

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 13, No. 23 – Tuesday, June 23, 2020

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Newsletter (PDF version): <http://bit.ly/NeighborhoodAdvisory-2020-06-23>

1. Mandatory Grant Workshops Begin Tonight
2. City Council to Hold Workshop
3. PARC Hosts 2020 First Quarter Meeting
4. Rent and Mortgage Assistance Available
5. Register to Vote by July 7 for August Election
6. Town Hall East Holds Elections
7. June BBB and POH Canceled
8. [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. Mandatory Grant Workshops Begin Tonight

The first of three mandatory grant workshops for the [Neighborhood Small Grants Project](#) (NSGP) will be held, tonight, Tuesday, June 23, at 6 p.m.

If your neighborhood is interested in applying for the 2021 NSGP, make sure to send a representative to tonight's workshop or one of the other two following Grant Workshop options:

Saturday, June 27, at 10 a.m.
Wednesday, July 8, at 6 p.m.

To register for a workshop please contact Eden Slater at eslater@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-2113. To encourage effective social distancing, numbers are limited; all attendees must register and will learn the location upon registration.

We currently have a couple openings for tonight's, June 23, workshop, if you would like to attend this evening. Both other workshops also have space available. We encourage groups to send one representative per group and wear a mask.

The Grant Workshops are designed to explain the NSGP process, walk through how to apply, and discuss successful grant applications. The NSGP offers neighborhood grants from \$500 to \$3,000, or up to \$4,500 if you partner with another non-profit or neighborhood organization, for projects that engage and encourage neighborhood togetherness and community.

To apply for the NSGP, all applicants must be resident-led, resident-controlled, and democratically run neighborhood organizations and attend one of the mandatory grant workshops.

2. City Council to Hold Workshop

[Knoxville City Council](#) will hold a workshop to hear a presentation on the Housing and Neighborhood Development Draft Five-Year Consolidated Plan and One-Year Action Plan. The workshop will be conducted via Zoom, at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 2.

Pursuant to Governor Bill Lee's Executive Order No. 16, all City Council meetings will be public, but to ensure public health safety, will be conducted electronically. Members of the public will not be able to physically attend the meeting, but all are able to watch it either on Community Television of Knoxville live stream or on broadcast television.

To stream the Council workshop, go to www.ctvknox.org. To watch on television, here are broadcast options:

- Xfinity (Comcast) – Channel 12
- Charter (Spectrum) – Channel 193
- WOW! (Knology) – Channel 6
- AT&T U-verse – Channel 99

The presentation of the Draft Five-Year Consolidated Plan and One Year Action Plan will provide information on how the Neighborhood and Housing Development Department plans to spend federal dollars from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The five-year Consolidated Plan outlines Knoxville's needs, priorities, and strategies for homeless assistance, affordable housing, and non-housing related community development for program years 2020-2024.

The 2020-2021 Annual Action Plan is another aspect of the five-year plan, describing the proposed use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for the first fiscal-year of the Plan, beginning July 1, 2020.

Input on both plans is still being accepted through tomorrow, Wednesday, June 24. Please contact Linda Rust at lrust@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-2962 with any questions or to provide input on how these federal dollars should be spent.

To view both plans, visit Housing and Neighborhood Development's [website](#).

3. PARC Hosts 2020 First Quarter Meeting

The City of Knoxville Police Advisory and Review Committee (PARC) will host their first quarterly meeting of 2020 in person. The PARC meeting, held this Thursday, June 25, at 6 p.m., will meet in the Main Assembly Room of City County Building, 400 Main St.

This first quarterly meeting, originally scheduled for April and delayed due to COVID-19, will present cases received since Jan. 1, through March 31, 2020, by the Knoxville Police Department (KPD)'s Internal Affairs Unit. Additionally, a KPD officer will conduct an educational session, committee members will address regular business, and the community will have the opportunity to speak in an open forum.

Due to COVID-19 safeguards, the room will be limited to 50 people. All attendants are asked to please wear cloth face coverings and follow social distance guidelines from the Knox County Health Dept.

All those wishing to speak in the open forum should contact Ola Blackmon-McBride at oblackmonmcbride@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-3869, by 4:30 p.m. tomorrow, Wednesday, June 24.

