



“Building Better Neighborhoods... Block By Block”

COMMON GROUND



A Newsletter from the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development

Free Home Repair Applications Now Available

The City of Chattanooga Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development announces the application period for the 2009 World Changer Home Repair Program began January 15 and concludes Monday, March 2, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Home repairs will take place July 18 through August 1, 2009.

World Changers, a ministry of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, continues its partnership with the City of Chattanooga Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development for the seventh year to provide free labor to qualified senior citizens residing within the Chattanooga City limits. Teams of volunteer youth and skilled supervisors provide a variety of repairs.

Eligible applicants must be at least 62 years of age, low income based on federal guidelines, and own and reside in the home that is to be repaired. In addition, all city and county property taxes must be paid through December 2008. Homeowners who received service from World Changers within the last three years (2006, 2007 or 2008) are not eligible for this year’s program.

Two technical assistance workshops are scheduled to prepare applicants for

WORLD CHANGERS



Youth from across the country volunteer their labor to help World Changers provide free home repair such as carpentry, painting, installing handicap ramps and more.

this year’s process. Both workshops will take place on Wednesdays from 10:30-12:00 p.m.:

- February 11 Avondale Recreation Center
1305 Dodson Avenue
- February 18 Brainerd Recreation Center
1010 N. Moore Road

For more information or to receive an application contact Vanessa A. Jackson, Neighborhood Program Specialist at 425-3741.

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Neighborhood Services and Community Development

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If you would like to receive *Common Ground* via e-mail send a message to swasey_d@mail.chattanooga.gov

Administrator's Letter



Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator

We are pleased that World Changers will return this summer to help elderly residents receive much needed repairs on their homes. These repairs are provided free to eligible homeowners thanks to the volunteer labor of World Changer's crews, funding assistance from the city and lodging and meals

for the work crews provided by several area churches. Applications are now available. If you or someone you know needs assistance, be sure our department receives the application by the March 2, 4:00 p.m. deadline.

The City of Chattanooga also partners with the Urban League of Chattanooga and the IRS to provide the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program to assist residents with incomes up to \$42,000 file their taxes for free and apply for the Earned Income Tax Credit. Assistance is available through April 15. You may call 211 to find a conveniently located tax preparation center.

This month's newsletter contains information on how to become involved in the community. From neighborhood association meetings, candidate discussion forums (page 4) to the Mayor's district meetings (page 7), there is an opportunity for everyone to get involved and make a difference in your neighborhood and in Chattanooga. It is truly your voice and your choice that can bring about change. *You* can make Chattanooga a better place to live, work and play!

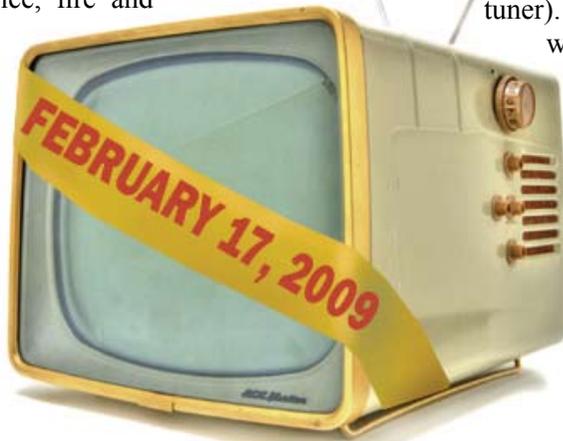
The Digital TV Transition is This Month

What is the Digital TV (DTV) Transition?

Currently, many over-the-air stations are broadcasting in both analog and digital TV formats. After February 17, 2009, full-power TV stations will broadcast only in digital. The DTV transition will affect those who watch free over-the-air television (through a rooftop antenna or "rabbit ears"). If you watch over-the-air programs on an analog TV, you must take action before February 17, 2009.

Why are Broadcast Stations Switching to Digital?

