Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory #211 – Friday, April 26, 2013

1. Lonsdale Hosts “Eat, Play, Live” Community Day
2. May 2 Meeting to Explore Future Uses for Rule High School
3. Mayor Appoints Four, Reappoints One to Advisory Council
4. Sign Task Force Seeks Views on Draft Ordinance
5. MPC Prepares for Public Input on Central and East Sector Plans
6. Mayor Proposes Budget with No New Taxes
7. Neighborhood and Government Calendar

Published by the City of Knoxville’s Office of Neighborhoods to report news important to Knoxville’s residential neighborhoods.

1. **Lonsdale Hosts “Eat, Play, Live” Community Day**

Lonsdale United for Change --- the resident-led, resident-controlled neighborhood organization in Lonsdale --- is partnering with Knox County Health Department, Children’s Hospital and others to conduct the Eat, Play, Live Lonsdale Community Day this Saturday, April 27, in Lonsdale Park and at Lonsdale Recreation Center.

Activities begin at 10:00 am. Projects planned for the day include the installation of Lonsdale neighborhood signs, the planting of trees in the park and at the schools, and the establishing of community gardens. Activities will be provided by East Tennessee Children's Hospital at the Lonsdale Recreation Center for ages 5-12.

Lunch will be provided, and Lonsdale United for Change will be conducting a membership drive.

“This will be a great day to bring together the residents of Lonsdale --- a community which is learning to celebrate its great diversity,” noted Steve Ritter, president of Lonsdale United for Change. Activities will conclude at 2:00 pm.

2. **May 2 Meeting to Explore Future Uses for Rule High School**

Several months ago, Knox County solicited expressions of interest from developers who might wish to purchase and redevelop the Rule High School property located on the northern edge of the Beaumont neighborhood and the southern edge of the Lonsdale neighborhood.

There were no takers.

Now the Knox County School Board has asked the Community Design Center to review the current conditions at Rule High and suggest possible future adaptive uses. CDC’s work on this --- along with similar work still underway on the future of Old Knoxville High --- is funded by the city’s Community Development Department.

As part of the review process, CDC will hold a public meeting next Thursday evening to provide information on the facility today and to gather input on what citizens would and would
not like to see developed on the site, which has a commanding view of downtown Knoxville and the mountains.

The meeting begins with refreshments at 6 p.m. at the L.T. Ross Building, 2247 Western Avenue. From Western, turn up Major Street and park in the rear parking lot. Enter through the double glass doors and walk straight back to the community room. The presentation and public input portion of meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. and ends at 8 p.m.

Please RSVP to Leslie Fawaz, CDC, at leslie@communitydc.org or 525-9945.

3. Mayor Appoints Four, Reappoints One to Advisory Council

Mayor Madeline Rogero has appointed five community leaders to serve on the Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) over the next three years.

A resolution expressing support for the appointments is on City Council’s agenda for next Tuesday, April 30. NAC advises the Administration on neighborhood-related issues and concerns.

Four of the appointments are new:

** Terry Caruthers --- a member of the executive board of Colonial Village Neighborhood Association and one of CVNA’s representatives to the South Knoxville Neighborhood and Business Coalition --- will fill Seat 1-B.

** Donna Downen, who is active in the Glenview Homeowners’ Association, was named to Seat 3-A.

** Bill Hutton, an active member of Oakwood Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association, was appointed to Seat 5-B.

** Bobby Braly, vice president of Parkridge Community Organization, will occupy one of three at-large seats.

These are three-year appointments. The four new NAC members replace longtime members Whitney Stanley, Jody Mullins, Barbara Armstead and Polly Doka, whose terms expired.

In addition, the Mayor reappointed Lauren Rider, president of Old North Knoxville, Inc., to a full three-year term in Seat 4-A.

NAC consists of 15 members --- two from each City Council district and three at large. The group meets from 4:30 p.m. until 6 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month (except July and December) at the L.T. Ross Building, 2247 Western Avenue. Call 215-3232 to confirm upcoming meetings or check the calendar in this newsletter. All meetings are open to the public.

