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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. LWV Partners to Host Virtual Candidate Forums

Early voting is just around the corner. Do you know who is on the ballot? Do you know who you want to vote for?

Voters will have an opportunity to hear from candidates for the Knox County Board of Education, U.S. Congress, Tennessee State Senate, and the Tennessee House of Representatives in a series of Zoom meetings being held over the next two weeks.

The forums will all begin at 6:30 p.m. and are scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday, Oct. 6 Knox County Board of Education
- Thursday, Oct. 8 U.S. Congress and Tennessee State Senate
- Tuesday, Oct. 13 Tennessee State House

The forums will be moderated by Blake Stevens of WATE Channel 6.

Sponsors are the League of Women Voters of Knoxville/Knox County; Knoxville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Knoxville NAACP; Centro Hispano de East Tennessee; YWCA Knoxville & Tennessee Valley; Planned Parenthood of Tennessee and North Mississippi; and the Howard Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy.

The forums will also be livestreamed and posted via most of the partners' Facebook pages.

To RSVP and receive forum information, please email martinarcs@aol.com.

2. Trick or Treat – Stay Six Feet

Halloween is just a few weeks away. The good news is that Halloween is NOT cancelled. However, many traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses. The City [recommends](#) that neighborhoods not plan anything that will bring a crowd.

If you have COVID-19 or think you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should not participate in any in-person Halloween festivities and should not give out candy to trick-or-treaters.

Things to consider for your family and children:

- The rate of infection in Knox County on Oct. 31
- The health risks of members of your household
- The type of places you take your children for a Halloween activity; for instance, a crowded apartment building is likely a higher risk location than an outdoor event at a park

There are several safer ways to participate in Halloween. Check out these low- and moderate-risk ideas below.

Lower risk activities:

- Carving or decorating pumpkins with members of your household and displaying them
- Carving or decorating pumpkins outside, at a safe distance, with neighbors or friends
- Decorating your house, apartment, or living space
- Doing a Halloween scavenger hunt where children are given lists of Halloween-themed things to look for while they walk outdoors from house to house admiring Halloween decorations at a distance
- Having a virtual Halloween costume contest
- Having a Halloween movie night with your household
- Having a drive-in movie night projected onto the side of a building
- Having a scavenger hunt-style trick-or-treat search with your household members in or around your home rather than going house to house
- Participating in a drive-in haunted house

Moderate risk activities:

- Participating in one-way trick-or-treating where individually wrapped goodie bags are lined up for children to grab and go while continuing to physical distance (such as at the end of a driveway or at the edge of a yard)
 - If you are preparing goodie bags, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 second before and after preparing the bags, wear gloves, and a mask.

- Recommend that adults supervise older children as well as younger children to ensure that family preferences are followed
- Use hand sanitizer after receiving candy from each house
- Do not eat candy while trick-or-treating
- Make certain kids wash their hands as soon as they get home.
- Let candy sit for three to four days or wipe it down.
- Make a candy chute using a six-foot-long PVC pipe.
- Having a small group, outdoor, open-air costume parade where people are distanced more than six feet apart.
- Attending a costume party held outdoors where protective masks are used and people can remain more than six feet apart.
 - A costume mask (such as for Halloween) is not a substitute for a cloth mask.
 - If the costume mask over the cloth mask makes it hard to breathe, do not wear a costume mask. Instead, consider using a Halloween-themed cloth mask by itself.
 - Be creative with your cloth mask to make it fun!
- Going to an open-air, one-way, walk-through haunted forest where appropriate mask use is enforced, and people can remain more than 6 feet apart.
 - If screaming will likely occur, greater distancing is advised. The greater the distance, the lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus.
- Visiting pumpkin patches or orchards where people use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or picking apples, wearing masks is encouraged or enforced, and people are able to maintain physical distancing.
- Visiting costume-themed corn mazes where above cautions are maintained.
- Having an outdoor Halloween movie night with local family friends with people spaced at least six feet apart
 - If screaming will likely occur, greater distancing is advised. The greater the distance, the lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus.
 - Lower your risk by following CDC's recommendations on hosting gatherings or cook-outs.

Let's make Halloween fun and safe this year!

3. Registration for National Night Out Closes This Week!

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!

