



The Neighborly Notice – Vol. 14, No. 29 – Tuesday, August 10, 2021

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Newsletter (PDF version): <https://bit.ly/NeighborlyNotice-2021-08-10>

1. East Knoxville Partners with KKB to Host Community Cleanup
2. Community Plants Traditional African Garden in Western Heights
3. Neighborhood Advisory Council Meets This Week
4. City Seeks Candidates for Neighborhood Advisory Council
5. Are You in Need of Rental Payment Assistance?
6. What is PARC?
7. BZA Meets Next Week
8. Early Voting Starts This Week
9. Bike Walk Knoxville Hosts Tours with Elected Officials
10. Certify Your Yard to Help Wildlife
11. [Knoxville Neighborhoods Calendar](#)

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.

Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleNeighborhoods>

1. East Knoxville Partners with KKB to Host Community Cleanup

The community-wide East Knoxville Cleanup, collaborating with [Keep Knoxville Beautiful](#) (KKB), will be held on Saturday, Sept. 18, from 9 a.m. – noon.

The event home base will be at Eternal Life Harvest Center (ELHC) East, 2410 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue.

Participating groups will send a leader to ELHC to pick up supplies and then meet their group at their designated neighborhood to pick up litter.

Individuals who are not with groups will clean up along MLK.

KKB will provide vests, trash bags, trash pickers, etc. Registration is required. If you or your neighborhood would like to sign up, you can do so on [KKB's website](#).

Contact KKB at info@keepknoxvillebeautiful.org or 521-6957 with any questions you may have.

2. Community Plants Traditional African Garden in Western Heights

Staff from Knoxville's Community Development Corporation (KCDC), Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC) and Bridge Refugee Services have established 12 thriving community gardens at KCDC housing properties. The gardens foster solidarity among diverse neighborhoods by inviting residents to educate others on their cultures, agriculture, and community practices.

The most recent addition to the community garden collaboration is KCDC's Western Heights gardens, in which residents grow crops like tomatoes, squash, and peppers for their families. Gardening gives people of all ages and walks of life opportunities to nurture new relationships, gain practical skills and enjoy the outdoors. The refugee households also are growing and sharing traditional foods from their home countries.

CAC's co-director of urban agriculture, Adam Caraco, said Knoxville residents are showing more interest in creating community gardens in their neighborhoods, and he expects the sites will expand and even more families will join the fun.

3. Neighborhood Advisory Council Meets This Week

The [Neighborhood Advisory Council](#) (NAC) will meet on Wednesday, Aug. 11, from 4:30-6 p.m. via [Zoom](#). Passcode is 999999. If you wish to call in, you may with 1-312-626-6799.

The featured guest speakers Brian Blackmon, Director of the City's Office of Sustainability, and Patience Melnik, the City's Waste and Resources Manager.

All are invited and welcome to attend. The NAC members will ask questions and make comments first. If time allows, questions or comments can be taken from the attendees.

The NAC meets monthly. Members are appointed by the Mayor to serve three-year terms giving advice about neighborhood issues to the City's administration and returning valuable information back to their neighborhoods.

For more information about the location of the meeting, contact Debbie Sharp, 215-4382 or dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov.

4. City Seeks Candidates for Neighborhood Advisory Council

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

If you answered YES to these questions, consider serving on the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC). [Applications](#) are due by **Friday, Sept. 27, at 4:30 p.m.**

The NAC meets at 4:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month (except July and December) 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 15 seats -- two in each of the six City Council districts plus three at-large members. 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 1-B (Gayle Atherton)
- City Council district, Seat 3-A (Vacant)
- City Council district, Seat 4-A (Rob Glass)
- City Council district, Seat 5-B (Molly Conaway)
- City Council district, At Large Seat A (David Gillette)

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 1-B must be a resident in the First City Council district. These positions run January 2022 through December 2024.

If you are interested in serving, please fill out and submit an application, located [here](#) and return it to Debbie Sharp at dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov. You can also mail the application to P.O. Box 1631, Knoxville, TN, 37901. Call the Office of Neighborhoods at 215-4382 to have a hard copy mailed to you, or if you would like more information about the positions.

To view City Council district boundaries, 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.

5. Are You in Need of Rental Payment Assistance?

Renters in Knoxville and Knox County who are past due on their rent payments can apply for rent relief through the [Knox Housing Assistance program](#). The program, which is funded by the U.S. Treasury and administered through Knox County's Community Development department, also takes applications from landlords whose tenants are behind on their rent payments.

The program is open to income-qualified city and county renters where one or more individuals in the home have experienced one of the following adverse financial impacts at some point since March 13, 2020.

