



“Building Better Neighborhoods... Block By Block”

COMMON GROUND



A Newsletter from the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development

Youth Summer Work Program

by Al Chapman, Director, Office of Faith-Based and Community Partnerships

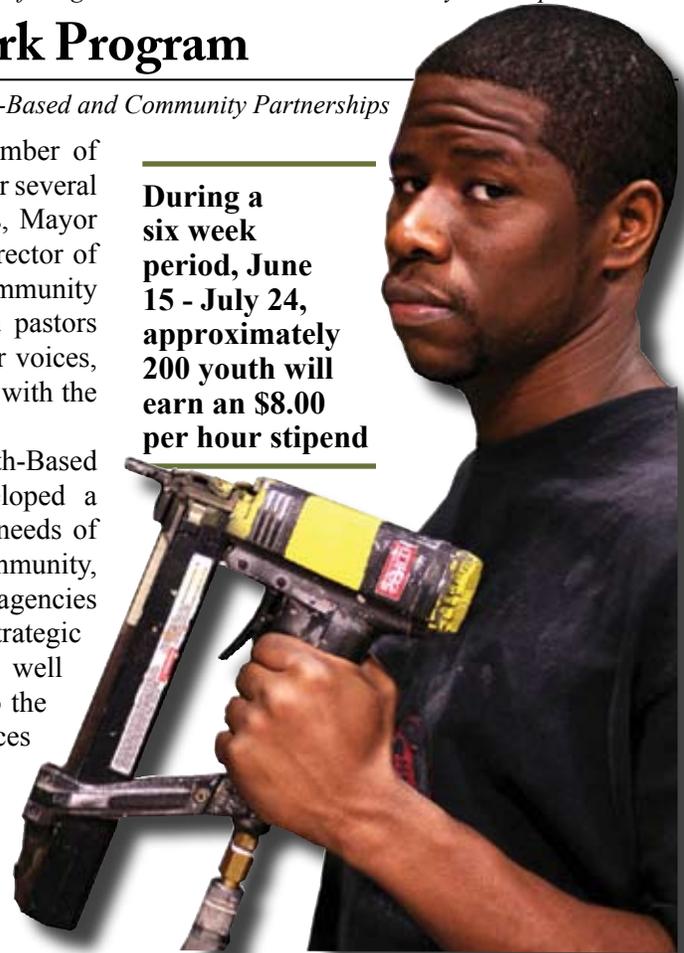
In 2006, Chattanooga had a number of gang-related killings, two per week for several weeks. After the multiple shootings, Mayor Ron Littlefield, Al Chapman, the Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Partnerships, and a number of area pastors met with gang members to hear their voices, their wants and their needs. Meeting with the gang members was the best first step.

The Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Partnerships developed a coalition of partners to address the needs of the youths and invited the faith community, grassroots organizations, community agencies and private foundations to become strategic partners. Youth service providers as well as support service providers came to the table to focus on combining resources for our youth.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 has awarded the Southeast Tennessee Workforce Investment Act \$1.7 million in Economic Stimulus dollars for nine counties in Tennessee.

Approximately \$500,000 has been allocated for Hamilton County. The Hamilton County government, Department of Education, City of Chattanooga, the Mayor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Partnerships, and Front Porch Alliance are partnering to provide Chattanooga youth with work/training experience. During a six week period, June 15 - July 24, approximately 200 youth will earn an \$8.00 per hour stipend while participating in the program. The Career Center in Eastgate is accepting applications for eligible 14 – 24 year olds. For more information contact Gary Rudolph at 785-6668.

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Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator

Administrator's Letter

It's good to finally have all our city-wide elections behind us. We look forward to working with all City Council members, old and new. Two of the new Council members are graduates of the department's Neighborhood Leadership Institute. Congratulations to Pam Ladd and Andraè McGary on their election as well as to Mayor Littlefield on his re-election.

We are also pleased to have several new neighborhood associations to work with this year. These are conscientious citizens working diligently to make their neighborhoods a better place to live, work and play. We applaud their efforts and look forward to many years of working with them on this common goal. If you would like to join them, you can look up the neighborhood association in your area in our new Directory of Registered Neighborhood Associations (see page 4).

Code Enforcement: Who Do They Think They Are?!

by Ed Graham, Codes Enforcement Inspector Supervisor

Why in the world did the city send me a notice telling me to clean up my yard? Who does the city think they are telling me that I can't leave my car in the yard? It's an antique and I plan to restore it one day. I know the gutters are falling off my house and there is water damage to the siding, but is it necessary for the city to tell me to fix my house? This is MY property and I don't need the city to tell what to do!

