

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 13, No. 25 – Tuesday, July 7, 2020

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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. One Last Mandatory Grant Workshop Opportunity

Is your group interested in applying for a Neighborhood Small Grant this year? The last of three workshops for the [Neighborhood Small Grants Project](#) (NSGP) will be held, tomorrow, Wednesday, July 8, at 6 p.m.

To register for the 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 request that all participants wear a mask and bring your own pen; we are doing our best to ensure everyone's safety.

All neighborhoods interested in applying for the 2021 NSGP must send a representative to a mandatory grant workshop. If you have not sent a participant to one of the previous workshops held this summer, make sure you register and send someone to the July 8 workshop.

The Grant Workshops are designed to explain the NSGP application process, walk neighbors through the steps to apply, discuss allowable projects, and create successful

grant requests. The NSGP offers neighborhood grants from \$500 to \$3,000, (or up to \$4,500 if you partner with another neighborhood organization or non-profit), 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 as well as attend one of the mandatory grant workshop.

For a list of previous projects completed with NSGP funding, visit [Neighborhood Small Grants Program Awards](#).

2. Knoxville Announces Trails of Red, White, and Blue Winners

In place of the annual Festival on the Fourth, this year the City hosted “Knoxville’s Neighborhood Trails of Red, White and Blue.”

Nine neighborhoods participated in the event by decorating their homes for the Fourth and inviting neighbors across the city to tour the area and enjoy the display. Additionally, Vestal hosted a neighborhood cleanup at Goose Creek between Ogle and W Blount, debris removal in Vestal UMC Cemetery, and reseeding of wildflower meadow in Vestal Gateway Park.

The “trails” were open July 3 through July 5, with maps available on the City’s website.

On Saturday, the parade began at the City’s Safety Building on Howard Baker Jr. Ave. and traveled to RiverHill Gateway Neighborhood Association, Historic Fourth and Gill Neighborhood Organization, Old North Knoxville Inc., Historic Gibbs Drive Neighborhood Association, Northwest Hills Neighborhood Watch, and Sherrill Hills Retirement Resort.

Celebrity judges Frank Murphy from 93.1 WNOX, Mayor Indya Kincannon, and Louis Fernandez from WBIR selected winners in three categories:

Best Decorated House: 1026 Luttrell Street, located in the 4th & Gill Neighborhood

Best Decorated Neighborhood: Northwest Hills Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood with most Patriotic Spirit: Sherrill Hills Retirement Resort

To view photos from the event, visit Special Event’s Facebook page.

Thank you to all that participated in the Knoxville Neighborhood’s Trails of Red, White, and Blue!

3. NAC Gains New Member

City Council approved the appointment of David Gillette to the [Neighborhood Advisory Council](#) (NAC) last Tuesday evening at their regularly scheduled meeting.

David Gillette has been on NAC previously and is an active member of Mechanicsville Community Organization, where he grew up, and of East Knoxville, where he lives. Gillette is filling an unexpired slot that Andre Canty vacated when he moved out of state.

The NAC advises and provides input to the Mayor and the City Administration. As a matter of policy, it does not advise City Council, Knoxville-Knox County Planning, and other elected and appointed bodies; however, each member may speak on behalf of their neighborhoods or as individuals. To learn more about the NAC, and the role of the council, visit the webpage above.

NAC has been meeting virtually for the past few months due to COVID-19. The group does not meet in July. Their next meeting will be on Wednesday, Aug. 12, at 4:30-6 p.m. A Zoom link will be provided the week of the meeting for anyone wishing to watch.

4. Knox County Introduces New Voting Machines

Have you heard about the new voting machines? The Verity Scan is a digital scan ballot tabulator that is used in conjunction with an external ballot box.

The unit is designed to scan market paper ballots, interpret, and record voter marks on the paper ballot and deposit the ballots into a secure ballot box. This year's version, Verify 1.0, allows for entering write-in candidates or selecting from a list of certified write-ins. Write-ins do not have to be processed individually; they can be processed in the tabulation system.

Verity Central is a high-speed, central digital ballot scanning system used for high volume processing of ballots (such as vote by mail). Verity Central allows for ballots to be scanned in bulk for users to review during scanning and through resolution for voter intent.

Each ballot has the front and back pages scanned simultaneously to capture all voter marks, supporting duplex ballots.

When you go in to vote, you fill out your half sheet form as usual with your name, address, precinct, to be verified, then you will receive a ballot. You will go to a private area to mark your choices with a pen, then you will go up to the machine and feed it into the scanner. The machine can take the page in several different ways. If there are no errors, your vote will be counted. If you have made an error, such as marking two boxes for the same elected seat, it will come back out for you to fix. There will be Election Workers available to help voters.

Here is a quick [video](#) on how the new machines work.

5. Executive Director of Planning Retires

Knoxville-Knox County Planning (Planning) Executive Director Gerald Green, who has headed the planning commission since 2015, is retiring this Friday, July 10.

According to www.KnoxvilleTNToday.com, Green was previously “director of the Jackson County Planning Department in Sylva” and the “chief planner for the city of Asheville, N.C. for 13 years.”

