1. Parkridge Takes Steps to Welcome International Residents

The Parkridge Community Organization is developing an International Initiative establishing Parkridge as a neighborhood known to be welcoming to international residents.

“With the recent demolition of UT’s international housing on Sutherland Avenue,” noted PCO Board Member Travetta Johnson, “we are hoping to provide an alternate community where international folks can thrive. Several of Parkridge’s current residents bicycle to UT, so we believe this initiative will be especially appealing to international students.

“Also, symbiotically, with the city’s new initiative to redevelop the Magnolia corridor,” she added, “we are hoping to attract the kind of international and independent businesses that sprung up along Sutherland when internationals lived nearby.”

PCO is developing a database of affordable, quality rental properties in Parkridge to be made available to services at UT and throughout Knoxville that assist with housing needs for international students, refugees, and immigrants.

“Parkridge will benefit by experiencing greater resident diversity,” Johnson stated. “International residents will benefit by living in close proximity with one another, dwelling in affordable, well-tended homes with responsible landlords, and enjoying our wonderful neighborhood amenities.”

Johnson listed these amenities: two parks, a community garden, an urban farm (Abbey Fields), a “tiny free library” project, a neighborhood music and art venue (The SHAREhouse), a butterfly meadow, city bus stops, access to greenways, and proximity to the Cansler YMCA, UT, and downtown --- along with an active neighborhood organization that is oriented toward social justice, hospitality, inclusivity, and neighbor-care.

2. Reminder: Neighbor of the Year and Neighborhood Challenge Awards

The City of Knoxville’s Office of Neighborhoods is now accepting applications for two different awards --- a Neighbor of the Year Award and multiple Neighborhood Achievement Awards, which will be presented at the Neighborhood Awards and Networking Luncheon to be held at the Knoxville Convention Center on Saturday, March 8.

Nominations are due Friday, January 31, for the Diana Conn Good Neighbor of the Year Award, which is presented annually to a Knoxville resident who — in a spirit of cooperation
and with commitment to inclusive community — has devoted time and talent in service to his or her neighbors and neighborhood.

Named after the late Diana Conn, the award is meant to honor someone who makes a positive contribution at the neighborhood level without seeking recognition for their service. See more about this award and download the nomination form.

In addition, applications and nominations are due February 7 for Neighborhood Achievement Awards, which recognize the work of neighborhood organizations in improving, protecting and enhancing their neighborhoods. See this page for details on the awards.

Download the application form for the Achievement Awards.

Call Natalie Crone at 215-3456 to have hard copies of these forms mailed to you.

3. SKNBC Sets Meeting for Zoning Issue in South Knoxville

The South Knoxville Neighborhood and Business Coalition is sponsoring a community meeting to give residents of an unorganized neighborhood a chance to learn about and discuss the proposed rezoning of property on the southeast corner of East Ford Valley Road at the intersection of Chapman Highway.

The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, January 23, at New Prospect Presbyterian Church, 4920 Prospect Road.

This rezoning request --- http://agenda.knoxmpc.org/2013/dec2013/12-G-13-RZ.pdf --- was on Metropolitan Planning Commission’s December agenda. The applicant wants to extend an existing car lot onto the property. MPC voted to postpone the item for 60 day to give the applicant and the community an opportunity to meet and discuss potential options for creating a buffer screening for this property.

Following the discussion about the automobile sales lot, homeowners and other residents in the Ford Valley/Lindy Hills/Lindy Heights area will have an opportunity to discuss whether or not they would like to form a neighborhood group.

David Massey, neighborhood coordinator for the City of Knoxville, will be on hand to discuss what's involved in starting and maintaining a successful neighborhood association --- and how the Office of Neighborhoods can help.

4. Influenza Hits Knoxville Hard

Knoxville area hospital rooms were 100 percent occupied last week, with waiting lists in several places, because of high numbers of people needing to be hospitalized with influenza, according to an area health expert.

The crunch has eased this week, but seasonal flu activity is still high throughout the state and especially in East Tennessee. The Knox County Health Department (KCHD) is encouraging
everyone to follow some basic precautions to slow the spread of the influenza virus and stay healthy.

First and foremost, everyone is encouraged to get a flu vaccination, and not to believe flu vaccination-related myths going around.

According to the Tennessee Department of Health, many people get sick or die from influenza every year due to avoiding vaccination because of myths and misconceptions. The two most common rumors are that getting immunized will give you the flu and that influenza vaccines aren’t effective.