Federal law requires the switch which will: free up the airwaves for police, fire and emergency rescue communications; allow broadcasters to offer programming with better picture and sound quality; offer more programming choices; and allow for advanced wireless services for consumers.



What Should I do to be Ready?

You have three choices:

1. Connect your analog TV to a digital-to-analog converter box. Digital-to-analog converter boxes are in stores and have a one-time cost of \$40-\$70. To help you pay for the boxes, the U.S. Government is offering two \$40 coupons per household. (Please note that these coupons will expire 90 days after mailing). For more information on the coupons, visit www.DTV2009.gov, or call 888-388-2009 (voice) or 877-530-2634 (TTY).

2. Buy a digital television (a TV with a built-in digital tuner). You do not need a High Definition TV (HDTV) to watch digital broadcast television. You only need a digital TV.

3. Subscribe to a paid TV service. If your TV set receives local broadcast stations through a paid provider such as cable or satellite TV, it is already prepared for the DTV transition. Cable companies are not required to transition any of their channels to digital. However, if you have an analog TV that does not receive local stations through your paid provider, you will need a digital-to-analog converter box to watch digital broadcasts on that television.

February Systematic Codes Inspections

Teams of Code Enforcement Inspectors will be checking properties in the following neighborhoods:

Week of February 9, 2009.....North Chattanooga

Week of February 23, 2009..... East Lake

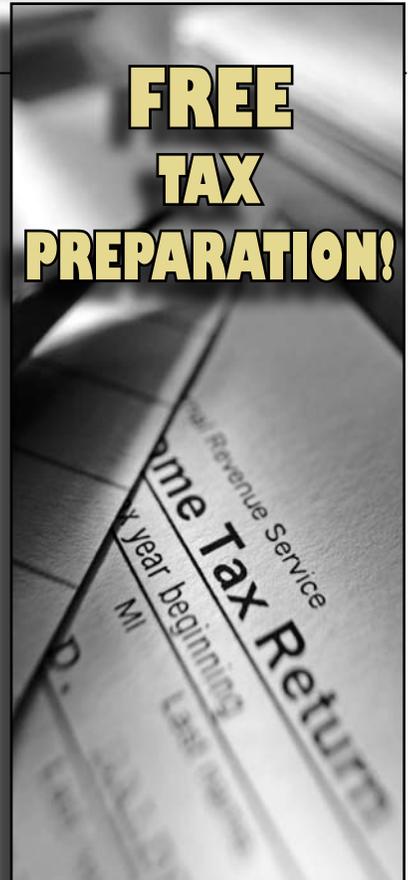
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

The City of Chattanooga, Urban League of Greater Chattanooga, and the IRS, are providing **free**, accurate tax preparation to Chattanoogaans who earn less than \$42,000. Taxes will be electronically filed by IRS certified tax volunteers at 20 conveniently located preparation sites. Tax refunds can be electronically deposited. Checking, savings and IRA accounts are all eligible for electronic deposit.

Items taxpayers will need to bring are:

- Photo identification
- Social Security cards for the taxpayer, their spouse and dependents, if applicable
- Birth dates for primary, secondary and dependents on the tax return
- A copy of last year's Federal and State returns if available
- Wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)
- Current year's tax package, if you received one
- Other relevant information about income and expenses
- Total amount paid for day care
- Day care providers identifying number
- To file electronically on a married filing joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms.
- Checking, savings and IRA account numbers (in your name), along with your bank's routing numbers, if you wish to have your tax refund electronically deposited.

For a complete listing of preparation sites or more information call 211.



The 2010 Census – A Great Way to Earn Extra Money

The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting temporary part-time census takers for the 2010 Census. The pay is good, the hours are flexible, and the work is close to home.

Census taker jobs are excellent for retirees, college students, persons who want to work part-time, persons who are between jobs, or just about anyone who wants to earn extra money while performing an important service for their community.

Every 10 years, we conduct a census of our population. The results help determine your representation in government, as well as how federal funds are spent in your community on things like roads, parks, housing, schools, and public safety. As a census taker, you'll play a vital role in making sure that everyone is included.

