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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.

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

1. Early Voting Is Going On Now!

Now through Thursday, April 28, the following early voting locations will be open for the 2022 Knox County Primary Election:

Downtown West – 1645 Downtown West Blvd.
Halls Recreation Center – 6933 Recreation Ln.
Primary Election Day -- when you must vote at your designated polling place -- is Tuesday, May 3.

Visit the Knox County Election Commission website to see sample ballots, candidate names and find out more about the 2022 Federal/State Primary and County General election being held Aug. 4.

“The vote is precious. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democratic society, and we must use it.” – John Lewis

2. Two Neighborhoods Host Plant Sales

North Hills Garden Club will host their annual plant sale on Saturday, May 7, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the intersection of North Park Blvd. and Kenilworth Ln., 2511 North Park Blvd.

This plant sale is a popular event for local gardeners who value native plants that thrive in our area. Residents of Historic North Hills donate different varieties of hardy perennial plants and shrubs harvested from their own gardens.

In partnership with a local nursery, the North Hills Garden Club also offers herbs, veggies, and gorgeous blooming annuals. While browsing through the plant sale, be sure to enjoy delicious food from VietGrill Vietnamese vegan food truck. In addition, there will be a garden shed with bargain prices for gently used items, and arts and crafts booths.

Proceeds from this event support beautification of the neighborhood’s boulevards and park. For more information on the North Hills Garden Club visit the club’s website at http://northhillsgardenclub.wixsite.com/nhgc.

The event will take place rain or shine.

Historic Holston Hills Community Club will also have a plant sale on the same day, Saturday, May 7. Stay tuned to learn more about the locations, time, and other details.

3. Register Now for Neighborhood Small Grants Workshop
Neighborhood groups wishing to apply for a Neighborhood Small Grant must send a representative to ONE of three mandatory pre-application workshops being held **Saturday, Apr. 23; Tuesday, Apr. 26; OR Wednesday, May 4.**

Even if your group is doubtful you will apply, send someone to one of the workshops anyway. It could help you learn how to apply in the future or it could ensure that you have met this requirement to preserve your right to apply in this 2023 round.

**Pre-Application Workshop A** 1:30 p.m. Saturday, April 23, at 3131 Morris Ave.

**Pre-Application Workshop B** 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 26 via Zoom

**Pre-Application Workshop C** 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 4 via Zoom

The Neighborhood Small Grants Program (NSGP) is designed to strengthen Knoxville neighborhoods by supporting a wide range of community-based initiatives through grants and technical assistance. For more information about the NSGP, please visit **ONE’s website.**

Please register with Hayley Howard by sending her an email at hhoward@knoxvilletn.gov or calling 865-215-2113. Zoom links will be provided when you register. If a neighborhood representative absolutely cannot attend any workshop, please call Hayley Howard.

**4. Neighborhood Safety Series Workshop Scheduled for West Knoxville**

West Knoxville neighbors are invited to the next Neighbor Safety and Awareness workshop on Thursday, May 19, 6-8 p.m. in the gym at the Deane Hill Recreation Center, 7400 Deane Hill Dr. This meeting will focus on crime data and safety in West Knoxville neighborhoods located in [City Council Districts 2 and 3](http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/council/districts).

This is the second in a series of four neighborhood safety workshops presented collaboratively by the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment (ONE), Police Advisory and Review Committee (PARC), the Community Safety Department, and Knoxville Police Department. A representative from East Tennessee Valley Crime Stoppers will also attend to explain how their program works.

Neighbors will learn more about the crimes being reported in their neighborhoods and the City departments and agencies working for and with neighbors on public safety. Presenters will share best practices for community safety, crime prevention and safety awareness. If you have questions you would like to be answered at the upcoming meeting, please send them to neighborhoods@knoxvilletn.gov.
Future meetings will be held quarterly in North and South Knoxville neighborhoods. The meeting for East Knoxville was held on Feb. 24.

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 865-215-2831.

For disability accommodations, contact City ADA Coordinator, Stephanie Brewer Cook, at scook@knoxvilletn.gov or 865-215-2034 at least 72 hours before the meeting.

