

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 13, No. 34 – Tuesday, September 22, 2020

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Newsletter (PDF version): <http://bit.ly/NeighborhoodAdvisory-2020-09-22>

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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. Deadline Extended to Apply for NAC

Are you an advocate for your neighborhood --- and neighborhoods in general? Would you like to learn more about how city government works? Do you enjoy discussing public policy, particularly with regard to neighborhoods? Would you like to work with other neighborhood leaders on neighborhood issues?

If you answered YES to these questions, then please consider serving on the Mayor's [Neighborhood Advisory Council](#) (NAC). The NAC meets at 4:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month to discuss Knoxville's residential neighborhoods and provide the City with candid viewpoints on how they can best be maintained, supported, improved, rejuvenated, and sustained.

NAC consists of neighborhood leaders and activists who occupy a total of 15 seats --- two in each of the six City Council districts and three at large. Terms are set for three years, and members may serve up to two full terms (six years). Members wishing to serve a second three-year term must reapply.

The terms of five of the 15 seats expire this December. These seats and current occupants are:

City Council district, Seat 2-B (Jennifer Reynolds)
City Council district, Seat 4-B (Matt McMillan)
City Council district, Seat 5-A (Ann White)
City Council district, Seat 6-A (Derek Tate)
City Council district, At Large Seat C (Emma Ellis-Cosigua)

To be appointed by the Mayor to a numbered seat, you must live in that City Council district. For example, the person appointed to Seat 4-B must be a resident in the fourth City Council district. These positions will begin in Jan. 2021 and run through Dec. 2023.

If you are interested in serving, please fill out and submit an [application](#) and return it to Debbie Sharp at dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov or P.O. Box 1631, Knoxville, TN, 37901. Call the Office of Neighborhoods at 215-3232 to have a hard copy mailed to you or for more information about the positions.

Applications are due by **Friday, Oct. 2, at 4:30 p.m.**

To view the exact boundaries of the City Council districts, browse [KGIS's website](#) and then click on Maps, Political District Maps, and City Council. You can also input your own address to find out which political districts you live in.

2. KAT is Hiring!

Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) is now hiring a Part-Time Service Position.

Are you dedicated and like to clean? Are you available from 7-11 p.m. Monday through Friday? This might be the perfect opportunity for you to earn some extra money.

The pay is \$12.33 per hour, and the requirements are that you have a High School diploma/GED and a valid driver's license.

To apply, find the application on [KAT's website](#). Also, look for other possible jobs while you are there.

KAT is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

3. Need Help Paying Your Utility Bills?

If you live in Knox County and you have bills for home-energy costs, like electric, natural gas, propane, kerosene, you may qualify for assistance from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

LIHEAP may be able to help you pay off overdue energy costs. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many families are struggling with energy bills, and LIHEAP assistance has been expanded to help address these needs. Many families qualify for assistance; see the income requirements below. Additionally, even if you have received LIHEAP earlier this year, you may be eligible to apply again.

If you need help repaying energy costs and have never applied for LIHEAP **OR** have not received LIHEAP since the middle of March 2020, you can call CAC at 865-637-6700 to see if you are eligible.

You may be eligible if you meet the maximum monthly income as listed below:

- Household of 1: \$1,903
- Household of 2: \$2,489

- Household of 3: \$3,075
- Household of 4: \$3,660
- Household of 5: \$4,246
- Household of 6: \$4,832
- Household of 7: \$5,417
- Household of 8: \$6,003

Households greater than 8 should call CAC for more information. Visit CAC's [LIHEAP](#) information page for more information.

4. Better Building Board and Public Officer Hearing Meet This Week

Both the Public Officer Hearing (POH) and Better Building Board (BBB) will hold regularly scheduled meetings for the month of September.

The BBB is scheduled to meet on Thursday, Sept. 24, at 3:30 p.m., 400 Main St. The POH will be held on the following day Friday, Sept. 25, at 9:30 a.m. Both will be in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

Neighbors with concerns over blighted properties within your neighborhood may be interested in attending the BBB and/or POH.

This week, the POH will discuss 14 properties: 3934 Alma Ave., 4100 Alma Ave. (including accessory structure), 5822 Eldridge Ave., 2810/2812 East Fifth Ave., 1910 Highland Dr. (including accessory structure), 2108 Jefferson Ave., 3121 Lafayette Rd. (accessory structure only), 1824 Lenland Ave. (including accessory structure), 3503 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., 337 Nash Rd. (including accessory structure), 1301 Ninth Ave., 4804 Schubert Rd. (including accessory structure), 2330 Stonewall St. – confirmation of emergency repair/demolition order, 1330 Tennessee Ave. (including accessory structures). View the full agenda [here](#).