In Knoxville, Green has led several major projects such as: the rewrite of the City of Knoxville’s zoning ordinance, an update of the city’s parking ordinance, the implementation of Planned Developments, a new zoning tool available in both the city and county, the rebranding of their office from Metropolitan Planning Commission to Knoxville Knox County Planning, along with many other innovations. On their website Planning writes, “Gerald has pushed us all to set our standards higher and demand more for our community. Though his leadership will be hard to match, we’re grateful for his hard work and the momentum that has been gained from it.”

The Office of Neighborhoods staff have worked intensely with Gerald Green through some of these processes with community meetings. We will miss his hard working style, commitment to community engagement, and his sense of humor. We wish Gerald the best in his retirement!

6. Election Commission Seeks Election Officials

The Knox County Election Commission is recruiting additional Election Officials for the August State and Federal Primary and the County General Election.

The Election Commission needs workers for polling places as well as workers for the absentee ballot counting board.

To apply to be an Election Official, fill out the [Election Worker Application](#) for Knox County Tennessee or by calling 215-2480. Be prepared to provide your cell phone number, alternate phone number, date of birth, email address, and how you heard about becoming an Election Official.

Election officials are compensated for working during early voting and on Election Day, as well as for attending required training sessions. Knox County Election Officials can make \$200 for attending training and working on Thursday, Aug. 6; you can earn more if you work during early voting and counting ballots.

To be an Election Official, you must meet the following qualifications:

- Be a registered voter
- Not be a candidate or close relative of a candidate
- Be able to read and write the English language

Additionally, the following government employees can now serve as poll officials: City of Knoxville or Knox County employees, unless working directly under the supervision of an elected official on the ballot; State of Tennessee Employees; and some Federal Employees.

For more information visit the Knox County Election Commission's [website](#).

7. Absentee Ballots Available Through July 30

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 the COVID-19 pandemic, you are eligible to request an [absentee ballot](#) by mail.

You can submit your written request for an absentee ballot by mail, fax, or e-mail. If e-mailing your request, be sure the attached documents contain the information below and your scanned signature:

1. Name of the registered voter
2. Address of the voter's residence
3. Voter's social security number
4. Voter's date of birth
5. Address to mail the ballot
6. The election in which the voter wishes to participate. If the election involves a primary, the political party in which the voter wishes to participate.
7. Reason the voter wishes to vote absentee. If applicable, a copy of the CDL containing the CDL number or the TWIC card must be included in the voter's request.
8. Voter's signature

Mail your [absentee ballot application](#) to 300 W. Main Street, Knox County Courthouse, Room 218, Knoxville, TN 37902-1850. You may also fax your application to 215-4239 or email it to election.central@knoxcounty.org.

Note that, if you have never voted before then you must vote IN-PERSON the first time you vote. Today is the last day to register to vote for the Aug. 6, election. You have the option to vote in-person during early voting or on [Election Day](#).

Be sure your voice is heard and vote!

8. Friends of the Library Gives Free Books

[Friends of the Library](#) is offering free books to any group in Knox County with a Little Free Library or any other program giving books away to encourage reading.

Many neighborhoods stock Little Free Libraries around Knoxville. If you would like additional books to restock your neighborhood's Little Free Library, now is your time.

Contact Shirley Underwood at shirleyunderwood@mindspring.com or 898-3167.

Friends of the Library is a group dedicated to fostering a love of libraries, books, and reading in the Knox County area by community outreach, advocacy, and support of the Knox County Public Library System and staff.

As books are donated to Friends of the Library or are retired from the libraries and there is a desire to keep them in use. Giving them to organizations that will get them into the community is a great way to do this.

9. Census 2020 Extends Deadlines Due to COVID-19

If you have not sent in your Census 2020 information yet, it's not too late to be counted!

To help ensure more people are counted, The Census 2020 Self-Response Phase has been extended from July 31 to Aug. 14.

Tennesseans can report census information, through one of the three following methods:

Online: Fill out the questionnaire at [My2020Census.gov](https://my2020census.gov),

By phone: Call (844) 330-2020 and dictate your information to the operator

By mail: Fill out and mail the forms you received in the envelope marked "U.S. Census Bureau" or "U.S. Department of Commerce" to the U.S. Census Bureau, National Processing Center, 100 Logistics Ave., Jeffersonville, IN 47144.

It is important to ensure all Knoxvilleians get counted in this year's Census. By submitting your Census 2020 information, you help secure accurate funding for Tennessee, Knox County, and Knoxville. This funding allows for important programs and resources, such as road maintenance, affordable housing programs, SNAP benefits, and more, on the state and local level.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the U.S. Census Bureau elected to extend operational deadlines, allowing citizens a longer period to submit this important information while still protecting the health and safety of the public and Census Bureau employees.

Getting an accurate count for our community is especially important as we ask for state and local funding to help cover job loss, housing costs, and other economic impacts from COVID-19. Make sure you are counted. Send in your family's information, today!

For questions about Census 2020 and how to submit information, visit [Census 2020](#).

[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.*