5. Brush Pick Up Has Resumed

Our Public Service Department has a very robust system in place for brush and leaf collection throughout Knoxville’s neighborhoods. From November through February, they provide leaf collection. From March through October, brush is collected every two weeks in your neighborhood.

In order to find out which week is yours, go to the City’s website, enter your street name and it will tell you the date of your next brush pick up. If you put out your brush by Sunday afternoon prior to your week, it will be picked up sometime that next week.

If for some reason your brush does NOT get picked up, you can call 311 or put in a request to have the brush picked up by going to the City’s website, scroll to the bottom of the page, and enter in the request under Trash / Recycling Pickup Missed.

6. Health Department Hosts Heart Healthy and Diabetes Prevention Workshops

The key to a healthy life is a healthy heart, so learn more about yours in the Knox County Health Department’s Healthy Heart series, starting soon.

This series will be presented in three parts: heart-healthy eating, physical activity, and strategies for a healthier lifestyle.

This series is open to absolutely anyone and will take place on three consecutive Thursdays via Zoom. The dates will be May 12, 19, and 26, from 6-7 p.m. This series usually takes place around four times a year, so if you are not able to register for this round, not to worry! A new series will begin in August.

Another exciting program from the Health Department is the Diabetes Prevention Program, which is a 12-month lifestyle change program. New cohorts launch monthly, but space is limited, so feel free to take this eligibility survey.
Registration is as simple as calling 865-215-5170 or by visiting this link.

7. League of Women Voters Hosts Forum

The League of Women Voters of Knoxville Knox County (LWV) is sponsoring a candidate forum for the Knox County Board of Education candidates tonight, Tuesday, April 19, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Phyllis Wheatley Center, 124 S. Cruze St.

Parking is available adjacent to the Center, on the street, or in the parking lot of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, 2137 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. All candidates have been invited to this event.

The LWV is collaborating with the American Muslim Advisory Council, East Tennessee Society of Professional Journalists, Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy, Knoxville Area Urban League, Knoxville Branch of the NAACP, Knoxville News Sentinel, and YWCA of Knoxville and the TN Valley to make this event happen.

All are invited to attend.

Early voting is going on now and the Primary Election Day is Tuesday, May 3. See previous article.

8. Sports Authority to Meet April 26

The Knox Sports Authority board members as well as City and County staff will meet at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 26, at the City’s Public Works Service Center, 3131 Morris Ave., to discuss the multi-use stadium development in downtown Knoxville.

The total economic impact of a publicly owned multi-use stadium and surrounding private development is projected to be nearly $480 million over 30 years. More than 400 full-time jobs are expected to be created.

The Sports Authority will be financing, overseeing construction of, and managing the stadium, to be built on property just east of the Old City. The stadium is expected to host hundreds of events each year – professional baseball games, but it also is designed to accommodate everything from soccer matches to concerts and festivals to other public events.

The City and County’s anticipated payment toward the stadium debt would be about $240,000 for each government annually for the first 10 years. At that point, according to an independent economic impact analysis, the project has the potential to pay for itself.

For more information, visit www.knoxsportsauthority.com. For FAQs, go to www.knoxvilletn.gov/stadium.
9. Do You Have Pesky Vines Growing on Your Tree?

Meg Stanton, a plant pathologist at the University of Tennessee, is here to tell you how to safely remove unwanted vines growing up your tree.

First and foremost, safety should be your top priority. Be mindful of poison ivy!

Carefully use sharp pruning shears to clip the vines all the way around the tree without cutting into the bark. Do not attempt to pull the vines down or away from the bark. Pulling the vines can damage the bark on the tree or even break off branches. Instead, let the vines die in place and fall off on their own.

If you can, remove the vine’s root system by pulling the roots out of the ground and discarding them.

It’s normal for your tree to look a bit different for a while after you’ve removed the vines. A change like this can stress a tree as it adjusts. You can help to subside this by throwing mulch around the base of the tree, but be careful not to let the mulch touch the trunk, as this can promote disease. Watering during dry or drought periods is also helpful.

Do you have questions for an arborist? Do you want other tree topics addressed in this newsletter? Email Debbie Sharp at dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov or Charles Batey, of the City of Knoxville’s Tree Board at batey@costesetree.com.

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

Call 865-215-3232 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
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.