

TOWN HALL EAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.

March 2020

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Salute to Schools! March 9th, 7 P.M.
THE FELLOWSHIP BUILDING BEHIND
EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SALUTE TO SCHOOLS

Strong schools make for strong communities. Our March membership meeting will feature students and personnel from 8 area schools, including Chilhowee Elementary, Fair Garden Family Center, Holston Middle, Vine Middle, L&N Stem Academy, Berean Christian Academy, Career Academy, and Freedom Christian Academy. Circulate among them, hear and see what they are doing, and show them your support. School Board member Evetty Satterfield will introduce the program.

MARCH 3rd ELECTION DAY

City Elections were last Fall. County elections and national delegates/presidential primary are right now.

VOTE Tuesday, March 3, 2020 The winners will move on to the county general which takes place August 6 with early voting July 17 – August 1.

The county general coincides with the state and federal primary.

National: Republican and Democratic nominees as well as Republican Delegates both at-large and 2nd Congressional District.

Knox County Commission District 1

- Evelyn Gill, Democratic (incumbent)
- Dasha Lundy, Democratic
- Reginald Jackson, Independent

County Criminal Court Judge, Division II (an unexpired term)

- Kyle Hixson, Republican (incumbent)
- Wesley Stone, Republican

County Public Defender (to complete an unexpired term)

- Rhonda Lee, Republican
- Eric Lutton, Republican (incumbent)
- Sherif Guindi, Independent

Town Hall East Neighborhood
PO Box 14259
Knoxville, Tennessee 37914

Town Hall East Face Book
townhalleast@gmail.com
www.townhalleast.com
865 544 8974

Neighborhood Meeting **MONDAY March 9th**

7 PM to 8:30 PM

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Building in rear
4904 Asheville Hwy

Celebrate Schools!!

**Great Schools Support
Neighborhoods. Great
Neighborhoods Support
Schools. Come support
our schools and their
student presentations.**

Refreshments are served



BURLINGTON LIBRARY

Town Hall East actively supports our Burlington Library through posting library events on our Face Book page and emailing their event calendar to our membership.



From Our Prez David Lee to You

Chilhowee Intermediate School and Holston Middle School are two of the schools that serve the Town Hall East membership area. Both will be represented at our Salute to Schools program on March 9. I single out those two specifically because they both have relatively low enrollments, and there is periodic consideration of closing them. That is nothing new. The now deceased former dean of the UT College of Law, Dick Wirtz, and his neighbor Bill Becker, a Materials Science professor at UT, led the charge back in the 1980s to prevent the proposed closure of Chilhowee School. Closure would not be good for the neighborhoods in which they are located. Schools are community anchors. When they are well run, they are a source of pride and they bring light and life into the surrounding area.

Knox County is not particularly generous with its schools. According to the most recent information available, the country ranks 3rd in the state in its ability to support schools fiscally and 71st out of 135 districts in per pupil expenditure. A similar comparison in 2014 led then County Mayor Tim Burgett to point out that Knox County devoted much more to schools than those figures would indicate and that it was the state funding formula that led to the imbalance. Even if the imbalance was corrected, the sad fact is that Tennessee is 49th in the nation in per pupil expenditures.

Given the lack of resources, teachers are fighting an uphill battle. Expressions of understanding and support become even more important. School personnel accomplish a lot without a whole lot of help. You can show your appreciation for them and get a firsthand look at some of the creative work being done right here in your neighborhood by coming to the program on March 9 and meeting some of the students, their teachers and administrators who are working every day to produce the next generation of citizens and leaders.

David Lee

COMMUNITY EVENTS

2nd Annual Knoxville Neighborhood Treasure Hunt & Online Auction.

Contribute Used Items to Benefit Your Neighborhood

This Spring, Community Television of Knoxville will sponsor the **2nd Annual Knoxville Neighborhood Treasure Hunt & Online Auction**. The two-fold purpose of this event is to promote neighbor engagement and raise money to fund neighborhood activities. All the proceeds from items donated by Town Hall East friends and members will go to the organization, there is no overhead.

Between now and April 15, call the Town Hall East phone number (865 544-8974) to donate new, gently used, and/or unique treasures to be auctioned. Leave a voice message with your name, phone number, and a brief description of the item. A representative of Town Hall East will contact you and arrange a time to come by to photograph it so that it can be posted at ctvKnox.org/hunt

Bidding on the items will take place at that online site between April 17 and May 1, to be followed by a live 3-hour Neighborhood Treasure Hunt special on CTV on May 1 from 5 pm – 8 pm. The transfer of the items to the successful bidders will be completed in the following week.



John T. O'Connor Center

Pancake Fest

Friday, March 6 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM

\$5 All you can eat! Tickets available NOW!



2020 CITY NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE



Hosted by City of Knoxville Office of Neighborhoods and City of Knoxville Government

Saturday, March 28, 2020 at 8 AM to 2 PM

Knoxville Convention Center

Free - Activities: 80 booths, free networking luncheon, workshops, door prizes

For more info and to register visit

<http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/neighborhoods> or contact Courtney Durrett at

cdurrett@knoxvilletn.gov or 865-215-3456

SMARTER DEVELOPMENT

Join Urban Land Institute Knoxville on **March 19th** to hear Ed McMahon present to local residents and officials on "The Dollars and Sense of Smarter Development." As Ed puts it, "the market is changing, so is the development paradigm."

