



**The Neighborly Notice** – Vol. 17, No. 8 – Tuesday, February 27, 2024

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*Published by the City of Knoxville's Office of Neighborhood Empowerment, we report news important to Knoxville's residential neighborhoods. Include your neighborhood-related event or meeting in this space. Call 865-215-3232. News deadline: 12 noon on Fridays.*

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### **1. Today Is The Last Day for Early Voting**

Today, Tuesday, Feb. 27, is the last day to participate in Early Voting for the 2024 Presidential Preference Primary and Knox County Primary.

Early Voting will be held today from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at the following locations:

- Clear Springs Baptist Church, 7350 Tazewell Pike
- West Knox Senior Center, 239 Jamestowne Blvd.
- Carter Senior Center, 9036 Asheville Hwy.
- City County Building, Small Assembly Room, 400 Main St.
- Downtown West, 1645 Downtown West Blvd, Unit 40
- Eternal Life Harvest Center at Five Points, 2410 Martin Luther King Ave.
- Halls Recreation Center, 6933 Recreation Ln.
- Karns Senior Center, 8042 Oak Ridge Hwy.
- Knoxville Expo Center, 5441 Clinton Hwy.
- Meridian Baptist Church, 6513 Chapman Hwy.
- New Harvest Park, 4775 New Harvest Ln.

For more information, please visit the [Knox County Election Commission's website](#).

## **2. Register Now for Grant Workshops**

The [Neighborhood Small Grants Program \(NSGP\)](#), offered by the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment, strengthens neighborhoods in the city by supporting a wide range of community-based initiatives like planning an event, creating space for community, bringing neighbors together, etc.

Your neighborhood group must send a representative to one of the three mandatory grant workshops in order to qualify for a grant submission. This representative must be the primary contact for the application if the group chooses to apply for the program.

Mandatory Grant Workshops will take place:

- Pre-Application Workshop A - 10 a.m. Saturday, March 16, 2024 (Zoom)
- Pre-Application Workshop B - 6 p.m. Monday, March 18, 2024 (In person)
- Pre-Application Workshop C - 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 26, 2024 (Zoom)

To register, please contact Hayley Howard at [hhoward@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:hhoward@knoxvilletn.gov) or 865-215-2113 and let her know which one you would like to attend.

The City of Knoxville has approximately \$20,000 available under the NSGP in the round of grants to be awarded in early 2025 for projects carried out in calendar year 2025. Awards to support one-year projects can range from \$500 to \$5,000 or \$6,500 if partnering with another neighborhood, public school, umbrella neighborhood group, or non-profit. To be awarded \$6,500, the applicant must have previously participated in the NSGP and turned in all required paperwork/documentation on time. Yes, the award amounts have increased this year!

Need some inspiration for a project? Check out the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment's [Placemaking Guide](#).

### **3. Save the Date: ONE's First Neighborhood Exchange**

Save the date for the [Office of Neighborhood Empowerment](#) (ONE)'s first Neighborhood Exchange taking place on Thursday, April 11, from 5-7 p.m. at the Larry Cox Center, 3109 Ocoee Trail and Friday, April 12, from 12-4 p.m. at the City County Building, 400 W Main St. in Suite 546.

The Neighborhood Exchange is an opportunity for neighborhood leaders to get to know ONE staff, receive information and resources available for neighborhood organizations, and provide the ONE staff with updated information about your organization.

This exchange of information will be paired with food, fun, and information stations.

We encourage you to come and see what the ONE has to offer.

For more information, please email Shannett Riley at [sriley@knoxvilletn.org](mailto:sriley@knoxvilletn.org).

### **4. Provide Your Feedback on *The Neighborly Notice***

The Office of Neighborhood Empowerment wants to hear your feedback on our weekly newsletter, *The Neighborly Notice*.

You can provide your feedback by completing this brief, anonymous [survey](#).

For a physical copy of this survey, please contact Hayley Howard at [hhoward@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:hhoward@knoxvilletn.gov) or 865-215-2113.

We appreciate you taking your time to fill this out, and we look forward to reviewing the survey responses!

### **5. The BBB and POH Meet This Week**

The [Better Building Board](#) (BBB) will take place this Thursday, Feb. 29, at 3:30 p.m., in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building, 400 Main St.

The BBB's Determination of Blight cases include:

- 312 S. Castle St.
- 2004 Highland Dr. including accessory structures
- 1509 Lawson Ave.
- 2350 Woodbine Ave.

An Auto Appeal case for 3324 Sevier Ave. will also be heard.

The [Public Officer Hearing](#) (POH) will be on Friday, March 1, at 9:30 a.m. in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building, 400 Main St.

The POH new business/orders include:

- 4600 Alta Vista Way
- 1605 Fay St.
- 5801 Lucile Ln.

A boarding approval for 1605 Fay St. will also be discussed.

For more information, please visit the City's [website](#).

The City of Knoxville ensures meaningful access to City programs, services, and activities to comply with Civil Rights Title VI and ADA Title II laws and reasonably provides: translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, auxiliary aids and services.

To request language translation services, contact the City's Human Resources Department at [titlevi@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:titlevi@knoxvilletn.gov) or 865-215-3100. For disability accommodations, contact City ADA Coordinator Stephanie Brewer Cook at [scook@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:scook@knoxvilletn.gov) or 865-215-2034 at least 72 hours before the meeting.

## **6. Housing and Neighborhood Development Hosts Public Meeting**

The City of Knoxville's Housing and Neighborhood Development Department is hosting a public meeting regarding the Fair Housing Equity Plan on Tuesday, March 12, at 6 p.m. at the Cansler Family YMCA, 616 Jessamine St.