Other current NAC members are Cathy Irwin, Suzanne Kurth, Dennis Owen, Mae Moody, Robbie Arrington, Steve Ritter, Dennis Murphy, Rick Roach, Barbara Pelot, and Mickeeya Harrison.
4. Sign Task Force Seeks Views on Draft Ordinance

A City Council Sign Task Force is wrapping up its effort to rewrite the ordinance governing signs in the City of Knoxville, and as one final step the task force is holding a public input meeting next week.

The meeting will start at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 1, in the Mary Starr Auditorium of the John T. O'Connor Senior Center, 611 Winona. For those coming from outside the immediate area, take I-40 to the Broadway/Hall of Fame exit. Turn down Hall of Fame Drive, take a left on Fifth Avenue or Magnolia, and then a left on Winona. The parking lot is located between the senior center and the Cansler Family YMCA.

Each person who wishes to address the task force will have a few minutes to state their views and concerns.

A copy of the proposed ordinance will be posted on the City’s website by the close of business today (April 26). See http://www.cityofknoxville.org/citycouncil/sign/ for the draft ordinance, task force members, and other information.

A recent email from Scenic Knoxville, a nonprofit advocacy organization (http://www.scenicknoxville.org/), highlighted the likely focus of debate when the Ordinance goes before City Council.

“The final proposal will result in noticeable improvements to the appearance of our City over time,” stated Scenic Knoxville president Joyce Feld in a recent email. “One area of major disagreement, however, is the issue of maximum allowable sign heights for individual businesses. Several members of the committee [the task force] want to continue to allow very tall, lighted, on-premise business signs (35’ to 50’).

5. MPC Prepares for Public Input on Central and East Sector Plans

Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) has embarked on a multi-month effort to gather public input for upcoming updates to the Central City and East City Sector Plans.

MPC staff in early April met with neighborhood leaders in the two sectors, and they are now scheduling meetings in individual neighborhoods to go over the planning process and seek input on challenges, concerns and goals for physical improvements and development.

Larger public meetings will be announced later this spring. In the meantime, residents of the East and Central sectors can provide their input via a detailed survey that will be available over the next two weeks. Also, MPC staff has prepared draft background reports as a precursor to drafting the new sector plans.

Here are web links for the existing sector plan, the draft background report, and the survey:
Central City Sector
Existing Plan: http://archive.knoxmpc.org/plans/centralcity/index.htm

East City Sector
Existing Plan: http://archive.knoxmpc.org/plans/ecity02/toc.htm

If you do not have Internet access and cannot get to a public library, call 215-2500 for a hard copy of the survey and/or other materials. Ask for Mike Reynolds for Central City Sector and Jeff Archer for East City Sector.

Here is some background on Sector Plans.

The City of Knoxville and Knox County are divided into 12 planning sectors. The East City Sector includes but is not limited to the Alice Bell / Spring Hill, Burlington, Chilhowee Park, Cold Springs, Edgewood Park, Fairmont-Emoriland, Holston Hills, Michael-Meadowview, North Hills, and Whittle Springs neighborhoods.

The Central City sector includes but is not limited to downtown and the University of Tennessee as well as the Beaumont, Belle Morris, Five Points, Fort Sanders, Fourth & Gill, Lonsdale, Marble City, Mechanicsville, Morningside, Oakwood Lincoln Park, Old North Knoxville, Parkridge, Sutherland Heights, West Haven, and West View neighborhoods.

The focus of the sector plan is physical development, and therefore land use, transportation and community facilities are the key elements. Sector plans are important to neighborhoods because:

*** They contain goals, policies and proposals to guide the sector’s growth over a 15-year period and a 5-year plan for proposed capital improvements.
*** MPC uses the plan on a month-to-month basis to guide zoning and subdivision decisions.

For more on the sector planning process, see:
http://archive.knoxmpc.org/plans/sector_planning_process.pdf

6. Mayor Proposes Budget with No Tax Increase

Mayor Madeline Rogero today proposed a budget for the 2013-14 fiscal year with no property tax increase and significant new investments in City infrastructure.

The net proposed City budget is $295.8 million, with the General Fund making up about $183.2 million. That amounts to a 1.45 percent increase in the General Fund from the adopted 2012-13 budget.

