



Town Hall East, Inc.  
P.O. Box 14259  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37914

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Knoxville, Tenn.  
Permit No. 595

# Town Hall East Newsletter

Vol. 53 No. 5

Join us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/townhalleast](http://www.facebook.com/townhalleast)

Mar 2017

**Next Meeting • Monday, March 13 • 7:00 PM**

**~featuring Knox Heritage's Kim Trent & God's Creative Enrichment Ctr's Beverly Holland ~**  
**Eastminster Fellowship Hall • 4904 Asheville Hwy**

## T.H.E. Board of Directors

**President** Doug Toppenberg  
[dtoppenberg@yahoo.com](mailto:dtoppenberg@yahoo.com)

**Vice President** Millie Ward

**Treasurer** Desiree Folger

**Secretary** Brenda Brooks

### Directors:

Clarita Buffaloe

Beverly Calhoun

Sharon Davis

Amber Houser

David Lee

Rick Mallory

Mimi Meredith

Michael Moore

Jeff Petrik



## Want to know more about recent School Rezoning Meetings?

For slide decks, meeting notes,  
and video from the recent  
rezoning meetings, go to  
<http://www.knoxschools.org/rezoning>

## Renew or Join Town Hall East

Renew your dues or join T.H.E for  
only \$10 per adult member per  
year, September–August.

Complete the form on page 2, and  
send it along with your dues to:

Town Hall East  
P.O. Box 14259  
Knoxville TN 37914

## T.H.E. Meets...

2nd Mondays in Sept, Nov, Jan,  
March, May 7:00 pm  
Eastminster Fellowship Hall,  
4904 Asheville Hwy

## President's Message

Town Hall East's Education Committee has been very active and involved with our schools this year. In 2016, Knox County Schools announced a rezoning of Middle School districts due to the construction of the new Gibbs Middle School, and that rezoning will have a ripple effect throughout East Knoxville. This may mean less transportation for some, and more for others. It may mean children are sent to schools not previously anticipated. The new districts will eventually feed older students to the Austin-East, Carter and South Doyle High Schools, and there is great interest among parents and students about what the future holds.

The Education Committee recently sent a letter sent to the School Board, which reads in part:

*Because our area of the City is directly affected by the rezoning, we have collected data from members and residents through surveys, discussions with parents, and community member meetings. We would like to share with the Board the following conclusions that we have learned from these many meetings, surveys and conversations:*

1. *Parents want neighborhood schools that give their children the ability to stay close to their own communities. Neighborhood schools allow students to avoid long periods of busing, keep them close to siblings and friends, and allow participation in after-school activities.*

2. *These neighborhood schools, which cross all geographic and demographic boundaries in Knox County, must have high quality programs that meet the needs and aspirations of children and their parents. These programs must include challenging academic programs, special needs services, and a full range of extracurricular activities.*

3. *Our members desire, whenever possible, a congruent system of matriculation from elementary through high school within neighborhood areas. This would allow students to progress through the grades with the same classmates. Students would also be able to participate in extracurricular programs, such as music and sports, which require years of commitment and involvement from students.*

*The members of Town Hall East, realize this process is a difficult and laborious one. The future of our community, and of Knox County, depends upon solid schools in which to give all our children the keys to educational success. We are confident this is the foremost consideration of the Board in this matter.*

I encourage you to follow this unfolding event, and I encourage you to support the difficult decisions being made by the School Board, even if you would have redrawn the lines differently. Finally, I encourage you to support all the schools in East Knoxville, and not just those in which your children matriculate. High-quality schools, together with the solid support of parents and residents, are the backbone of the future of our side of the city.

Doug Toppenberg  
Town Hall East President

### Next Steps in the School Rezoning Process

—Millie Ward, T.H.E. Schools Committee

As you know, we are in the middle of the rezoning process needed for the opening of the new Gibbs Middle School. From November 2016 through January 2017, the School Board held several public meetings to gather input from the community about the rezoning. As of this writing, the School Board is working on a draft rezoning plan. The draft plan will be announced in March. At that time, the Board will also announce public meeting dates to collect community feedback on the plan. We will send you information on those dates and locations as soon as they are available. It is very important that community members review the plan, attend these meetings, and give feedback to the Board on the plan. The final rezoning plan recommendation will be submitted to and voted on by the Board of Education in May 2017.