The truth is, getting immunized is the best precaution to protect yourself and others from this very serious illness. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recently reported that, just last season, over six million influenza infections and about 80,000 hospitalizations were prevented among people who were vaccinated.

And while the vaccine is not 100% effective, it’s still your best bet to prevent the fever, chills and other symptoms associated with this illness --- and to avoid passing it along to your loved ones.

Check your doctor, local pharmacies, and the Knox County Health Department to see where flu shots are being offered.

Other precautions: wash your hands well and often, make sure to cover your cough or sneeze, stay home if you’re sick, keep your children home if they are, and remain home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone.

These steps are especially important to protect those with a higher risk for complications, including children younger than 5 and especially those under 2, people age 65 and older, pregnant women, and people with certain chronic diseases like cancer, diabetes, heart disease and asthma.

Neighborhood organizations can help manage influenza in the neighborhood by identifying those who may need special help, such as the elderly, people who live alone, and those with disabilities. Consider delivering “flu packages” with things such as a thermometer, easy-to-prepare non-perishable food items, water, vitamins, alcohol hand rub or soaps, blankets, face masks, and disposable gloves. Oh, and chicken soup!

5. 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/.

Also see: Community Events Calendar: http://www.cityofknoxville.org/events/events.pdf
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, January 18 --- 10 a.m.
   South Haven Neighborhood Association (Third Saturdays)
   Hillcrest United Methodist Church, 1615 Price Avenue
   Pat Harmon, 591-3958

Saturday, January 18 --- 1 p.m.
   YWCA Race Against Racism
   Annual Race 5K Run/One Mile Walk along Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue
   YWCA Phyllis Wheatley Center, 124 S. Cruze Street, 37915

Sunday, January 19 --- 6 p.m.
   MLK Holiday Tribute: Knoxville Symphony Orchestra
   Martin Luther King Jr. Night with the Arts
   Featuring actors, singers, poets, dancers, MLK Holiday Choir – and much more
   Free and Open to the Public
   Bijou Theatre, 803 South Gay Street

Monday, January 20 --- 10 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.
   Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual Parade and Memorial Service
   Parade begins at 10 a.m., Tabernacle Baptist Church, 2137 MLK Jr. Blvd.
   All are welcome to participate.
   Memorial Service: 11:45 a.m., Greater Warner Tabernacle Church, 3800 MLK Jr. Blvd.
   www.MLKknoxville.org
   admin@MLKKnoxville.org or 673-8988

Monday, January 20 --- 5 p.m.
   Knox County Board of Education – Work Session
   (Monday before the regular meeting and third Mondays, except holidays or holiday weeks)
   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."

Monday, January 20 --- 7 p.m.
   West Hills Community Association (Third Mondays)
   General Meeting: February, May and October
   First Church of the Nazarene, 538 Vanosdale Road
   Ashley Williams, 313-0282

Monday, January 20 --- 7 p.m.
   Alice Bell Spring Hill Neighborhood Association
   (Third Mondays except June, July, December)
   All are welcome to attend.
   Ronnie Collins, 637-9630

Tuesday, January 21 --- 6 p.m.
   Delrose Drive Neighborhood Watch (Third Tuesdays)
   Riverview Baptist Church, 3618 Delrose Drive
   Corina and John Buffalow, 523-0102
Tuesday, January 21 --- 6:30 p.m.
Lonsdale United for Change (Third Tuesdays)
Lonsdale Recreation Center, Stonewall Avenue
Steve Ritter, 973-0877

Tuesday, January 21 --- 7 p.m.
Edgewood Park Neighborhood Association (Third Tuesdays except December)
Speakers: Barbara Bunting and Marsha Lehman from Knox County Master Gardeners
Larry Cox Senior Center, 3109 Ocoee Trail
http://edgewoodpark.us/

Tuesday, January 21 --- 7 p.m.
City Council (Every Other Tuesday)
http://www.cityofknoxville.org/citycouncil
Agenda: http://www.cityofknoxville.org/citycouncil/agenda.pdf

Wednesday, January 22 – 2:30 p.m.
Pond Gap Area Neighborhood Association
Red Onion Restaurant, corner of Hollywood and Sutherland Avenue
David Williams, 588-2268

Saturday, January 25 --- 5-8 p.m.
Understanding Place: A Community Dialogue on Race, Geography and Home
Potluck Dinner and Dialogue
Speaker: City Councilman and Former Mayor Daniel Brown
Sponsored by KnowHow, a community organization
UNITE Building, 1124 N. Broadway
Elizabeth Wright, erhwright@gmail.com, (865) 202-5447

Monday, January 27 --- 1:45 p.m. (zoning at 5 p.m.)
Knox County Commission
(Fourth Mondays, Jan.-Oct. Third Mondays, Nov.-Dec.)
www.knoxcounty.org/commission
Agenda: Click on “Commission Agendas”
Public Forum held at beginning & ending of meeting.
Zoning Issues heard starting at 5 p.m.