Conducting the census is a huge undertaking. Thousands of census takers are needed to update address lists and conduct interviews with community residents. Most

United States
**Census
2010**



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

positions require a valid driver's license and use of a vehicle. However, public transportation may be authorized in certain areas.

Census takers receive competitive pay on a weekly basis. In addition, you will be reimbursed for authorized mileage and related expenses.

All census takers must be able to speak English, but bilingual skills in English and other languages are needed in communities that have a large number of residents who speak a language other than English. If you have such skills, we encourage you to apply.

Besides good pay, you'll have flexible hours, paid training, and the chance to work within your own community. You'll earn a place in history, as well as work experience you can add to your resume.

Apply today by contacting your Local Census Office or call 1-866-861-2010!

Neighborly News from...

Involved in the Community

by Bruce Garner, Chattanooga Fire Department



L to R: Captain Marvin Hudgins, Captain Scott McCullough, Captain Rictor Craig, Fire Chief Wendell Rowe, Captain Emily Smith, Battalion Chief Ben Biggs and Captain David Powell.

Most people know that Chattanooga firefighters do a lot more than just put out fires, but they may not know just how involved they are in the neighborhoods they serve. When not rushing to a fire, car wreck or some medical emergency, they're also doing many things, both on and off the job.

For example, the fire department has placed a new emphasis on the stuffed animals they provide to children on emergency scenes. "These stuffed animals are not only meant for fire victims, but also for children involved in motor vehicle accidents and other emergency scenes" said Fire Chief Wendell Rowe. "They won't undo the damage for these children, but it does help them cope with the traumatic experiences they are dealing with at the time." Recently, Chief Rowe thanked several

firefighters who have been particularly adept at handing out the stuffed animals. Barnes and Noble is one of the biggest suppliers of stuffed animals for the fire department.

Throughout the year, Chattanooga firefighters are making a difference in the communities they serve. They have built two Habitat houses, conducted food drives for the Food Bank, and they team up with Red Cross volunteers twice a year to distribute smoke alarms in at-risk neighborhoods. Another initiative is the Community Hour at all 16 fire stations. "Our fire stations are routinely open to the public," said Chief Rowe, "but we set aside the timeframe of 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. seven days a week to make sure they know they are welcome to stop by and visit with their neighborhood firefighters."

Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council (CNAC)

Greetings to all Chattanooga neighborhood associations from CNAC for a healthy and prosperous 2009. It was great working with you in 2008, and we anticipate doing even bigger and greater things together in the future.

CNAC was pleased to host the second annual Neighborhood Leadership Institute Graduate reception last December, which was well attended and received by everyone. The opportunity visibly positioned CNAC in the minds of the new leaders and there was great interaction between the two groups.

Our hats are off to the City of Chattanooga Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development for the successful Neighborhood Partners Program awards luncheon in December. One of 32 recipients, CNAC was awarded funding to host a website where current CNAC neighborhood members can have a site link.

CNAC meets the 4th Monday at 6:00 p. m. at the Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga at 1270 Market Street. For more information call 899-1748.

The Brainerd Unity Group
and the
Midtown Chamber of Commerce
are hosting

City Council Community Discussions & Mayoral Forum

Thursday, February 12

5:30 - 8:30

Friendship Community Church
Brainerd Road & Tuxedo Avenue

Community discussion tables will be organized by council districts and will be conducted by a moderator. Citizens will have an opportunity to engage all City Council candidates in a discussion of community issues. Following refreshments, the mayoral candidates will address city-wide issues in a forum moderated by Rev. Mike Feely.

All Chattanooga citizens are invited to attend this informative and educational community event

Neighborly News from...

Spring Valley Charitable Corporation *by Karen D. Clay, Neighborhood Relations Specialist*



The Spring Valley Charitable Corporation, located in City Council District 3, was formed by residents when the subdivision was built more than 30 years ago. The neighborhood consists of about 200 homes and is located at the foot of Signal Mountain, off Mountain Creek Road. The Corporation is managed by a governing board that meets monthly at a time and place determined by board members.

