

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 13, No. 31 – Tuesday, August 18, 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. Knox County Board of Health to Meet Aug. 19

The Knox County Board of Health will meet via Zoom, at 5 p.m., on Wednesday, Aug. 19.

The Knox County Board of Health is a group of medical professionals and elected officials appointed in accordance with the Tennessee Code Annotated in the Knox County Charter. The board is organized to create protocols to effectively advise Knox County through the COVID-19 pandemic.

At this week's Board of Health Meeting, Dr. Buchanan from the Knox County Health Department will present a report on Knox County's current Reopening Process benchmarks, how our community is doing in that process, and where we are in the reopening plan. Dr. Shamiyeh, from University Health System, Inc., will give the University of TN Medical Center Knoxville Data Update, discussing current COVID-19 numbers and projections. The board will also discuss the COVID-19 Suppression in Bars Regulation, No. 2020-3, which currently requires bars and restaurants to close at 10 p.m. to help combat the spread of COVID-19.

To watch the Health Board meeting, tune into community television (CTV) on your television or by visiting www.ctvknox.org. You can also watch the meeting online by visiting the Knox County YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/knoxcountyttn or the Knox County Livestream website at stream.knoxcountyttn.gov.

For more information on the Knox County Board of Health and to see the agenda, visit <https://covid.knoxcountyttn.gov/board-of-health.html>.

2. BZA and HZC Meet this Week

The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) will meet this Thursday, Aug. 20, at 4 p.m., in the Small Assembly Room, Main floor of the City County Building, 400 Main St.

BZA will consider the following petitions for variance of requirements: 2401 N. Central St.; 3819 Oakhurst Dr.; 500 Callahan Dr.

The [Historic Zoning Commission](#) will meet this Thursday, Aug. 20th, at 8:30 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room, Main floor of the City County Building, 400 Main St.

Certificates of Appropriateness will be awarded to: 3128 Kingston Pike; 1708 Jefferson Ave.; 2036 Jefferson Ave.; 820 N. Third Ave.; 1702 Highland Ave.; 1720 Laurel Ave.; 417 E. Oklahoma Ave.; 215 E. Oklahoma Ave.; 215 W. Glenwood Ave.; 1232 Armstrong Ave.

The next BZA and HZC meetings are on Thursday, September 17.

If you need assistance or accommodation for a disability, please contact the City ADA coordinator at 215-2034.

3. KPD Presents to City Council

The third Knoxville Police Department (KPD) focused City Council workshop will be held next Thursday, Aug. 20, at 4 p.m., over Zoom. The topic of discussion will be "Use of Force" in police encounters.

Follow-up discussions may continue on items discussed in the previous two City Council workshops on KPD related topics. The dates of those meetings were July 23, and Aug. 6.

For the agenda and Zoom link you can check the [City Council](#) website.

Persons wishing to speak at public forum or to an item on the agenda must register with the City Recorder's Office either by telephone or email before 3 p.m. on Thurs. Aug. 20, at 215-2075 or wjohnson@knoxvilletn.gov. The City Recorder's Office will ask for contact information in order to connect you to the Zoom meeting.

4. South Knoxville Representatives Host Community Updates

South Knoxville City Council Member, Tommy Smith; County Commissioner, Carson Dailey; and Knox County Board of Education Representative, Kristi Kristy will hold a community update for South Knoxville residents to ask questions, meet the representatives, and get to know their neighbors.

The South Knoxville Community Update will be held in-person on Saturday, Aug. 28, at 9 a.m., at Ijams Nature Center, 2915 Island Home Ave.

Due to COVID-19 regulations, the in-person portion of the event will be limited to 25 people. To sign up to attend, please contact Katie Catron at kcatron@knoxvilletn.gov or 213-3232. The event will be held outside and masks are required by all participants.

If you would like to participate virtually, the meeting will be streamed via Zoom at the following

link: <https://zoom.us/j/97090783228?pwd=SDRjYk1CTnRObzd1QkE2UHlrTUMvQT09>.

The South Knoxville Community Update is sponsored by the South Knoxville Neighborhood and Business Coalition (SKNBC). To learn more about SKNBC, visit www.sknbc.org.

5. Knox County Schools to Open August 24

The first day of class for Knox County Schools has been moved to Monday, Aug. 24.

According to the superintendent, Bob Thomas, Knox County Schools (KCS) administrative team and staff needed an additional week to prepare for changes made this year. More than 18,000 students have enrolled in the new virtual learning program.

A letter sent home to families explained that this delay in beginning the school year will allow Knox County to:

- Provide schools more time to complete scheduling of both in-person and virtual classes. As you might imagine, this is a massive undertaking every school year for on-campus classes alone. Adding virtual classes creates another layer of scheduling that schools have never had to manage before.
- Secure additional staffing to cover some KCS virtual classes. While vacancies are reflective of where they usually are at this time of year for in-person instruction, they must fill positions to cover some of the core classes planned to be taught through the virtual learning program.
- Provide new hires for the virtual learning program time to train on the new online platforms. They are hiring new employees daily, and an additional week will help new teachers complete this training.

- Provide existing KCS teachers more time to become more familiar with new online platforms. While most teachers (82%) volunteered over the summer to take advantage of the online training offered, this will allow time for all to complete or review it.
- Deploy devices to all students. As stated, schools are continuously monitoring the public health situation in the community, and it is important for families to be prepared if a school(s) or the district must go to remote learning. Getting devices in the hands of the students will give them an opportunity to become familiar with the technology before school starts.
- Provide case managers and special education service providers more time to make individual contact with students and families.
- Provide more time for supplies to be received and delivered to schools (including misters and walk-through thermometers).