Topics will include creating corridors, neighborhoods, and commercial developments geared towards being more attractive and more profitable!

McMahon, Senior Resident Fellow at ULI in Washington D.C. leads ULI's worldwide efforts to research and promote environmentally sensitive development policies and practices. He is the coauthor of 15 books and regularly writes for Urban Land Magazine, Citiwire, and other periodicals.



When: March 19, 2020 at 6:30 PM

Where: O'Connor Senior Center |
611 Winona St. Knoxville, TN 37917

RSVP: Please RSVP by emailing
info@koellamoore.com

The mission of the Urban Land Institute is to provide leadership in the responsible use of land and in creating and sustaining thriving communities worldwide.

Relevant Facts regarding development in Knox County (Knoxville City property owners also pay Knox County taxes) — OR Why Should We Care About “Smarter” Development?

Knox County owes about \$685 million for its deficit spending. The 2020 total operating budget is \$819 million, with \$77 million going to debt service - up 10% from 2018.

In rough numbers, the County is spending about 9.4% of its budget on interest and (very little) pay down of debt.

Why is there so much debt? With the economy growing at 3.6%, government is growing at 6%. And this has been going on for a long time.

When a developer builds a large, high density project on a narrow country road, that road must be upgraded to meet safety standards. Instead of the developer paying all the costs the project necessitated, Knox County usually picks up at least 60% of the road improvement, and taxpayers continue paying all future maintenance costs.

The same thing happens with water and sewer utilities - existing and future customers of the utility companies pay all future maintenance costs.

This is how the county came to have about \$134 million in needed road and storm water control projects, and only \$17 million for annual infrastructure maintenance and construction.

Let's take a fresh look at how the County is growing and developing.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Beavers Out, Kids Back In

Tank Strickland Park found itself hosting several beavers in the late fall. They felled several trees, including a large willow, before they were trapped and relocated. Besides removing the animals, Knox County wrapped wire around the trunks of many of the remaining trees to discourage any latecomers.

The playground at the park is one of the most used areas and it had to be closed for several months because a large piece of the spongy asphalt ground cover was torn out and the gravel beneath it hollowed out. Knox County Parks and Recreation removed all the asphalt and replaced it with mulch so that the playground could be returned to use.

Adopt-a-Park

Town Hall East adopted Tank Strickland Park several year ago, which means the organization does periodic trash pickup. A circuit around the park takes about one hour. If you would be interested in volunteering once a month to help in this effort, please send an email to townhalleast@gmail.com or call us at 865 544 8974

Notes from the Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) of February 12, 2020)

The February meeting focused on two speakers" Chad Weth, Public Works Director and Mayor Indya Kincannon.

1. Director Weth shared information on current yard waste pickup procedures. Waste will be picked up every 2 weeks. A resident may call 311 or go to knoxvilletn.gov/brushpickup and enter their address to get the correct week and day for his/her location. This site also has information on waste pile sizes, locations, and allowable content.
2. Mayor Kincannon spoke of her plans for the future and sought neighborhood input. Her budget priorities include:
 - Public Safety: Flood control, Crime issues, Support for first/emergency responders
 - Connecting Neighborhoods: Expediting traffic calming process, Affordable housing, Sidewalks & greenways, Public transportation
 - Clean, Green Sustainable City: Innovation, Green jobs

EVER TRIED TO TURN LEFT FROM RUTLEDGE ONTO MAGNOLIA? IT CAN'T BE DONE....

Magnolia Ave / Rutledge Pike / Asheville Highway interchange.

Town Hall East was represented at a meeting in Perk City on January 29 to discuss the Magnolia Ave / Rutledge Pike / Asheville Highway interchange. The meeting was one of a series of stakeholder sessions sponsored by the City of Knoxville and Gresham Smith, the consulting and design firm hired by the city to gather opinions and suggest designs for the intersection. (Gresham Smith has been contracted to do the same type study for Chilhowee Park). This gathering was aimed at neighborhood associations and included representatives of the Chilhowee Park neighborhood, the Dandridge Avenue Neighborhood Watch, and the Morningside Neighborhood Association. Further Stakeholder sessions will be aimed at businesses in the area as well as city engineers and traffic personnel.

There is common agreement that the current shape of the intersection, which does not permit drivers going south on Rutledge Pike to turn left onto Asheville Highway, was ill conceived. The two solutions, for which there is ample room, are either a traffic roundabout or a T intersection. One serious disadvantage of the roundabout is that it would make it more difficult for pedestrians to safely cross Rutledge Pike since traffic never stops.

There is also a problem for pedestrians crossing Asheville Highway since there is no intersection with a traffic light in the half mile stretch between Prosser Road in Burlington and the light by Kroger at Burns Road. For this reason, a roundabout would certainly generate a new traffic light at the intersection of Asheville Highway and Park Street, which is the first road east of the Asheville Highway / Rutledge Pike interchange. One of the biggest expenses for the project would be the removal of the old roadway.

There will be no changes in the immediate future. This series of meetings is for the benefit of the City so that it can clarify its own position when it approaches the ultimate decision makers, the Tennessee Department of Transportation. The project would have to be put into a TDOT budget, and the timeframe is from six to ten years.

