

TOWN HALL EAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.

January 2020

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

A TWO-PART PROGRAM, JANUARY 13, 7 P.M.
THE FELLOWSHIP HALL BEHIND
EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



NATURE – THE CRITTERS AROUND US

Following a brief session attending to Town Hall East business, our guest speaker, Shady Dell Trail resident Nickolus Stahlmann, will talk about the diverse wildlife to be found in our immediate area. Nick is a lab assistant in the UT Vet School and working towards a BA in Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries. He has a long record of presentations on related topics. He says of himself: “I am a part-time naturalist for Ijams Nature Center in South Knoxville. I have done talks on fungi, mammals, and salamanders for Ijams. I also do numerous outdoor programs on a wide array of topics; including aquatic invertebrates, insects, owls, bird songs, scenic kayaking, and many others. I also do some freelance work and have done talks for grade school kids at Tremont and local area schools and organizations.” Nick was also the guest speaker for the Sierra Club’s September meeting.

If there are any junior naturalists in your household, they might also be interested in the program.

COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT ONE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

After Nick’s talk, two candidates for the County Commission District 1 seat will introduce themselves and the main outlines of their platforms. Evelyn Gill is finishing her first term as our representative and is running for re-election. Dasha Lundy is challenging her for the seat in the Democratic primary on March 3. A third candidate, Reginald Jackson, is also running. We will invite the winner of the March 3 primary and Mr. Jackson to another candidate forum before the August election for the seat. All three candidates are residents of East Knoxville.

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 Jan 13th

7 PM to 8:30 PM

Eastminster Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Building in rear
4904 Asheville Hwy

2 presentations

All about the critters in our neighborhood

**County Commission
District One Candidates
Democratic Primary Election**

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

An interesting article on East Knoxville's pivotal role in the mayoral election was linked in the December 30 issue of Compass. (Compass is a relatively new online news site with a daily edition each weekday devoted to Knoxville politics and culture.) It was written by Rick Held, former Director of Community Engagement at SEEED – Socially Equal Energy Efficient Development – an organization headquartered in the Morningside Community Center.

Held reiterates a major finding reported several months ago, namely that “Knoxville has the worst black or African American poverty rate of any Southern city, and one of the worst in the U.S.” We are in worse shape in this regard than we were twenty years ago. In Held's analysis, a series of community surveys, outreach efforts, and candidate forums worked to bring out a segment of the African American community that normally does not vote, and that turnout was a deciding factor in the mayoral election.

Some members of Town Hall East are pleased with the outcome of the elections, others are profoundly unhappy, but whether you approve or disapprove, one probable outcome is greater attention in city government directed towards improving housing, education, and economic opportunity in the affected area. The concentration of poverty in some areas of East Knoxville influences how other parts of the city see us, and anything that can be done to whittle away at the root causes of this underdevelopment and its effects can only improve the standing and reputation of the whole East sector, including those areas that do not suffer the same kind of systemic problems but nonetheless get tarred with the same negative brush and are viewed in the same negative light.

A strong community organization can magnify your voice help you get your opinion heard. A strong organization can allow you to participate in the upcoming process in a more significant way and direct development in ways that you think will be most beneficial to the community.

Best,

David Lee

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

- **Aldi's Grocery Store**— 5416 Millertown Pike, [Open for Business](#).
- **Perk City Coffee Shop**—[serves lunch](#) starting Jan 9th. Located at Beaman and Magnolia (next to Chilhowee Park) select sandwiches are added to their pastry and beverage menu.
- **Apartment Development**—under preliminary site preparation on the vacant lot at 4504 Holston Drive, the former Rays Mobile Home Park.

WHAT WILL 2020 BRING TO EAST KNOXVILLE?



- **Standard Knitting Mill**—WSR has purchased the Standard Knitting Mill and proposes a multi-use development of retail, residential, office and community space. But first the site needs remedial cleanup of the toxins used and disposed on site by the textile use.
- **Proposed Redesign of Rutledge/Asheville Hwy**—a proposal to provide a left turn lane from Rutledge to Asheville Highway is under design study.
- **Old Hotel Site Redeveloped**—look for some redevelopment action at the old hotel property at xxx Asheville Highway. At least, that's what we've been told!
- **Improvements planned for Caswell Park**— Knoxville Parks and Recreation Dept will consider how to promote the ballfields and integrate the parcels fronting Fifth Avenue into the park design.
- **Chilhowee Park Master Plan Study**—will be completed and discussion on how to proceed is next.
- **Clayton Science Museum** BarberMcMurry Architects will lead a conceptual design program to look at developing a science museum at the Public Safety property. The Clayton family is providing funds to develop the museum and funds for maintaining it. The building will be at least two stories tall with 80,000 to 200,000 square feet of space. Knoxville City Council has approved the sale of the property to the Clayton Foundation. "Receiving community feedback on these conceptual plans will be a valuable and exciting part of the process," the philanthropist said in his statement.



Clayton Foundation rendering of planned East Knoxville science center.

The city will be responsible for the pre-development and design process – including planning, environmental considerations, architecture, and engineering. The city will also need to approve a final design before development can start.

HAVE YOU NOTICED INCREASED TRAFFIC AND SPEEDING ON YOUR STREET? WE'RE TAKING ACTION.

West Sunset Road

West Sunset Road residents Candy Barbee and Angela White, with the assistance of David Lee, collected 37 petitions from residents of West Sunset and adjacent properties with mailboxes or driveways on that street. Before Christmas, the petitions were submitted to the Office of Neighborhoods requesting a study of the traffic on West Sunset by the city's Traffic Engineering department.

If the weeklong, all-hours survey determines that there is a problem, the department will suggest traffic calming measures and convene a meeting of the residents of the street to see if they approve of the suggestions. If residents do approve, the work is eventually put out for bids, and if residents do not approve, the project does not go forward.

The Office of Neighborhoods requires that at least 50 percent of the residents on the road agree that a study should be done, and the 37 petitions gathered represents between 70 and 80 percent of the eligible signers, so there is strong support for the study among West Sunset residents.

Green Valley Drive

Andy Black and Michael Aktalay gathered 31 petitions with requests for a similar study of traffic on Green Valley. This represents about two thirds of the eligible households. The petitions will be turned in early this week, and a similar and perhaps simultaneous study should be carried out on that street.

East Sunset Road

April Ganser is heading up the effort to add East Sunset to the series of traffic studies being done in the area. Contact her at april@youngkw.com if you would like to help.

Holston Hills Road / South Chilhowee Drive

At this point, the importance of this corridor for emergency vehicles prevents the installation of any traffic calming measures and thus any traffic study. The city did act on Timbs Jones' suggestion to make Holston Hills road a unified speed zone of 25 mph rather than 30 mph from Boyds Bridge Pike to the first bridge and then 25 mph thereafter. City Engineer Stephen King also agreed to talk to the police department to learn why they are reluctant to issue tickets to vehicles that are by type alone clearly over the posted weight limit of 7000 lbs.