These are questions and comments that code enforcement officials have heard time after time from homeowners and rental property owners that receive violation notices from the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development. Fortunately, the City of Chattanooga has municipal codes to address these issues. The city has these codes in place for a few specific reasons: 1) to help maintain property values, 2) to keep neighborhoods clean and aesthetically pleasing (which helps to deter crime) and 3) to help maintain the current housing stock.

In a perfect world, every property owner would maintain their property but there are always a few that seem to just not care. So, if you ever receive a notice of violation from the City of Chattanooga, try to look at it as a friendly reminder that your property may need a little positive attention.



Neighborhood Talk

**A weekly radio show from the
Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development**

**Tuesday Mornings 9:00-9:30 a.m.
WNOO 1260 AM**

Community Development Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Action Plan

The City of Chattanooga, as a HUD Entitlement community, has available the following funds: CDBG-\$1,400,000; HOME-\$1,000,000; ADDI \$8,000; and Program Income-\$600,000; for a total of \$3,008,000.

All funds are contingent upon HUD's Entitlement funds that have not been awarded, to date. Budget is based upon last year's allocations and approximates for this year.

The following projects were approved for funding by the City Council on February 24, 2009 for projects beginning July 1, 2009 thru June 30, 2009:

28th District CDC.....	\$300,000
To develop 3 units of new housing for homeownership. Includes 15% set aside of HOME Investment Act Funds.	
Chattanooga Community Housing Development Organization (CCHDO)	\$360,000
To construct 3 homes for low-moderate income individuals in Bushtown and Alton Park.	
Chattanooga Homeless Coalition	\$25,000
To provide assistance in the development of the Continuum of Care application.	
Chattanooga Homeless Coalition	\$34,000
To provide the annual match for HUD funding to provide the HMIS and Service Point Reporting System for use by homeless service providers.	
Chattanooga Homeless Coalition	\$84,000
To provide funding to establish a Centralized Intake Pilot Project for homeless services.	
Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise, Inc. (CNE)	\$800,000
To provide homeowner rehabilitation services and program deliver to provide low interest loans to low-moderate income households.	
Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise, Inc. (CNE)	\$640,000
To provide down payment assistance for the purchase of houses for 50 low-moderate income households.	
Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development-Code Enforcement.....	\$125,000
To demolish 25 dilapidated residential structures to prevent slum and blight.	
Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development-ADDI	\$8,000
Provide downpayment assistance to low-moderate income first-time homebuyers.	
Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development-Administration.....	\$300,000
Provide for the administrative operations and planning activities associate with the management and monitoring of HUD funded projects.	
Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development-Home Repairs.....	\$50,000
Implement a home repair project in partnership with World Changers for 50 low-moderate income elderly households.	

Department of Public Works.....	\$25,000
Provide funding for the sewer lateral program.	
Department of Public Works.....	\$125,000
Provide for replacement sidewalks in targeted census tracts.	
Debt Service—Loan Repayment.....	\$25,000
Funding to cover the debt servicing of a loan for the infrastructure construction projects for the Hope VI site in Alton Park.	
Office of Multicultural Affairs--Housing Info-Line	\$75,000
To continue the services of the Housing Info-Line, one on one counseling, and development of outreach materials promoting Fair Housing and other housing related services.	
United Way of Greater Chattanooga	\$32,000
To pay for the operation of a Furniture Bank, serving homeless families moving into transitional and permanent housing.	
Total	\$3,008,000

THDA FUNDED EMERGENCY SHELTER GRANT

Chattanooga Church Ministries, Inc.—Community Kitchen.....	\$13,000
Funds requested to defray costs associated with the operational and essential services costs to operate the shelter.	
Chattanooga Room In The Inn	\$10,000
Funds will be used for operational expenses of the shelter and essential services.	
Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development....	\$4,000
Funds will be used for the administration of the THDA Emergency Shelter Grant.	
Interfaith Homeless Network	\$14,000
Funds requested to provide transportation services via STS @ \$2500 per month to provide shelter services to homeless families.	
Partnership for Family, Children & Adults	\$20,000
To provide operational expenses and essential services for the Family Violence Center.	
Partnership for Family, Children & Adults	\$23,000
Funds requested for operational expenses and essential services for the Emergency Shelter for families.	
Total	\$84,000

The projects noted herein were approved by the City Council in an open public meeting on February 24, 2009. Citizens wishing to comment regarding these projects and contents of the Action Plan may do so in writing to: Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development, City Hall, Suite 200, 101 E. 11th Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402. Written comments must be received by May 10, 2009.

To request a copy of the Action Plan or Executive Summary and to make comments, citizens should contact the office at 757-5133, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. A nominal fee will be charged for the cost of duplication.

Neighborhood Association Committees

by DeSharla Lavette, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

It can be challenging to develop an association with the many different roles each officer has to fill, which is why many associations develop committees. Developing a committee can make the process much smoother. Below is a list of a few suggested committees that might be helpful for your organization. For more information on developing committees, please contact your Neighborhood Relations Specialist at 425-3700.

