



**TOWN HALL EAST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION**  
**MEMEBERSHIP MEETING This Monday, Sept. 10th**  
**Eastminster Presbyterian Church 4904 Asheville Hwy**  
**7:00 TO 8:00 PM**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT REZONING IS CHALLENGED**

**Reverend Dr. John A. Butler**, President of the Knoxville Branch of the NAACP and Presiding Elder of the Knoxville District AME Zion Church. Is our Program Speaker. Under his leadership **the NAACP filed a complaint with the U.S. Justice Department challenging the Knox County rezoning plan.** Reverend Butler will discuss the NAACP's vision for schools in Knoxville and the nature and current state of the complaint. Public welcome. Info: [townhalleast@gmail.com](mailto:townhalleast@gmail.com).



**FROM OUR T.H.E. PRESIDENT**

When I was growing up in Trenton, New Jersey, in the 1940s it was a vibrant, industrial town with a commercially active, attractive city center. In the 1950s it began to slide into decline. Industries left, stores were abandoning the downtown and housing stock fell into disrepair and decay. People could see it happening, but no one knew what to do to stop the process.

It is especially gratifying to me now to be living in a city that is following the opposite trajectory. Knoxville's downtown offers so much that is interesting and creative. The emphasis has been on renewing our city center, but now attention and resources are being directed outwards – and East Knoxville is one of those areas that will benefit. Work on the first phase of the Magnolia corridor has begun, a second phase will follow. The East Tennessee Design Center has developed plans to revitalize the Burlington commercial district, and street and landscaping improvements are already in place.

Those developments promise to make the core neighborhoods of Town Hall East more attractive and inviting to new residents and old. But we will get the most out of these positive trends only if we stay active and engaged. A remark I read recently about a situation in New York holds true here also: If you are not at the table, you're on the menu. We have to work very hard to maintain our school population and to improve the quality of education if we are going to attract young families – which is why our schools committee is so active and why our first program centers on those issues of school zoning and quality. Older housing stock has to be constantly renewed and renovated, and we want to do all we can to oppose speculators who are content to watch a property go to wrack and ruin while they wait to turn a profit.

*David Lee*