Monday, January 27 --- 5:30 p.m.
Pembroke Condominium Association (Last Mondays except May and December)
Lobby of Pembroke, 508 Union Avenue
Jessie Brown, 525-6500

Monday, January 27 --- 7-8:30 p.m.
South Woodlawn Neighborhood Association
Bi-Monthly Meeting (Fourth Mondays, odd months, except holidays)
Woodlawn Christian Church, 4339 Woodlawn Pike
Janice Tocher, 686-6789

Tuesday, January 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
Tuesday, January 28 --- 6:30 p.m.
Chilhowee Park Neighborhood Association (Last Tuesdays)
Administration Building, Knoxville Zoo
Paul Ruff, 696-6584

Thursday, January 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

Thursday, January 30 --- 5:30 pm
Knoxville City Council Workshop
Topic: Proposed Changes to the Sign Ordinance
Main Assembly Room, City-County Building

Thursday, January 30, 2014 --- 6:00 pm
Police Advisory and Review Committee (PARC)
Knox County Library West (Bearden Branch) 100 Golf Club Road
PARC office, 215-3869

Friday, January 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

Monday, February 3 --- 5 p.m.
Knox County Board of Education – Work Session
(Monday before the regular meeting and the third Mondays, except holidays or holiday weeks)
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.”

Monday, February 3 --- 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

Monday, February 3 --- 6:30 p.m.
Wesley Neighbors Community Association
(First Mondays, even-numbered months)
Bearden Branch Library, 100 Golf Club Road
Donnie Ernst, 207-9355

Monday, February 3 --- 7 p.m.
Cedar Heights Residents Association (first Mondays)
5316 Cedar Heights Road
Jabrahamson2012@gmail.com or 765-1047

Tuesday, February 4 --- 5 p.m.
Dandridge Avenue Neighborhood Watch (First Tuesdays)
Beck Cultural Exchange Center, 1927 Dandridge Ave.
Lawrence Washington, 524-4498

Tuesday, February 4 --- 6:30 p.m.
Parkridge Community Organization (First Tuesdays)
Cansler YMCA, 616 Jessamine St.
Jerry Caldwell, 329-9943

Tuesday, February 4 --- 7 p.m.
Mechanicsville Community Association (First Tuesdays)
Fairview Recreation Center, 1628 Dora Street
Charles Wright, 637-1802

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

Monday, February 10 --- 3 p.m.
Northgate Resident Association (Second Mondays)
Social Hall, 4301 Whittle Springs Road
David Wildsmith, 219-0417

Monday, February 10 --- 5-6 p.m.
Michael Meadowview Neighborhood Watch (Second Mondays)
CAC East Neighborhood Center, 4200 Asheville Hwy.
Marian Bailey, 525-5625

Monday, February 10 --- 6 p.m.
Cold Springs Neighborhood Watch (Second Mondays)
Magnolia Avenue Methodist Church, 2700 Magnolia (Harrison St. Entrance)
Terrell Patrick, 525-4833

Monday, February 10 --- 6 p.m.
Lyons View Community Club (Second Mondays)
Lyons View Community Center, 114 Sprankle Avenue
Mary Brewster, 454-2390

Monday, February 10 --- 6 p.m.
Vestal Community Organization (Second Mondays)
South Knoxville Community Center, 522 Old Maryville Pike
Newman Seay, 577-4593

Monday, February 10 --- 6:30 p.m.
Old North Knoxville (Second Mondays)
St. James Episcopal, Parish Hall, 1101 N. Broadway
Lauren Rider, 964-3905

Monday, February 10 --- 6:30 p.m.
Community Potluck
Historic Fourth & Gill Neighborhood Organization (Second Mondays)
Central United Methodist Church, 210 Third Avenue
Judith Neff, 567-7980
Monday, February 10 --- 7 p.m.
Belle Morris Community Action Group (Second Mondays)
City View Baptist Church, 2311 Fine Avenue
www.bellemorris.com
Rick Wilen, 524-5008