### T.H.E. Newsletter Moves from Print to Digital

Composing, printing, and mailing the Town Hall East newsletter is an all-volunteer effort...except for the printing and mailing parts. In order to reduce those costs, the board of directors has chosen to move to email and online distribution of this newsletter. Beginning with this issue, if you have been receiving *both* email and print newsletters, you will instead receive only the email version. If, however, you receive *only* the print newsletter, we will be contacting you to ask for your email address. Last, if you are unable to use email, we will do our best to provide a limited number of print copies.

In addition, over the next few months, we will be working to reactivate our website so that you can access the newsletter and other T.H.E. information online any time.



The well-attended January 2017 T.H.E. meeting featured Tim Hill, President, Hatcher-Hill Properties; John Sanders, Sanders-Pace Architects; John Craig, involved in Magnolia Ave development; Steve Goldman, realtor with new auto parts store across from Kroger; and David Dewhirst, downtown developer.

### Join us on March for Kim Trent of Knox Heritage and Beverly Holland of God's Creative Enrichment Center...

...the latest in right-on-target T.H.E. meetings, in which we bring you informative speakers on current neighborhood issues. In March, the topics are preservation and innovation, and you'll have the opportunity to hear from and ask questions of...

- **Executive Director Kim Trent**, who will discuss Knox Heritage's preservation efforts in the East Knoxville/Park City/Burlington neighborhoods. The organization encourages dialogue and action planning for preserving and improving such neighborhoods, and currently is collecting historical data for a National Register Nomination.
- **Beverly Holland** of God's Creative Enrichment Center, who will have the opportunity to share information about her business on Holston Drive in downtown Burlington.



### BURLINGTON BRANCH LIBRARY from Jeff Johnston. Call 525-5431 for info or to sign up for classes.

Date	Time	Event	Ages
Mar 3 • Apr 7	3:30pm	Afternoon Lego® Club: Info: 525-5431	4-11
Mar 13 • Apr TBA	10:30am	Movie: "Light Between Oceans" • Call for April movie	Family
Mar 13 • Apr TBA	5:30pm	Family Movie Night: "Moana" • Call for April movie	Family
Mar 14 • Apr 11	10:30am	Crochet Mania: Info: ihelms@knoxlib.org	All ages, skills
Mar 16 • Apr 20	5:30pm	Game Night: Wii, cards, board games, snacks	Family
Mar 27 • Apr 24	5:30pm	Just Add Color: Coloring books, markers, pencils available	Adults
Mar 27 • Apr 24	6:00pm	Lego® Club: Info: 525-5431	4-11
Mar 30 • Apr 27	5:00pm	Robotics@The Library! Kits provided	11-18
Apr 14		<b>CLOSED for Good Friday</b>	
Mon and Thurs	9:00am	NEW! Yoga: Info: 525-2574	All ages, skills
Wednesdays	10:30am	Story Times	pre-K, 3-5
Fridays	2:00pm	Computer Classes: Call, Reference 215-8700	12 and up

**Hours:**  
 Mon, Thurs 10:30am-8:00pm  
 Tues, Wed 10:30am-5:00pm  
 Fri, Sat 1:00-5:00pm  
 Closed Sundays  
 Story Time Wed 10:30am  
 Ages 3-5

**DUES: September 2016 – August 2017**

**JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to receive the newsletter via email? yes  no

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10/person Active Member: live in City Wards 13, 30, 31

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10/person Associate Member: live outside the above Wards, but want to stay informed

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50/person Business Member: own/manage a business in the above Wards, support the neighborhood and T.H.E.

\_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed

**Send your payment to: Town Hall East, Inc., P.O. Box 14259, Knoxville, TN 37914.**

**Join us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/townhalleast](http://www.facebook.com/townhalleast)**