Spring Valley keeps its residents actively engaged by hosting social events throughout the year. This helps bring residents together and keeps the membership informed of matters that affect their neighborhood.

Spring Valley recently applied for and received funding from the Department of

Neighborhood Services and Community Development's Neighborhood Partners Program to beautify the island area at the front entrance into their subdivision. The completed project will provide a more appealing and refreshing first impression for residents and visitors as they enter the neighborhood.

From Our Readers...

"Looks like *Common Ground* is getting longer and more interesting with each issue.

Thanks for the wonderful work you are doing on this to keep neighborhoods in Chattanooga informed."

*Everlena Holmes,
Glenwood Neighborhood
Outreach Coordinator*

"I applaud the work you do on the publication *Common Ground*. It is one of the best laid out newsletters I have ever had the pleasure of reading... I read it from cover to cover, start to finish and top to bottom. It is a most excellent publication and most worthy of some kind of prize the same as the city gets for its CAFR. How will you ever top it? Keep up the good work."

*Jim Holloway,
Air Pollution Control Board*

Community Association of Historic St. Elmo

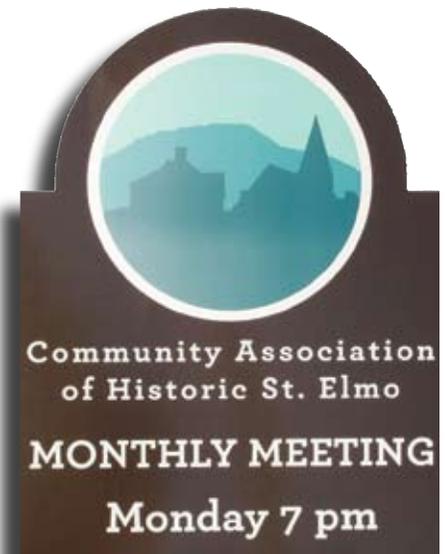
by Debbie Johnson, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

The Community Association of Historic St. Elmo (CAHSE) rings in 2009 with a new look!

Last year, with the funding from the Neighborhood Partners Program, CAHSE came together and collectively created a logo that represents how the community views itself. From there, the association purchased meeting signs and event banners. The banners announce the annual St. Elmo Tour of Homes, Sparkle St. Elmo cleanup days and the neighborhood garage sale.

President Rebekah Forman said, "We don't believe that a logo will work miracles in St. Elmo. Yet, we hope that it will serve as a catalyst to the ongoing revitalization efforts of the community. We hope that it will generate excitement and pride in what we've accomplished thus far and build our community as we continue to work at making St. Elmo our home. For years it was an area of crime and decline. While we still have occasional issues, St. Elmo is a wonderful vibrant community in which to live and work. We want others to see how far we've come and how far we're going to go."

The Community Association of Historic St. Elmo meets the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the former Fire Hall, 4501 St. Elmo Avenue. For more information about the St. Elmo community visit their website at: www.st-elmo.org.



Neighborly News from...

Parks and Recreation

Enterprise South Nature Park

The City of Chattanooga and Hamilton County are collaborating to create an exciting nature park at Enterprise South. The land, once used for the Volunteer Ammunitions Plant, was acquired in 2002 as part of a land surplus program through the National Park Service. Approximately 1,300 acres was purchased by the City and County for industrial uses. The surrounding 2,800 acres is wooded and hilly and more conducive to being preserved as a natural area.

The City's Recreation Division now offers tours and "open to the public days" once a month as a way to raise awareness and introduce people to the area. These surroundings offer a multitude of program opportunities including outdoor recreation, nature and environmental education and visual arts. Recreation coordinators have put together a schedule of activities such as family fitness walks, guided bike rides, "critter watches" and history features for locals who remember the ammunitions operations.