“This budget is not ultimately about finances. It’s really about a vision for our city – how we will grow, what services we will provide, and what quality of life we all will enjoy,” Mayor Rogero said during her address at Ijams Nature Center. “The budget that I have presented
today is balanced and affordable. It meets basic needs, and it positions us for greater opportunities."

Among the new spending proposed in the budget are several capital items: $15 million for a Public Works complex to replace the aging facilities on Loraine Street (design funding for this project was included in the 2012-13 budget); $10 million for improvements to the Knoxville Zoo; $5.2 million for demolition and improvements on property the state is conveying to the City at Lakeshore Park; and $1.2 million to redress chronic flooding problems on Prosser Road.

These projects will be funded through the issuance of $31.4 million in new debt. This is the first major City capital debt issue since 2004.

Budgeted personnel total for 2013-14 is 1,598 full-time positions and 33 part-time positions. Employee salaries, benefits and health care make up about 70 percent of the General Fund. The budget proposes a 2.5 percent salary increase for all City employees.

Other highlights in the proposed budget include:

*** $5.45 million for the City’s annual street paving program;
*** $1.8 million for sidewalks and crosswalks, including $550,000 for new sidewalk construction (an increase of $150,000);
*** $500,000 matching grant for an Advanced Traffic Management System, which lays the groundwork for better signal timing and traffic flow;
*** $600,000 in anti-blight funds to address chronic problem properties, acquire blighted properties and enforce the Demolition by Neglect ordinance;
$800,000 for KCDC’s continued redevelopment of the Walter P. Taylor Homes/Five Points area. The City has committed $8 million to that area over 10 years;
*** $170,000 toward a regional public-private partnership to attract low-fare air service to McGhee Tyson Airport;
*** $100,000 to expand Community Schools in center city neighborhoods, in collaboration with the Great Schools Partnership and Knox County Schools;
*** $100,000 for the Downtown Improvements Fund (an increase of $50,000), along with $300,000 for the Magnolia Warehouse Redevelopment area and $100,000 for projects in the Downtown North corridor;
*** $60,000 toward bicycle infrastructure improvements;
*** $1.5 million for an Automatic Vehicle Location system to increase efficiency of the City vehicle fleet;
*** An alternative transportation coordinator in the Engineering Department, with expertise in engineering for pedestrians, cyclists and mass transit;
*** A small-business coordinator in the Purchasing Department, to implement the City’s new small-business program.

For more details, see www.cityofknoxville.org or:

City Council will hold hearings on the proposed budget May 21 and 22, in the Main Assembly Room of the City County Building, and will vote on the budget in June.
7. Neighborhood and Government Calendar

Include your neighborhood-related event or meeting in this space. Call 215-3232.

All government meetings will be held in either the Large or Small Assembly Room unless otherwise noted. For a complete list of meetings of various city boards and commissions, visit http://www.cityofknoxville.org/calendar/.

If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation in order to attend a public meeting, please contact Stephanie Brewer Cook at 215-2034 or scook@cityofknoxville.org no less than 48 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend.

Saturday, April 27 --- 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
“Eat, Play, Live” Lonsdale Community Day
Community Improvement Projects, T-Shirts, Food, Fun
Lonsdale Park & Recreation Center
Activities for Children 5-12 at Lonsdale Recreation Center
All free, but register at 215-5819 or www.EatPlayLiveKnox.com

Saturday, April 27 --- 10 a.m.-Noon
“Make it, Take it” Rain Barrel Workshop
Sponsor: Water Quality Forum
Ijams Nature Center, 2915 Island Home Avenue
Space limited. Register at 215-5861 or stormwater@knoxcounty.org

Sunday, April 28 --- 1 p.m.-6 p.m.
Historic Fourth & Gill Home Tour
Tickets can be purchased via http://fourthandgill.wordpress.com/ or on event day at Central United Methodist Church, 210 Third Avenue, start point for the tour.
Historic Fourth & Gill Neighborhood Organization
Judith Neff, 865-567-7980

Monday, April 29 --- 5 p.m.
Knox County School Board – Work Session
(Monday before the regular meeting, except holidays)
First Floor Board Room, Andrew Johnson Building, 912 South Gay St.
For agenda, work sessions, and other items:
Visit http://knoxschools.org/. Click on “Board of Education.”