Monday, February 10 --- 7-8 p.m.
Fountain City Town Hall (Second Mondays, September-April)
Church of the Good Shepherd, 5337 Jacksboro Pike
Ken Cloninger, 688-6257, kcloninger@comcast.net

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

Tuesday, February 11 --- 2 p.m.
Western Heights Resident Association (Second Tuesdays)
Building to the right of the mail boxes when you enter Western Heights
Jamesena Nolan, 237-5558

Tuesday, February 11 --- 5:30 p.m.
Public Meeting / City of Knoxville
Topic: New Plan on Homelessness in Knoxville
Cansler YMCA, 616 Jessamine Street at East Fifth Avenue

Tuesday, February 11 --- 6 p.m.
Brown Avenue Neighborhood Watch (Second Tuesdays)
Hoitt Avenue Baptist Church, 2121 Hoitt Avenue
Jimmy Ramsey, 637-0243

Tuesday, February 11 --- 7 p.m.
Mechanicsville Neighborhood Watch Association (Second Tuesdays)
Clinton Chapel AME Zion Church, College Street
R. Bentley Marlow, 607-4357

Wednesday, February 12 --- 11:30 a.m.
Community Forum (Second Wednesdays)
West Knoxville Library, 100 Golf Club Road at Kingston Pike
Sue Mauer, 690-0269

Wednesday, February 12 --- 1 p.m.
100 Block Association (Second Wednesdays)
Dewhirst Properties, 123 S. Gay Street
Jody Freeman, 525-1554

Wednesday, February 12 --- 4:30 p.m.
Neighborhood Advisory Council
(Every Second Wednesday, except December)
Venue to be determined
http://www.cityofknoxville.org/neighborhoods
David Massey, 215-3232
Thursday, February 13 --- 1:30 p.m.
Metropolitan Planning Commission (Second Thursdays)
http://www.knoxmpc.org
Agenda: http://agenda.knoxmpc.org

Thursday, February 13 --- 5:30 p.m.
City Council Workshop
Topic #1: Economic Development Activities in Innovation Valley
Topic #2: Complete Streets
Small Assembly Room, City County Building, 400 Main Street

Thursday, February 13 --- 6 p.m.
Lonsdale Homes Resident Association (Second Thursdays)
Community Building, 1956 Goins Drive
Phyllis Patrick, 323-7224

Thursday, February 13 --- 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Greenwood Heights Neighborhood Watch (Second Thursdays)
Corner of Buttercup Circle and Sundrop Drive
Alice Wershing at awershing@aol.com

Monday, February 17 --- 7 p.m.
Historic Fourth & Gill Neighborhood Organization
Board Meeting (Third Mondays except January)
Contact Judith Neff for Location
Judith Neff, merlin2@comcast.net, 567-7980

Thursday, February 20 --- 8:30 a.m.
Historic Zoning Commission (Third Thursdays)
http://www.cityofknoxville.org/boards/historic.asp

Thursday, February 20 --- 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, February 20 --- 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, February 20 --- 6:30 p.m.
Oakwood Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association
Monthly Meeting (Third Thursdays)
Community Club House, 916 Shamrock Avenue at Henagar Street

Thursday, February 27 --- 5:30 p.m.
Knoxville City Council Workshop
Topic: Proposed Homelessness Plan
Main (Large) Assembly Room, City-County Building

Saturday, March 8 --- 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Neighborhood Awards & Networking Luncheon
For All City Neighborhoods and Neighborhood Organizations
Office of Neighborhoods
David Massey, 25-3232, dmassey@cityofknoxville.org

Monday, March 10 --- 7 p.m.
Town Hall East
(Second Mondays in September, November, January, March and May)
Fellowship Hall, Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 409 Asheville Highway
Mac Goodwin, 524-9954

Thursday, March 13 --- 5:30 p.m.
Knoxville City Council Workshop
Topic: Pocket Neighborhoods
Small Assembly Room, City-County Building

Friday, March 14 --- 6 p.m.
Beaumont Community Organization (Second Fridays)
Community Room, Solid Waste Transfer Station, 1033 Elm Street
Natasha Murphy, 936-0139

Saturday, March 29 --- 9 a.m. until last person is heard
“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 Sevierville Pike
Nick Pavlis, 454-7216