- Qualified for unemployment benefits or experienced a reduction in income
- Incurred significant costs negatively impacting the financial stability of the household
- Experienced other financial hardship negatively impacting the financial stability of the household

Residents who are at risk of eviction due to non-payment should inform their landlords that they have applied for assistance through this program. If eviction proceedings have already begin, it's important that residents attend their court dates. Court personnel are working with tenants facing eviction, but you must be present on your appointed court date to avoid a default judgment.

Visit KnoxHousingAssistance.org to learn more about the program's qualifications and local agencies assisting residents with the application process.

6. What is PARC?

The City's [Police Advisory and Review Committee \(PARC\)](#) is a seven-member committee established to strengthen the relationship between the members of the Knoxville Police Department and the residents they serve by providing an independent review of police actions.

PARC reviews incidents involving police action after an Internal Affairs investigation has concluded. Residents can register formal or anonymous complaints with PARC's Executive Director LaKenya Middlebrook.

Any person who is a victim, a witness, or who has knowledge of alleged police misconduct can file a complaint by calling 215-3869 or 679-2987, setting up a consultation or filling out the [online](#) form. Residents may also submit complaints in

writing to: LaKenya Middlebrook, Executive Director, Police Advisory & Review Committee, and P.O. Box 1631, Knoxville, TN 37901.

The next PARC meeting will be held on Thursday, Aug. 26, at 6 p.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building.

Residents may also compliment the conduct and/or actions of a KPD officer by calling the Chief of Police's office at 215-7229 and reporting your information. Another method is by writing to the Chief of Police, Knoxville Police Department, P.O. Box 3610, Knoxville, TN 37927.

7. BZA Meets Next Week

The [Board of Zoning Appeals](#) (BZA) will meet on Tuesday, Aug. 17, at 4 p.m., in room 461 of the City County Building.

The monthly Board meeting agenda is published as a public notice in the Legal Notices section of the Knoxville News Sentinel at least 10 days prior to the monthly Board meeting.

Please contact Cheri Burke at 215-2867 or cmburke@knoxvilletn.gov with questions about attending or for alternate attendance options.

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 Tatia M. Harris at tharris@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-2831. For disability accommodations, contact City ADA Coordinator Stephanie Brewer Cook at scook@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-2034 at least 72 hours before the meeting.

8. Early Voting Begins This Week

Early voting for the City of Knoxville Primary Election begins Wednesday, Aug. 11, and runs through Thursday, Aug. 26. Make it a priority to get out and vote!

All registered voters in the city of Knoxville can early vote at four locations across the city. To see a full list of Early Voting locations and hours, visit the [Early Voting Schedule](#).

The 2021 election is very important; city residents will be able to vote for candidates running in City Council Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6.

To learn more about the election, see who's running, and find other general voting information, visit [Go Vote! Knoxville](#).

Primary Election Day is Tuesday, Aug. 31. If you are not able to vote during early voting, you will have to vote at your voting site on Election Day. To find that location, visit the [Knox County Election Commission](#).

People are put in positions of power, who make decisions, by people who vote. Use your voice: Go vote!

9. Bike Walk Knoxville Hosts Tours with Elected Officials

Bike Walk Knoxville is hosting a walking tour of North Knoxville & Pint Night event with local elected officials, including candidates for City Council! This is a great, relaxed way to get to know candidates.

No registration is required for this event. Those wishing to participate should meet at Shultz Brau Brewing Company on Monday, Aug. 16, at 6 p.m.

For more info, visit [Bike Walk Knoxville's website](#).

10. Certify Your Yard to Help Wildlife

Anyone can create a welcoming haven for local wildlife. Turning your yard, balcony container garden, schoolyard, work landscape, or roadside greenspace into a Certified Wildlife Habitat is fun, easy, and can make a lasting difference for wildlife.

Every habitat garden is a step toward replenishing resources for wildlife such as bees, butterflies, birds, and amphibians—both locally and along migratory corridors.

When you certify, you will become a member of the National Wildlife Federation's [Certified Wildlife Habitat](#) and receive the following benefits:

- Personalized certificate
- A one-year membership in the National Wildlife Federation and subscription to National Wildlife magazine
- 10% off the National Wildlife Federation catalog merchandise, including nesting boxes, feeders, birdbaths, and other items to enhance your wildlife garden
- Subscription to monthly Garden for Wildlife e-newsletter with gardening tips, wildlife stories, and other resources
- Exclusive option to purchase attractive garden signs designating your garden as a Certified Wildlife Habitat with the National Wildlife Federation

Join the City in becoming Certified as a Wildlife Habitat in order to help the wildlife in our area thrive.

This series of articles is being written for ONE's newsletter in order to continue with the City's re-certification for the [Certified Wildlife Habitat](#) with the National Wildlife Federation.

11. [Knoxville Neighborhoods Calendar](#) (click link for online calendar)

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

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