Tuesday, April 30 --- 7 p.m.
City Council (Every Other Tuesday)
http://www.cityofknoxville.org/citycouncil
Agenda: http://www.cityofknoxville.org/citycouncil/agenda.pdf

Wednesday, May 1 --- 9 a.m.
Knox County Budget for FY 2014
Presented by Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett
Main Assembly Room, City Council Building
Followed by presentations in meetings across the county, May 1-3
See http://knoxcounty.org for details of the meetings.

Wednesday, May 1 --- 5 p.m.
Knox County Board of Education
Monthly Meeting (First Wednesdays)
Large Assembly Room, City County Building
For agenda, work sessions, and other items:
Visit http://knoxschools.org/. Click on “Board of Education”

Wednesday, May 1 --- 5:30 p.m.
Public Forum
Knoxville City Council Sign Task Force
Public input on task force recommendations
Mary Starr Auditorium, John T. O’Connor Senior Center, 611 Winona Street

Thursday, May 2 --- 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
Future of Rule High School Buildings & Campus: A Public Input Meeting
6 p.m. – Refreshments
6 p.m.-8 p.m. – Presentation and Public Meeting:
Community Design Center
CAC/L.T. Ross Building, 2247 Western Avenue
RSVP to Leslie Fawaz, CDC, 525-9945 or leslie@communitydc.org

Saturday, May 4 --- 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Community Cleanup of James Agee Park
(Corner of James Agee St. and Laurel Ave. in Fort Sanders neighborhood)
Join the Fun: Bring your own gloves. Tools provided.
Historic Fort Sanders Neighborhood Association
Stanton Webster, (865) 384-7826, stantonwebster@gmail.com

Sunday, May 5 --- 2-5 p.m.
13th Annual Neighborhood Bike Ride and Bike KNX Festival
Ride leaves at 2:30 p.m.
Market Square, Downtown Knoxville
(One of many events during Bike Month 2013)
Knoxville Regional Bicycle Program
http://www.knoxtrans.org/bikemonth/index.htm
See also: http://www.outdoorknoxville.com/

Monday, May 6 --- 5:30 p.m.
Council of Involved Neighborhoods (COIN)
(First Mondays except holidays)
CAC/L.T. Ross Building, 2247 Western Avenue
Dave Gartner, 862-2066

Tuesday, May 7 --- 4:30 p.m.
Dandridge Avenue Neighborhood Watch (First Tuesdays)
Beck Cultural Exchange Center, 1927 Dandridge Avenue
Lawrence Washington, 524-4498

Tuesday, May 7 --- 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Norwood Neighborhood Watch – 6 p.m.
Norwood Homeowners Association – 7 p.m.
New Hope Presbyterian Church, 1705 Merchants Road
Lynn Redmon, 688-3136 or 771-6428

Tuesday, May 7 --- 7 p.m.
Mechanicsville Community Association (First Tuesdays)
Wednesday, May 8 --- 11:30 a.m.
Community Forum (Every Second Wednesday)
West Knoxville Library, 100 Golf Club Road at Kingston Pike
Sue Mauer, 690-0269

Wednesday, May 8 --- 4:30 p.m.
Neighborhood Advisory Council
(Every Second Wednesday, except July and Dec.)
CAC/L.T. Ross Building, 2247 Western Avenue
http://www.cityofknoxville.org/neighborhoods
David Massey, 215-3232

Thursday, May 9 --- 1:30 p.m.
Metropolitan Planning Commission (Second Thursdays)
http://www.knoxmpc.org
Agenda: http://agenda.knoxmpc.org

Friday, May 10 --- 6 p.m.
Beaumont Community Organization (Second Fridays)
Beaumont Elementary School, 1211 Beaumont Ave.
Dennis Murphy, 237-9481

Saturday, May 11 --- 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
13th Annual Vestival
Live Music, Dragonfly Aerial Arts, Humaya Tribal Fusion Belly Dance, Arts, Crafts, and Mother’s Day Brunch
Historic Candoro Marble Company, 681 Maryville Pike, Rain or Shine
$5 suggested donation
http://candoromarble.org/

