 10550 Murdock Dr.; 2514 Julian Ln., 0 Flint Gap & 0 Kennedy Rd.; 920 Oak Grove Ln.; 600, 512 & 0 Richmond Ave.

Comments on specific agenda items should be submitted no later than 3 p.m. on Wednesday, June 10, to commission@knoxplanning.org. Include the file number when commenting on a specific case. If you are not an applicant and you are interested in speaking during the meeting about a specific agenda item, email contact@knoxplanning.org no later than Wednesday, June 10, at noon with your full name, phone number, and the agenda item of interest.

If you are interested in watching the Planning Commission meeting, it will be available via [CTV](#) and [YouTube](#).

9. What is Juneteenth?

The combination of June and Nineteenth make Juneteenth, also called Freedom Day or Emancipation Day.

On June 19, 1865, the Emancipation Proclamation—which ended slavery in the United States and had been issued on January 1, 1863—was read to enslaved African-Americans in Texas by Gordon Granger. Texas was the last Confederate State to have the proclamation announced, after the end of the American Civil War in April of that year.

African-Americans and others mark Juneteenth much like the Fourth of July, with parties, picnics, and gatherings with family and friends. If your neighborhood is doing something for Juneteenth, let us know and we can feature your activities in the newsletter.

Juneteenth is recognized as a state holiday or special day of observance in 47 of the 50 states. The three states that do not recognize Juneteenth are Hawaii, North Dakota, and South Dakota. In 1980, Texas was the first state to make Juneteenth a state holiday, although it had been celebrated informally since 1865.

10. 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.*