All are welcome to attend, but please be mindful to the 50-person limit. If you do not plan to speak, consider watching the live coverage streamed at CTVKnox.org. Video monitors in the City County building will be utilized to stream coverage in the room, if need be.

What is PARC? PARC was established in 1998 to provide an independent review of police activity and make recommendations to the chief of police. Knoxville's PARC consists of seven independent council members appointed to help strengthen relationships between KPD and the citizens. PARC members serve as an independent review of all incidents involving police action in the City of Knoxville. PARC does not review cases until they have passed through an Internal Affairs Investigation, but they do have the power to receive complaints, investigate claims, hear cases, make cases, and disclose findings to the Mayor and KPD Chief of Police.

For more information on PARC, visit the [website](#) or call 215-3869.

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or LEP (Limited English Proficient) and want to request interpretation services, please contact Diversity and Inclusion Officer Tatia M. Harris at tharris@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-2831. If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to attend, contact City ADA Coordinator Stephanie Brewer Cook at 215-2034 or scook@knoxvilletn.gov at least 72 hours before the meeting.

4. Rent and Mortgage Assistance Available

Are you or someone you know struggling to cover rent or mortgage due to income loss during the pandemic? You may qualify for the City of Knoxville's new COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program.

The Housing Assistance program is designed to help keep Knoxville residents in their homes by designating funds to an estimated 570 renter households and 140 homeowner households to make current and overdue house payments.

The City received around \$1.55 million in funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as part of the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act. The Housing Assistance program is just one relief program in a series of incentives created to help Knoxville residents recover from the impact of the pandemic. Funds will also be allocated to homeless agency services and Mobile Meals.

All city residents who have lost employment or income due to COVID-19, are unable to work because of quarantine or a diagnosis of the virus, are encouraged to call 2-1-1 and ask about the Housing Assistance Program. Dial 2-1-1 or 215-4211 to learn more or to inquire after any additional resources, including food and utility assistance.

Visit [KnoxvilleTN.gov/COVID19](https://www.knoxvilleTN.gov/COVID19) for additional information.

5. Register to Vote by July 7 for August Election

If you want to vote in the Thursday, Aug. 6, Election, you must register to vote by Tuesday, July 7.

To register, visit the TN Secretary of State's [website](#). There, you can use the online voter registration or download a Tennessee Voter Registration application and submit the application to your local county election commission.

Voter registration applications can also be picked up in person at the following locations: County Election Commission Offices, County Clerk's Offices, Public Libraries (call to see if the one nearest you is open) or Register of Deeds Offices.

You can also register to vote during a transaction with one of the following departments: Department of Health (WIC program), Department of Human Services, Department of Intellectual Developmental Disabilities, Department of Mental Health, Department of Safety (motor vehicles division), or the Department of Veteran's Affairs.

In order to participate in an election, a qualified voter must be properly registered no later than thirty (30) days before the election, July 7 in this instance. The election commission will process any voter registration form that has been postmarked at least thirty (30) days before the election.

Pursuant to the June 4, 2020 Order of the Davidson County Chancery Court, if you are a registered voter and do not wish to vote in-person due to COVID-19, you are eligible to request an [absentee ballot](#) by mail. You also have the option to vote in-person during early voting or on Election Day, Thursday, Aug. 6.

This Aug. 6, Election Day is the Federal and State Primary as well as Knox County's General Election. See the Knox County Election Commission's [website](#) to view all open seats.

For more information about voting in Tennessee visit GoVoteTN.com

Your voice matters. Go vote!

6. Town Hall East Holds Elections

[Town Hall East](#) held elections via email in May. Town Hall East is a large umbrella neighborhood organization, covering much of far-east Knoxville and including organizations such as Burlington and Holston Hills.

The newly elected officers for 2020- 2021 are:

- President: Sandra Korbelik
- Vice President: Tobias Kight
- Treasurer: Sharon Davis
- Secretary: David Lee

The board thanks all past officers for your service to the community and welcomes the new Town Hall East leadership. Thank you for being active in your community.

7. June BBB and POH Canceled

The [Better Building Board](#) (BBB) meeting scheduled for June 25 has been canceled. The next meeting is scheduled for July 30.

The [Public Officer Hearing](#) (POH) scheduled for June 26 has been cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for July 31.

For a list of upcoming meeting dates, updates on cancelations, and to see upcoming and past agendas, visit the City's BBB and POH [website](#).

8. 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.*