The City is developing a Fair Housing Equity Plan that will comply with HUD's "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH)" proposed rule due to be finalized/released in Spring 2024. The AFFH mandate requires that recipients of HUD funding proactively take meaningful actions to overcome patterns of segregation, promote fair housing choice, eliminate disparities in opportunities, and foster inclusive communities free from discrimination.

The public meeting will discuss initial findings, including data analysis, identification and description of fair housing issues, and to gauge the community's considerations of which identified fair housing issues should be prioritized. Those who attend the meeting will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback during the meeting. All are welcome to this open event.

To stay informed of the development of the Equity Planning process, please visit the City's [website](#).

For more information, please contact Linda Rust at [lrust@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:lrust@knoxvilletn.gov) or [fairhousing@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:fairhousing@knoxvilletn.gov).

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## **7. City of Knoxville Resumes Brush Collection**

The City of Knoxville's [Public Services Department](#) will resume residential brush collection on Monday, March 4. The last four months, the City has been focused on leaf collection, but now they will be switching their machines to allow for brush pick-up.

This process is on a two-week rotation. In order to find out when your street is picked up, go to the [City's website](#), and type in your street. It will tell you if you are on week 1 or week 2. On the [main page](#), you can see which weeks on the calendar are week 1 and 2.

Collection crews work on a "week-of" collection schedule. Neighbors should make sure brush is set out on Monday of their collection week. One of the most important parts of successful brush collection is a good brush set out. For the most effective set out, follow the tips below:

- Piles should not exceed 6'x6'x6' and need to be set close to the roadway for accessibility
- Keep piles away from low-hanging cables, wires, and tree limbs that could get hit by or caught in the knuckleboom arm.
- Piles must be set away from objects such as fences, light poles, and mailboxes, which could be damaged by the equipment during collection
- Residents should separate brush from other materials like trash, bulky waste, or construction debris as contaminated loads can be rejected by the processor

To learn more, go to the [City's webpage](#).

## **8. Trees Knoxville to Hold Street Tree Planting**

[Trees Knoxville](#) will be holding a street tree planting event on Saturday, March 2, from 9-10 a.m. on Chickamauga Ave.

Join Trees Knoxville as they plant 36 shade trees along the street! Dress in your mud clothes and bring a bottle of water. Trees Knoxville will bring all the necessary supplies for planting and will have water refills.

If you would like to attend, please [RSVP here](#).

## **9. Summer In The City Intern Program Now Accepting Applications**

The City of Knoxville's [Summer in the City Intern Program](#) is now accepting applications for the summer 2024 cohort!

To complete an online application, please visit the City's [website](#).

This program consists of a paid 8-week summer internship for applicants between 16-22 years of age. Interns will work 30 hours/week at a pay rate of \$15/hour. Applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m., Sunday, March 31.

Each intern will be assigned to a City department with a mentor in that department. The mentor will orient the intern to the department, train them on responsibilities, oversee their work, and meet with the intern on a weekly basis to provide instructional feedback.

Assignments will include administrative tasks, supportive tasks, and more while also participating in weekly personal and professional development sessions on topics such as civic education, economic mobility, mental health, communication, and social justice.

The weekly commitment for interns will be 30 hours per week, which also includes participating in a group community service project. If you know a young person who might be interested in learning about government and who needs a summer job, send them this information.

Many young people enjoy the program so much that they apply for multiple years.

## **10. Black History Month: Remembering Bob Booker**

For this week's Black History Month article, we remember Robert J. Booker, who passed away on Thursday, Feb. 22, at age 88. Beloved by the community, Booker was an extraordinary leader, humanitarian, and historian whose contributions helped to shape and preserve Knoxville's history and culture. He will be sorely missed!

Booker was elected as Knoxville's first black Tennessee State Representative in 1966. He served as administrative assistant to Mayor Kyle Testerman and on the Tennessee Civil Service Commission in the 1970s. He later served on Knoxville City Council. He was the executive director for the Beck Cultural Exchange Center for 11 years, was an inaugural Board Member of the Knoxville History Project, and he wrote numerous articles for the Knoxville News Sentinel.

Born in 1935, Booker was a priceless resource for stories and details of Knoxville history, especially the history of African-American residents. His works include *Two Hundred Years of Black Culture in Knoxville, Tennessee 1791-1991*; *And There was Light!*; *The 120 Year History of Knoxville College*; *The Heat of a Red Summer*; *An Encyclopedia: The*

*Experiences of Black People in Knoxville, Tennessee 1844-1974; and From the Bottom Up.*

To learn more about Bob Booker's legacy or hear a few of his interview's please visit the City's [website](#).

**11. Knoxville Neighborhoods Calendar** (click link for online calendar)

Call 865-215-3232 to include your neighborhood event or meeting in [this Google calendar](#).

**Other Calendars**

Additional online calendars that cover events outside the neighborhood realm include:

- [Arts & Culture Alliance](#) (There's More to Knoxville)
- [Arts & Fine Crafts Center Classes](#) (City of Knoxville)
- [City of Knoxville General Calendar](#)
- [Parks and Rec Community Programming](#)

The City of Knoxville requires a permit to operate a short-term rental property. Details and a list of short-term rental permits are located on the City's website [here](#).

**About This Newsletter**

*\*\* This Advisory is produced on most Tuesdays of the year.*

*\*\* Ideas and contributions are welcome. We reserve the right to edit submissions.*

*\*\* Deadline for news & calendar items: 12 p.m. Fridays.*

*\*\* May be copied and forwarded via neighborhood email lists and newsletters.*

*\*\* See past issues at our website: <http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/neighborhoods>*

*\*\* Don't have internet access? Call 865-215-4382 if you need a copy of a particular document.*