Saturday, May 11
11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.: “Make it, Take it” Rain Barrel Workshop
1:30 p.m.-2:15 p.m.: How to paint a rain barrel
Sponsor: Water Quality Forum in association with Blooms Day
UT Gardens
Space limited. Register at 215-5861 or stormwater@knoxcounty.org

Monday, May 13 --- 5 p.m.-6 p.m.
Michael Meadowview Neighborhood Watch
(Second Mondays)
CAC East Neighborhood Center, 4200 Asheville Hwy.
Marian Bailey, 525-5625

Monday, May 13 --- 6 p.m.
Cold Springs Neighborhood Watch (Second Mondays)
Magnolia Avenue Methodist Church, 2700 Magnolia (Harrison St. Entrance)
Terrell Patrick, 525-4833

Monday, May 13 --- 6 p.m.
Vestal Community Organization (Second Mondays)
Monday, May 13 --- 7 p.m.
  Belle Morris Community Action Group (Second Mondays)
  City View Baptist Church, 2311 Fine Avenue
  www.bellemorris.com
  Rick Wilen, 524-5008

Tuesday, May 14 --- 11:45 a.m.
  Agenda Review, Metropolitan Planning Commission
  (Tuesday before MPC’s monthly meeting)
  Small Assembly Room, City County Building

Tuesday, May 14 --- 6:30 p.m.
  Lonsdale United for Change (Second Tuesdays)
  Lonsdale Recreation Center, Stonewall Avenue
  Steve Ritter, 973-0877

Tuesday, May 14 --- 7 p.m.
  Mechanicsville Neighborhood Watch Association (Second Tuesdays)
  Clinton Chapel AME Zion Church, College Street
  R. Bentley Marlow, 607-4357

Tuesday, May 14 --- 7 p.m.
  City Council (Every Other Tuesday)
  http://www.cityofknoxville.org/citycouncil
  Agenda: http://www.cityofknoxville.org/citycouncil/agenda.pdf

Thursday, May 16 --- Breakfast @ 7:45 a.m. Meeting @ 8 a.m.
  East Knoxville Business & Professional Association (Third Thursdays)
  Open to Neighborhood Residents and Leaders
  Locations vary
  Charles Morgan, cwm826@aol.com, Gray Hodges Corporation, 522-3113
  www.EastKnox.org

Thursday, May 16 --- 8:30 a.m.
  Historic Zoning Commission (Third Thursdays)
  http://www.cityofknoxville.org/boards/historic.asp

Thursday, May 16 --- 12 p.m.
  KUB Board of Commissioners (Third Thursdays, except July)
  Historic Miller’s Building, 445 S. Gay Street
  See www.kub.org. Click on “About Us” at top of the page.

Thursday, May 16 --- 4 p.m.
  City Board of Zoning Appeals (Third Thursdays)
  Small Assembly Room
  Pre-Agenda Meeting: 3 p.m. in Room 511
  http://www.cityofknoxville.org/boards/zoning.asp

Thursday, May 16 --- 6:30 p.m.
  Oakwood Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association
  Monthly Meeting (Third Thursdays)
Community Club House, 916 Shamrock Avenue at Henegar Street

Thursday, May 16 --- 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
Public Forum: How to Insure Access to Affordable, Healthy Food*
Food Policy Council, Knox County Health Dept., TN Dept. of Health
Pellissippi Community College, 1610 East Magnolia Avenue
Dinner provided for registered attenders. Call 215-5170.