Properties up for discussion on the BBB [agenda](#) this week include one determination of blight and three certification of blight: Determination of Blight – 523 E. Oklahoma Ave. and Certification of Blight – 421 Oakcrest Rd., 203 East Red Bud Rd., and 2100 Washington Ave.

After the Neighborhood Codes Enforcement office issues complaints to property owners regarding structures that are alleged to be unfit or dangerous, the Public Officer holds hearings and issues orders to property owners to make repairs or to demolish unfit structures. If the property owner does not comply with the order, the City may repair or demolish the structure and bill the owner for the service. A lien can also be placed against the property to recover expenses for repair or demolition. The Public Officer may also order an owner to alter, improve, secure, board, or vacate and close a structure. The property owner may appeal the Public Officer's order to the BBB within ten (10) days of receipt of the order.

The BBB hears appeals of the Public Officer's orders. The BBB holds hearings and may affirm or alter the Public Officer's order. If the property owner does not comply with the

BBB's order, the city may repair or demolish, alter, improve, secure, board, or vacate and close the structure and bill the owner for the service. A lien can also be placed against the property to recover expenses for repair or demolition. The property owner may appeal the BBB's order to the Knox County Chancery Court. The BBB may also hear cases regarding the city's acquisition of property or the enforcement of the Demolition by Neglect Ordinance.

5. Registration for National Night Out To Close in Two Weeks

Does your neighborhood plan to participate in this year's National Night Out on Tuesday, Oct. 13? While it may look a little different, the City of Knoxville is still participating in the 37th annual National Night Out (NNO) celebration!

Show support for police-community relations, first responders, and a safer community by participating.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, large group gatherings are discouraged. There are still fun, safe ways for your neighborhood to both participate and show support for local emergency responders. Take a look at the following options:

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

Decorate in Blue – Decorate your mailboxes, yards, houses, etc., with signs supporting the police, sidewalk chalk, or any other creative ideas. In your registration, include the major streets your neighborhood would like to highlight for Police Officers, Fire Fighters, First Responders, and City Council, to drive through and see your support.

Drive Through – Decorate in blue AND encourage your neighbors to come out in their yards to wave to the police and first responders as they drive through. When your neighborhood registers for this activity, make sure you include the timeframes neighbors will be out to cheer, as well as the major streets participating. As time allows and at the officers' discretion, KPD officers will plan to drive through to join in the celebration.

Leave Your Lights On – This traditional way neighborhoods can show support for the police is a classic NNO option. Leave your porch and outdoor lights on, and officers will do their best to drive through and see your support.

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

NNO is an annual community-building campaign that promotes partnerships between police and residents to make neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. NNO provides an opportunity to enhance relationships between neighbors and law enforcement while engendering a sense of community under positive circumstances.

All neighborhoods are encouraged to participate! How will your neighborhood celebrate this year?

To register, please send an email to KPD's Officer John Morgan at jmorgan@knoxvilletn.gov AND the OON's Eden Slater at eslater@knoxvilletn.gov including 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.

Registration closes on **Friday, Oct. 9!**

6. TPO Seeks Input on Long-Range Transportation Plan

Help shape the future of the Knoxville region: Give your input on Mobility Plan 2045!

Mobility Plan 2045 is the East Tennessee region's long-range transportation plan, guiding transportation investments for the next 25 years. Mobility Plan 2045 is updated every four years, and the Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) receives a list of potential projects submitted by local jurisdictions. TPO, then, relies on public input to help choose and plan the future projects for the area.

To give your input, please take this [short survey](#). To view a list of projects and see them on an interactive map, check out [Mobility Plan 2045](#).

Give your input today, and you'll be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 grocery gift card. The survey is open until Sunday, Oct. 11. You can have a voice in the future of our region!

7. Virtual Bike Walk Summit Scheduled for Sept 25

The 2020 Virtual Bike Walk Summit is happening this Friday, Sept. 25, from 9-11 a.m. This virtual event will feature presentations from TDOT and the Tennessee Department of Health.

Since 2012, the Annual Bike Walk Summit has brought together cyclists, advocates, planners, engineers, and elected officials from across Tennessee to share resources and best practices related to bicycle infrastructure, funding, education, outreach and policy. In 2018, the Summit began to include walking as a focus issue. Through presentations, breakout sessions, and various workshops, this Summit aims to provide valuable networking and educational experiences, while working towards better and safer streets for all.

For more information about the Bike Walk Summit and to register for this event, visit their [event page](#).

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.*