The area is unique because it has remained relatively untouched since the Ammunitions Plant closed in the late 60's. On any given tour visitors see deer, wild turkeys, and a variety of birds. The wooded areas are filled with a huge variety of trees and native plants.



Teens from recreation centers visit to draw and photograph the autumn colors.

It isn't everyday that a huge amount of land like this is given to local governments. The City's and County's vision is exciting and noteworthy. The County Parks Department has already indicated areas for bikes, pedestrians, and handicapped accessibility. A main welcome and parking area is in the planning stages. The County's officials anticipate having the park ready for the public in the fall of 2010. Visit the Parks and Recreation web-page for tour schedules and information.



Education, Arts & Culture

Chattanooga Teens Create Tapestry for Teen Stack Center at Downtown Library

In January, more than 20 teens came out for a project work day to help create a mural project with artist and project facilitator Frances McDonald with Mark Making. Project sponsors included the City of Chattanooga Department of Education, Arts & Culture; the Chattanooga Hamilton County Bicentennial Library; Mark Making; the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Parks Foundation; Chattanooga Teen Scene; and the Library Teen Advisory Board (TAB).

EAC Administrator Missy Crutchfield says, "EAC found a way to 'Bridge'— or Connect the Dots, as we like to say— this opportunity with the Library, Mark Making and the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Parks Foundation through

literacy and art. The timing is perfect with the new Teen Stack Center, and Mayor Littlefield's recent citywide library roundtable meeting. Also, this project is one of the first for Mark Making and the first project for the Parks Foundation where they are reaching out through arts, culture, and in a different arena."

Artist and Project Facilitator Frances McDonald with Mark Making concludes, "The 20 x 5 foot tapestry piece will be a black and white collage with color highlights of monoprints and paint-ins of images provoking a movement from past to present. This improvisational, collaborative piece will hang in the Teen Stack at the main branch of the library."

Get the Most Out of Your Neighborhood Meeting

by Jill M. Black, Neighborhood Program Specialist

There are many benefits to joining your neighborhood association, getting to know those that live in your neighborhood, working together to improve your neighborhood, and organizing to solve larger problems in the city, are just a few. If you do plan to join your neighborhood association, or are already a member and want to get more from your meetings, here are a few tips.

When attending a meeting

Be prepared: If you have a particular issue in your neighborhood such as litter, overgrowth, vehicles, housing, or even complaints for other departments, call 3-1-1 to report it and get a tracking number. Bring the information with you to the meeting so that any city personnel in attendance can follow-up on your request.

Be open: Come willing to listen and share your ideas openly. Working with others means that you not only bring your ideas to the table, but also respectfully listen to what others have to say, no matter how strongly you feel about a certain situation.

If you have an issue

Get past complaining: Bring your issue to the group in a respectful and concise way. There are likely others facing a similar issue, so most people will understand what you are going through. Try not to dominate meeting time explaining your issue, but present your issue and listen to the suggestions of others. Keep in mind that you attended the meeting to find a solution to your issue, not a forum for a complaint.

Be willing to WORK: Come willing to participate in the group. If you have an issue or problem you would like resolved, be willing to work on whatever measures the group decides to take to address it. If they choose to prioritize another issue over the one you feel strongly about, work towards that solution. People will be more willing to help you if you help them.

If you need to find a neighborhood association in your community, visit www.chattanooga.gov or call us at 425-3700. You CAN make a difference in your neighborhood!

Coming to a Neighborhood Near You: Your Mayor, Your City Council Representative and All City Administrators

In addition to your neighborhood associations, each year the Mayor and your City Council representative host a meeting in your district to discuss the important issues that affect you and your neighborhoods.

All city department administrators are available to answer questions one-on-one. From public art to potholes, residents also hear about services offered by each of the city's departments, as well as learn about new developments and issues in their district. In addition, residents can meet their firefighters and police officers.