Stay safe!

6. PARC Meets Sept. 10

The Police Action Review Committee (PARC) will be holding a meeting on Thursday, Sept. 10, at 6 p.m., via Zoom.

The purpose of PARC is to strengthen the relationship between the members of the Knoxville Police Department and the citizens they serve through an independent review of police actions.

PARC reviews incidents involving police action following the conclusion of Internal Affairs investigations. Citizens can either register formal or anonymous complaints with PARC's executive director.

The Zoom link for this meeting will be posted at a later date for those interested in attending.

7. Register Your Neighborhood for National Night Out

Any neighborhood interested in participating in any of the options listed below for this year's National Night Out (NNO) is asked to register with KPD and the Office of Neighborhoods.

Please send an email to Officer John Morgan at jmorgan@knoxvilletn.gov AND Eden Slater at eslater@knoxvilletn.gov by Friday, Oct. 9. When registering, provide the following information:

- Neighborhood Name
- Contact Name

- Contact Email
- Contact Phone #
- Which of the four activities your neighborhood plans to do
- Location
- Start Time
- End Time
- And, if you would like a drive through, which main streets plan to participate.

If you would like to also [register](#) with the national NNO organization, you may do so on the National Night Out website.

Keep in mind, in Knoxville, the 36th Annual National Night Out has been moved from Tuesday, Oct. 6 to Tuesday, Oct. 13.

Due to COVID-19, the city is NOT recommending the usual public gatherings. Instead, there are four options that neighborhoods can do instead:

- Decorate in Blue
- Drive Through
- Leave your Lights On
- Send Thank You cards

Decorate in Blue – your neighborhood can decorate mailboxes, yards, houses, etc., with signs supporting the police, with sidewalk chalk, or any other creative thing you come up with (similar to the Trails of Red, White, and Blue for July 4). When registering for this activity, be sure to include a few major streets that the neighborhood would like to highlight so that Police Officers, Fire Fighters, First Responders, and City Council, can drive through and see your support.

Drive Through – This would include decorating in blue AND having folks out in their yards to celebrate the police. When your neighborhood registers for this activity you would need to include time frames and a few major streets where people plan to be outside in their yards. Knoxville Police Department (KPD) will try to have officers drive through to wave and join in the celebration, as time allows and at the officers' discretion.

Leave Your Lights On – This is a traditional way that neighborhoods can show support for the police on NNO. If your neighborhood chooses to do this, officers will do their best to drive through to see your support.

Send Thank You Cards – Simply sending a thank you card to KPD, a specific officer, an officer liaison, and/or the Chief, is another way of showing your support. Send mail to: KPD, National Night Out, 400 Main St., Knoxville, TN 37901.

NNO is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more

caring places to live. NNO enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

We encourage all who are able to participate to join in. We look forward to seeing how many neighborhoods take part in the fun.

8. Where Does Your Neighborhood Stand with Current Census Numbers?

Neighborhoods, we need your assistance! Please help us get the word out in your neighborhood that we need every single person to be counted for the 2020 Census. For every person we miss, it costs our community thousands of dollars over the next 10 years.

See the numbers below that indicate the percentage of people who have already filled out the census, based on zip code. If you live in one of these zip codes and the numbers are low, please help us by reaching out to as many of your neighbors as you are able. Explain the importance of completing the census, and maybe even, make it a friendly competition. You may also want to post on Facebook, call neighbors that you know, etc.

Currently, the winner is 37931/32, in second place is 37918, and in third place is 37920. Check out the following percentages of neighbors who have completed the census in each zip code, below:

37912	69.8%
37914	63.8%
37915	48.0%
37916	27.0%
37917	64.9%
37918	75.9%
37909	69.0%
37919	59.5%
37920	73.8%
37921	69.5%
37922	72.5%
37923	72.4%
37931/32	78.9%

The deadline to complete the 2020 Census is Wednesday, Sept. 30. Act fast; time is limited!

9. Helen Ross McNabb Launches New Help Line

The [Helen Ross McNabb Center](#) (HRM) is one of several community mental health centers recently awarded FEMA/SAMHSA dollars through the Tennessee Department

of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to provide a virtual Crisis Counseling Program (CCP).

This program, funded as part of the COVID-19 disaster response for the State of Tennessee, and HRM has used the funds to create a Help Line (1-855-661-9191) for their target area of Blount, Knox, Loudon, Monroe, and Sevier counties.

The purpose of the program is to provide free emotional support, psychoeducation regarding common disaster reactions/coping skills, and assistance navigating community resources to anyone impacted by COVID-19. It is not therapy or case management, and most individuals in the community will likely have 1-2 contacts with the program. If the emergency response funding continues, the service will be in place for the next 9 months or so to help people through the pandemic.

For more, see the [Facebook page](#) for this initiative.

10. Lions Club Continues Free Eye Exams

Several Lions Clubs in Knoxville continue to partner together to offer free eye exams and glasses—available to everyone!

While eye screenings were temporarily postponed due to COVID-19, they are now offering screenings by appointment the third Wednesday of every month at the Fountain City Lions Club, 5345 N. Broadway.

After the screening, you may select your new frames and wait for your glasses to be made on site. If you do not have time to wait, frames can be shipped to you.

To make an appointment, call the East Knoxville Lions Club at 320-8956. Appointments are limited, and priority is given to school-aged children.

11. [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.*