



The Neighborly Notice – Vol. 15, No. 22 – Tuesday, June 14, 2022

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Published by the City of Knoxville's Office of Neighborhood Empowerment, 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. Public Input Sought on Proposed Washington Pike Improvements

The City of Knoxville is hosting a public meeting to present updated designs and obtain additional input from residents about the proposed Washington Pike improvements on Wednesday, June 15, at 6 p.m. at the New Harvest Park Community Room, 4775 New Harvest Ln.

This is an update from the meeting held in September 2021.

The project, estimated at \$17 million, is planned to improve traffic flow and safety along the Washington Pike corridor inside the northeastern city limits, between I-640 and Murphy Road. The proposed design includes bicycle and pedestrian paths. Project documents are available on the [City's website](#).

Neighbors directly affected by these proposed upgrades have met with project planners on several occasions. The designs being presented in this meeting reflect the input of these neighbors and are open to wider community feedback.

Washington Pike would remain five lanes on the western end of the project area, where Greenway Drive ties in near the Target store. The pike would narrow to three lanes by New Harvest Lane, then expand back to five lanes, including a turn lane, at Steeple Shadow Way and Babelay Road and continue in that configuration to the city limits at Murphy Road. There, turn lanes would carry traffic onto Murphy or Pullman roads, and Washington Pike to the east would continue in its current two lanes.

Along the project corridor, two 10-foot multi-use pedestrian and bicycle paths would be built, connecting to existing parks and greenways.

The most accident-prone intersection, located at what's now Washington Pike and Lifespring Lane, would be reconstructed to improve safety.

Once the plan is finalized and right-of-way acquired, work would begin in early 2024. The City's goal is to have the project completed by the end of 2026 or mid-2027.

2. Historic Zoning Commission Meets Thursday

The [Historic Zoning Commission](#), run by Knoxville Knox County Planning, meets this Thursday, June 16, at 8:30 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room, 400 Main St.

Addressing Certificates of Appropriateness for city addresses, they will be looking at the addition to 1622 Jefferson Avenue, as well as exterior rehabilitation, new secondary structure, and site work to 150 Major Reynolds Place.

If any of these properties are in your neighborhood and you wish to speak to the commission, you may do so by contacting Lindsay Crockett at Lindsay.crockett@knoxplanning.org.

3. Board of Zoning Appeals Meets Next Week

The [Board of Zoning Appeals](#) will meet next Tuesday, June 21, at 4 p.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

Property to be discussed under Old Business is 3917 Holston Dr.; and under New Business are: 401 Cansler Ave.; 2018 Davenport Rd.; 1717 White Ave.; 524 Williams St.

If you live near any of these properties and wish to speak to any of them, check the City's [website](#) for the process.

If you would like a Zoom link to watch the meeting, contact Jennifer Scobee at jscobee@knoxvilletn.gov before noon on Tuesday, July 19, and she will send you a link.

The next BZA is on Tuesday, July 19, at 4 p.m. in the Main Assembly Room.

The City of Knoxville ensures meaningful access to City programs, services, and activities to comply with Civil Rights Title VI and ADA Title II laws and reasonably provides: translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, auxiliary aids and services.

To request language translation services, contact Diversity and Inclusion Officer Charles F. Lomax, Jr. clomax@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-2536. For disability accommodations, contact City ADA Coordinator Stephanie Brewer Cook at scook@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-2034 at least 72 hours before the meeting.

4. What Is Blight?

There are debates in different municipalities about the definition of blight. Some get very specific; others are more general.

Situations that might be considered blight in Knoxville are: when a property has broken windows, a portion of guttering falling down, a yard is overgrown, a vacant property is deteriorating, a roof is about to collapse, etc.

If a property in your neighborhood appears to be blighted, one option is for the Neighborhood Association to write the homeowner a letter or stop by and offer assistance. Your neighborhood group may want to assist with a [Neighborhood Give Day](#). The resident may be an elderly person who has become unable to maintain their yard. Your neighborhood could help them and help them get other services as needed, like mobile meals.

If you have tried to work with the property owner without seeing progress, you can call 311 to see if the property is on the City's radar. If it is not, or you see nothing changing with the property, you can fill out the [Blighted Property Profile](#) form and email it to Cheri Burke at cmurke@knoxvilletn.gov.

If there are multiple properties your group would deem blighted, you may want to look at a more long-term approach. The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment has a Long Term [Blight Remediation Guide](#) that would be a good resource in these cases.

You would start by creating an inventory of properties that are blighted and work to build relationships with the different entities listed in the guide to help find solutions. This is

not a quick fix and could take years, but the work can be very fruitful. Some of the groups you might end up working with are Knox Heritage, the City's Housing and Neighborhood Development Department, Landlord Corporations, etc.

Blighted properties can be frustrating. These resources might help you or your group address blight in your neighborhood and improvements for all residents.

5. How to Manage Stormwater at Home

Storm water runoff is rainwater that does not soak into the surface onto which it falls, but rather runs along the surface downhill. It is commonly associated with urban areas because of the increase in impervious surfaces (rooftops, driveways, roads), which impedes water from infiltrating (or soaking into) the ground.

Storm water picks up and carries pollutants, like sediment, trash, toxins, nutrients and pathogens, to our streams and rivers. Excess storm water also can result in flooding and damage to municipal infrastructure, such as roadways, greenways and sanitary sewers.

Effective home storm water management can create a positive ripple effect, providing benefits for you (the homeowner), your neighbors and your community. Best management practices (BMPs) include those that slow the velocity of storm water flow and allow for its infiltration into the soil as well as those that facilitate its capture and reuse.

For the homeowner, there are aesthetic, financial and environmental benefits of applying storm water BMPs. For example, storm water can be redirected to attractive rain gardens for added curb appeal or contained in rain barrels, saving dollars and conserving water resources. These practices also can help your neighbors by reducing storm water flow onto their property and the community at large by reducing waterway pollution and preventing localized flooding.

Storm water BMPs with landscape design might include:

- Grass Swales
- Rain Barrels
- Downspout Disconnection
- Roadside Verge (or buffer)
- Permeable Driveways and Pavement
- Rain Gardens

If you are interested in doing more in your yard, you might consider being certified as a [Tennessee Smart Yard](#), a program created by Andrea Ludwig at the UT Institute of Agriculture.

For more information about managing storm water at home, [click here](#). And learn more about the City's Stormwater Department at KnoxvilleTN.gov/stormwater.

6. Heat Affects Health Conditions

Heat is the No. 1 weather-related cause of death. Heat can also have numerous effects on health.

We often think first about heat exhaustion or heat stroke, but, per Cedars-Sinai.org, high temperatures exacerbate many chronic health conditions including asthma, COPD, Multiple Sclerosis, autoimmune conditions, migraines, and can even have negative effects on mental health.

You can boost your resilience to heat by drinking plenty of water before and during time outside, looking for shaded areas if you need to be outside, using a handheld fan or water mister, and packing ice packs in a cooler to take with you.

If you are interested in learning more about heat in Knoxville, its affect on our neighbors, and the community survey and mapping campaigns being conducted this summer, visit heatequity.utk.edu or contact Emily Norris at enorri10@vols.utk.edu.

7. Knoxville Neighborhoods Calendar (click link for online calendar)

Call 865-215-3232 to include your neighborhood event or meeting in [this Google calendar](#).

The City of Knoxville ensures meaningful access to City programs, services, and activities to comply with Civil Rights Title VI and ADA Title II laws and reasonably provides translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, auxiliary aids and services.

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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 865-215-4382 if you need a copy of a particular document.*