The Mayor's neighborhood meetings allow residents to fellowship with their friends and neighbors and gives everybody an opportunity to take a moment and talk about what really matters: our community. We hope to see you at the next meeting:

District 1
Lookout Valley only
February 12, 2009 5:30-7:00 p.m.
Councilwoman Linda Bennett
Patten Recreation Center
3202 Kellys Ferry Road

DISCRIMINATION HOTLINE



City of Chattanooga
Office of Multicultural Affairs

757-4811 or 311

Do You Know Your Rights? We do!

COMMONGROUND

February Calendar of Events

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
2 Mon	6:30P	Hill City Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:30P	East Lake Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:30P	Wheeler Avenue Neighborhood Watch Meeting
	7:00P	Murray Hills Neighborhood Association Board Meeting
	7:00P	Community Association of Historic St. Elmo Meeting
5 Thu	10:00A	Environmental Court (Neighborhood Services)
	6:00P	Glenwood Neighborhood Watch Meeting
	7:00P	Lookout Valley Neighborhood Association Meeting
9 Mon	1:00P	Regional Planning Agency Meeting
	6:00P	Hamilton Acres Neighborhood Association
	7:00P	Fairfax-Bagwell Neighborhood Association Meeting
10 Tue	6:00P	Sector 2 Community Policing Interactive Committee (CPIC)
	6:00P	Lupton City Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00P	Glass Farms Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00P	Bushtown Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00P	Foxwood Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting
11 Wed	10:00A	Board of Zoning Appeal Meeting
	11:00A	East Lake Senior Citizens Meeting
12 Thu	10:00A	Environmental Court (Neighborhood Services)
	5:30P - 7:00P	Mayor's Neighborhood Meeting - District 1 (Lookout Valley only)
	5:30P - 8:30P	City Council Community Discussions & Mayoral Forum
	6:00P	Missionary Ridge Neighborhood Association Board Meeting

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
12 Thu	6:00P	Sector 3 Community Police Interaction Committee (CPIC) - George & Delta Zone
	6:30P	Clifton Hills Neighborhood Improvement Committee Meeting
	7:00P	Cedar Hill Improvement League Meeting
16 Mon	6:00P	South Chattanooga Association of Neighbors Meeting
	6:00P	Avondale Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00P	North Brainerd Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00P	Washington Hills Neighborhood Association Meeting
17 Tue	6:00P	Orchard Knob Neighborhood Association Meeting
	7:00P	Cloverdale Neighborhood Association Meeting
19 Thu	10:00A	Environmental Court (Neighborhood Services)
	6:00P	Menlo Park Neighborhood Association Meeting
	7:00P	Highland Park Neighborhood Association Meeting
23 Mon	6:00P	Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council (CNAC)
	6:30P	Sylvan Drive Neighborhood Association
	7:00P	Oak Grove Neighborhood Association Meeting
24 Tue	4:00P	Community Anti-Drug Coalition Across Hamilton County
25 Wed	11:30A	Court Watch Partners
26 Thu	10:00A	Environmental Court (Neighborhood Services)
	5:30P	South Broad Redevelopment Group, Inc. Meeting
	6:00P - 7:00P	Glenwood Neighborhood Association Meeting
	7:00P	Ridgedale Community Association Meeting

For more information go to Neighborhood Services at <http://www.chattanooga.gov> and see our Calendar of Events

Brush Pickup Schedule

Area 1: East of Hwy 153 and West of I-75

Collection begins on the first Monday of the first FULL week of each month

Area 2: East of I-75, West of Hwy 153, and East of Crest Road, Campbell Street, and Bonny Oaks Drive

Collection begins on the second Monday of each month

Area 3: West of Crest Road, Campbell Street, and Bonny Oaks Drive, West of Hwy 153, and South of the Tennessee River

Collection begins on the third Monday of each month

Area 4: North of the Tennessee River and West of Hwy 153

Collection begins on the fourth Monday of each month

Recycling Schedule

Area 1: February 4 March 4

Area 2: February 11 March 11

Area 3: February 18 March 18

Area 4: February 25 March 25

For More Information Visit Recycleright.org



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Chattanooga Police Department Recruiting Unit
423-643-5087 / 5088 / 5089