Saturday, May 18 --- 10 a.m.
South Haven Neighborhood Association (Third Saturdays)
Hillcrest United Methodist Church, 1615 Price Avenue
Pat Harmon, 591-3958

Monday, May 20 --- 7 p.m.
Historic Fourth & Gill Neighborhood Organization
Board Meeting (Third Mondays except January)
Location Varies
Judith Neff, merlin2@comcast.net

Monday, May 20 --- 7 p.m.
Alice Bell Spring Hill Neighborhood Association
(Third Mondays except June, July, December)
New Harvest Park, just east of Target on Washington Pike.
All are welcome to attend.
Ronnie Collins, 865-637-9630

Monday, May 20 --- 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
South Woodlawn Neighborhood Association
Bi-Monthly Meeting (Fourth Mondays, odd months, except holidays)
This month’s program: Annual Seed and Plant Swap and Kasey Krouse, City Arborist
Woodlawn Christian Church, 4339 Woodlawn Pike
Janice Tocher, 686-6789

Tuesday, May 21 --- 10 a.m.
Knoxville-Knox County Food Policy Council (Third Tuesdays)
CAC/MLB Building, 2247 Western Avenue
(See http://www.cityofknoxville.org/boards/food.asp for bylaws, community garden toolkit etc.)

Tuesday, May 21 --- 6 p.m.
Delrose Drive Neighborhood Watch (Third Tuesdays)
Riverview Baptist Church, 3618 Delrose Drive
Corina and John Buffalow, 523-0102

Tuesday, May 21 --- 7 p.m.
Edgewood Park Neighborhood Association (Third Tuesdays except December)
Larry Cox Senior Center, 3109 Ocoee Trail

Thursday, May 23 --- 9 a.m.
Special Events Community Meeting (Fourth Thursdays, Jan.-Oct.)
“Meet with city services that may assist in planning your event.”
Civic Coliseum Ballroom, Third Floor
Free Parking available at Civic Coliseum Parking Garage
Office of Special Events, 215-4248
Thursday, May 23 --- 7 p.m.
Old Sevier Community Group
(Fourth Thursdays, February through October)
Stanley’s Greenhouse, 3029 Davenport Road
Gary Deitsch, garyedeitsch@bellsouth.net

Tuesday, May 28 --- 1:45 p.m. (zoning at 5 p.m.)
Knox County Commission
(USUALLY Every Fourth Monday, Jan.-Oct. Third Mondays, Nov.-Dec.)
www.knoxcounty.org/commission
Agenda: Click on “Meetings” and then “Commission Agendas”
Public Forum held at beginning & ending of meeting.
Zoning Issues heard starting at 5 p.m.

Tuesday, May 28 – 6 p.m.
Inskip Community Association (Asociación de la Comunidad de Inskip)
Community Meeting (Fourth Tuesdays)
Inskip Baptist Church, 4810 Rowan Road
Betty Jo Mahan, 679-2748, bettymahan@knology.net

Thursday, May 30 --- 3:30 p.m.
Better Building Board
(Last Thursday, Jan.-Oct. First Thursday, Dec.)
Small Assembly Room, City-County Building
http://www.cityofknoxville.org/boards/betterbuilding.asp

Friday, May 31 --- 9:30 a.m.
Public Officer Hearing – Neighborhood Codes Enforcement
(Usually held on the Friday following Better Building Board meetings)
The PO considers action on violations of city’s building codes.
Small Assembly Room, City County Building

Saturday, June 1 --- 10 a.m.-Noon
“Make it, Take it” Rain Barrel Workshop
Sponsor: Water Quality Forum
New Harvest Park, just east of Target on Washington Pike.
Space limited. Register at 215-5861 or stormwater@knoxcounty.org

Monday, June 10 --- 5:30 p.m.
Downtown Residents Quarterly Meeting
Central Business Improvement District
Knoxville Chamber offices, 17 Market Square
(Future meetings in 2013: 9/9, 12/9)
http://downtownknoxville.org/
Michele Hummel, 246-2654

Saturday, June 29 --- 9 a.m.-11 a.m.
“Coffee with the Councilman”
(Last Saturday of Each Quarter)
Vice Mayor and First District City Council Member Nick Pavlis
Bring your concerns or stop by to chat; open to all city residents.
Roundup Restaurant, 3643 Sevier Pike
Nick Pavlis, 579-2055
** This Advisory is produced on most Fridays of the year.
** Ideas and contributions are welcome. Call 215-3232.
** May be copied and forwarded via neighborhood e-mail lists and newsletters.
** See past issues at our Website: www.cityofknoxville.org/neighborhoods
** Don’t have Internet access? Call 215-3232 if you need a copy of a particular document.
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