

## Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 13, No. 29 – Tuesday, August 4, 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. Upcoming Election this Thursday**

The Federal/State Primary, County General, and Town of Farragut Municipal Election is this Thursday, August 6.

The following offices are on the ballot:

- US Senate
- US House of Representatives, District 2
- Tennessee Senate, District 6
- Tennessee House of Representatives, Districts 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 89
- Criminal Court Judge, Division II (to complete an unexpired term)
- Public Defender (to complete an unexpired term)
- Democratic State Executive Committeewoman, District 5 (to complete an unexpired term)
- County Commission, Districts 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9
- Assessor of Property
- County Law Director
- School Board, Districts 2, 3, 5, 8 (non-partisan)
- Town of Farragut - Alderman, Ward 1 (non-partisan)
- Town of Farragut - Alderman, Ward 2 (non-partisan)

You can view the sample ballots online:

- Democratic: [https://www.knoxcounty.org/election/2020elections/pdfs/SAMPLE\\_B\\_ALLOT\\_Democratic.pdf](https://www.knoxcounty.org/election/2020elections/pdfs/SAMPLE_B_ALLOT_Democratic.pdf)
- Republican: [https://www.knoxcounty.org/election/2020elections/pdfs/SAMPLE\\_B\\_ALLOT\\_Republican.pdf](https://www.knoxcounty.org/election/2020elections/pdfs/SAMPLE_B_ALLOT_Republican.pdf)
- General only: [https://www.knoxcounty.org/election/2020elections/pdfs/SAMPLE\\_BALLOT\\_General\\_Only.pdf](https://www.knoxcounty.org/election/2020elections/pdfs/SAMPLE_BALLOT_General_Only.pdf)

KGIS has a tool to find your polling

location: <https://www.kgis.org/portal/OnlineTools/VotingLocationSearch.aspx?portalid=0?portalid=0>

If you are voting by mail, all ballots must be received in the mail by the election commission by the close of polls on Election Day in order to be counted.

For more information, visit the Election Commission's website: <https://www.knoxcounty.org/election/index.php>

## **2. Area Organizes to Assist During COVID-19**

COVID-19 has come with difficult challenges for many. Whether facing difficulties in schooling your children, working from home, running a business, feeding your family, paying for housing, or just navigating the unknown, we are all facing hardships in the "new normal".

While the pandemic has been a source of anxiety for most, for some it has gone far beyond that. As the community faces another season of staying at home, many needs arise.

Are you and your family worrying over how you might survive the next few months? Or are you seeing the hardships of others and looking for a way to give back?

With the widespread needs, it can be hard to know where to start, 2-1-1 East Tennessee is a one stop shop for answers to all your social services questions. Simply dial 2-1-1 or 215-4211 to speak to a real person. Whether you are in search of food access, school supplies for your kids, housing assistance, KUB support, COVID-19 information, or more, 2-1-1 staff can get you connected to the right area resources and agencies to help with your concern.

With many looking for help on how to make ends meet, local, state, federal, and community agencies are working together to help support community needs. There is funding available through the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act for rental and housing assistance and small business support. KUB has social workers who can help you work through repayment plans to successfully pay off utility debt accrued over the last few months. Food pantries, soup kitchens, and non-profits

across the city are providing grab and go meals to help feed families through this time. The list of resources is long, and some options come with important steps, but 2-1-1 can help connect you with the right access.

If you, yourself, are not facing these struggles, but would like to support the Knoxville community through this difficult time, there are many ways to give back! United Way of Greater Knoxville is collecting funds to support the local non-profits providing essential resources throughout the area. Through the [Knox County COVID-19 Response Fund](#), you can donate funds for United Way to allocate out to non-profit and community resources providing housing, food, utilities, and more. Visit the link, above, or text "KNOXCOVID" to 41444, to donate.

The Knoxville community is also seeking donations or time. If you are looking for a way to give back directly, there is a long list of ways to volunteer, even from a safe distance. Whether delivering meals for Mobile Meals, making social support calls to seniors, handing out food, assisting with a community clean-up, listening on the crisis hotline, etc., there are many ways to get involved and support the community. Check out [Volunteer East Tennessee](#) to view a long list of ways you can donate your time today.

We are all in this together. Through supporting each other in whatever ways we can and showing respect and kindness, we will be a strong and resilient community.

### **3. NAC Discusses Neighborhood Give Day**

The Neighborhood Advisory Council will learn about, make recommendations for, and discuss the ins and outs of the Neighborhood Give Day program on Wednesday, Aug. 12, from 4:30-6 p.m., via Zoom.

Anyone interested may observe the meeting. If time allows, guests will be able to participate in the conversation. With Zoom Webinars, there is also the opportunity for folks to leave comments in the Chat Box. That will be available to everyone during the meeting.

Details about the Zoom Webinar will be in next week's articles. Keep up to date on our [Facebook page](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Sharp at [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov) or 215-4382.

### **4. OON Accepts OLOYA Nominations**

Officer Liaison of the Year (OLOYA) nominations will be accepted now through Friday, Sept. 11, at 4:30 p.m.

Do you have an officer liaison that goes over and above for your neighborhood? Is he/she the one checking on neighborhood concerns and following up on issues, sharing prevention ideas, and being an all-around great advocate for the community?

We would like to hear about it!

Fill out the [application](#) and return it to Debbie Sharp no later than Friday, Sept. 11, at [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov) or by mail at Office of Neighborhoods, P.O. Box 1631, Knoxville, TN 37901. If you would like a hard copy mailed to you, please call the OON at 215-3232.

Nominations will be announced during the week of September 21-25, which is Thank an Officer Week, then the winner will be announced during National Night Out.

### **5. Census Door-to-Door Efforts Cut Short**

Due to rising concerns over the continued spread of COVID-19, the U.S. Census Bureau is cutting its critical door-to-door efforts short.

Attempts to conduct in-person census interviews will end on Sept. 30, instead of Oct. 31, as it was slated to do.

In an effort to overcome COVID-19 related setbacks, the deadline to mail in and complete census information online was extended. It is not too late to be counted! With the timeline for door-to-door effort cut short, make sure you get your household's data in as soon as you can!

Census information is important to help determine funding for local programs and infrastructure across our state, county, and city. For more on how to respond to the 2020 Census, visit [2020census.gov](https://www.census.gov).

To read more on altered timeline for door-to-door efforts, check out this NPR article: <https://www.npr.org/2020/07/30/896656747/when-does-census-counting-end-bureau-sends-alarming-mixed-signals>.

### **6. Did You Receive Seeds In the Mail?**

Stop and read this information before you do anything with seeds you did not order.

People are shopping online now more than ever before. For many people, it is common to receive a package and not pay attention to where it came from before opening it. However, many people are receiving unsolicited seeds in the mail. These mysterious seeds appear to be coming from China and could be an invasive species. If you receive mysterious seeds in the mail, do not plant them.

These seeds could also be a part of a brushing scam. According to the Better Business Bureau, brushing scams happen when an online seller sends something unsolicited, then writes glowing reviews about the product pretending to be customers. This is done to increase sales. If you receive these seeds you should keep them and the packaging they came in and contact local authorities.

For more information, see this article from [NPR](#).

## **[7. 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](mailto: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.*