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

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!**

4. NAC Meets Next Week Oct 14

The Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) meets virtually next Wednesday, Oct. 14, at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

The topic for discussion is the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program with speakers Steve King, Deputy Director of Engineering; Eden Slater, Assistant Neighborhood Coordinator; Zach Roberts, Traffic Operations Engineer; and Cody Gentry, Traffic Operations Engineer. They will explain the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program and how neighborhoods can get involved.

Under this program, the Traffic Engineering Division works with the Fire Department, Police Department, Office of Neighborhoods, and residents to identify traffic problems in residential neighborhoods and seek appropriate solutions.

Join our Zoom Webinar at:

<https://zoom.us/j/91454455049?pwd=dkZTaFVjeE9qUGF5TFJleEM5MzRLQT09>

Passcode: 782148

Or you may phone in with the following number 1-312-626-6799 or 1-646-558-8656

Webinar ID: 914 5445 5049

Passcode: 782148

All are welcome to Zoom in with us. If time allows, attendees will be able to ask questions in the webinar, as well.

If you have any questions, contact Debbie Sharp at dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-4382.

5. COVID-19 Assistance Available for East Tennesseans

Has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your life? If you have been impacted by the pandemic since March, 1, 2020, there are resources available for you.

Thanks to a CARES Act funding from the State of Tennessee, HomeSource East Tennessee is providing assistance to homeowners and renters across the region. If you are facing difficulties paying your mortgage, rent, or utilities, visit [East Tennessee COVID Housing Assistance](#) to see if you qualify for housing assistance.

Visit [CovidHousingAssistance.com](https://www.covidhousingassistance.com) and click Knox County on the map for the application, instructions, and more information.

COVID-19 has impacted many families and resources are available to help; see if you qualify!

For more information on social services, resources, and other COVID-19 assistance, call the City's 2-1-1 hotline by dialing 2-1-1 or 215-4211.

6. New Homeless Service Strategies Announced

The City of Knoxville, in partnership with local service providers, is increasing outreach and shelter opportunities for people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the oncoming colder weather and increasing health risks that accompany living in open-air encampments, these strategies aim to provide a healthy, safe shelter to those without housing.

These new strategies are:

- Shelter partners have adapted their facilities and practices to provide COVID-19 accommodations.
- The City and outreach partners will notify occupants that camping is no longer permitted and facilitate a transition to connect those currently living in encampments with shelter services.
- Volunteer Ministry Center has re-opened the “Guest House” which provides quarantine space for homeless individuals who are waiting on COVID-19 test results or who have a positive test.
- The City is in the process of making \$2.2 million in federal CARES Act funding available to support additional outreach, shelter modifications, and expanded operations.

City leaders and community partners expect these changes to mitigate the growing health, sanitation, and safety concerns associated with encampments.

7. Line Up Announced for Drive-In at the Midway

The City of Knoxville in conjunction with the Knox County Public Library recently announced that a series of free drive-in movies are coming to Chilhowee Park on Fridays, Oct. 9, 16 and 30.

Space is limited, and attendees must register in advance. Visit [KnoxLib.org/movies](https://www.knoxlib.org/movies) to sign up or get on the wait list for movies that are already full.

Each vehicle may bring in the number of passengers for which it is rated (number of seatbelts). They will have an adjacent parking space for blankets or lawn chairs. Attendees must have an FM radio.

Everyone must wear a mask and maintain physical distance while walking around at the event.

Concessions will not be sold at the event, so attendees are encouraged to bring their own snacks and drinks. Alcohol is not allowed.

The following movies will be screened:

Aladdin (G, 1992) – Oct. 9

Ferris Beuller’s Day Off (PG-13, 1986) – Oct. 16

Hocus Pocus (PG, 1993) – Oct. 30

8. TPO Extends Deadline for Mobility Plan 2045 Input

Mobility Plan 2045 wants to hear from you! The Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is seeking input on the long-range transportation plan, which helps guide transportation investments for East Tennessee over the next 25 years.

To give your input on Mobility 2045, take this [short survey](#), before Sunday, Oct. 18. To view a list of projects and see them on an interactive map, check out [Mobility Plan 2045](#).

Mobility Plan 2045 is updated every four years, and the TPO receives a list of potential projects, submitted from local jurisdictions. TPO, then, relies on public input to help pick and plan the future projects for the area.

Give your input before Oct. 18 and be entered in a drawing to win a \$50 grocery gift card! Have a voice in painting the map for the future of our region!

9. 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 scCook@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.**