Bylaws Committee

This is for new and reactivating associations. In order to have structure, procedures have to be created. The bylaws committee work to develop basic procedures for the association. The committee presents the bylaws to the group who can add amendments, if needed.

Nominating Committee

This committee only meets during the time of elections to identify people who would like to fill an officer position. The committee can contact members to gauge their interest in serving. This committee also prepares the ballot for voting.

Community Events Committee

Participating in an event can be fun and inviting. This committee develops community event ideas such as an ice cream social. This group is responsible for advertising the event, inviting neighborhood members, and overseeing the function.

Refreshment Committee

People always state that if food is provided, they will come. This committee is responsible for purchasing refreshments for meetings and events.

Garden Committee

Some neighborhoods have open grassy areas that are perfect for a garden. This group is responsible for deciding the area for the garden, who owns the property, what items are to be planted, and the upkeep of the garden.

Hospitality Committee

It always feels good to know that someone cares. This committee decides how the association will assist with any hospitable efforts. For example, if a family member loses a loved one, the hospitality committee can send a card.

Communications Committee

This committee is responsible for publicizing information about meetings, events, and any other activities of the association.

Welcoming & Membership Committee

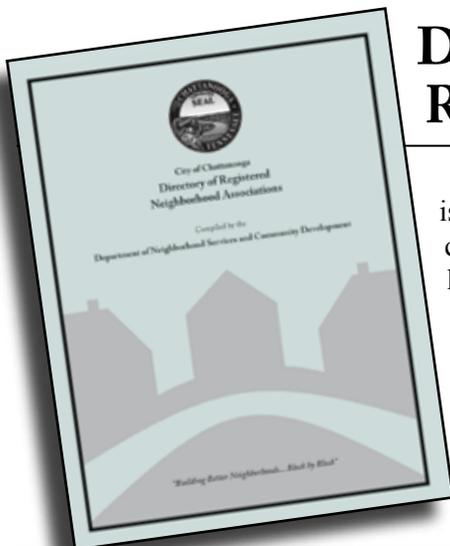
Recruiting members for an association is always a benefit. This committee is responsible for developing welcoming packets which includes the history of the neighborhood, who to contact with concerns and general information about the association.

Fundraiser Committee

It is usually easier to create events and functions when the association has money. This committee is responsible for implementing successful fundraisers for the association's special projects. It is suggested that the treasurer be a member of this committee.

Codes Enforcement Committee

Learning more about City Codes will save a lot of trouble and time. Ordinarily, citizens may not know the violations listed in City Codes. This group is responsible for researching City codes and relaying the information to the group.



Directory of Registered Neighborhood Associations

The Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development has issued a Directory of Registered Neighborhood Associations. The document is a compilation of over 100 neighborhood associations and community organizations that have registered with the department.

Information for neighborhood associations includes city council district, area (such as Hixson, East Brainerd, etc), association president, contact information and meeting times and locations.

The Directory is available on the website at <http://www.chattanooga.gov/Files/NAAssnRegistryWeb.pdf>, or you may stop by our office in City Hall, Suite 200 and request a copy.

Neighborly News from...

Southside/Cowart Place Neighborhood Association

by Debbie Johnson, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

Welcome and congratulations to one of our newest associations-Southside/Cowart Place. Residents of the community partnered with the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development to organize a neighborhood association. By sheer determination, lots of foot work going door to door and dedication to their community, the group has come together in a big way.

They worked to establish bylaws, elect officers, and are preparing a neighborhood plan that encompasses the development of fellowship, issue resolution and promotion of the community as a place of choice in which to live, work and play. They are presently working on their Neighborhood Partners Program project of sign toppers to be placed on top of street signs to identify the neighborhood. The project activities include designing a logo to represent the community and fundraising.

Southside/Cowart Place Neighborhood Association meets the second Thursday of each month at 6:00. The location alternates among the local businesses who graciously donate the use of their facilities.



Members of the Southside/Cowart Place Neighborhood Association holding their monthly meeting at the Gallery Café



Danny and Aileen Carroll at a recent association meeting

Lake Chickamauga Neighborhood Association

by Karen Clay, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

The Lake Chickamauga Neighborhood Association is bordered by Lake Chickamauga and Highway 153. A rural area during the 1920's and 1930's, most of the early homes were small farms with acreage. Additional homes were built in the 1940's with the construction of the TVA Chickamauga Dam, followed by the influx of many TVA families. The sale of Talley Farm around 1990 led to the subsequent development of Kings Lake Estates.

Several second generation families have either built or purchased homes within the neighborhood. Many of the homes still have large areas utilized for vegetable gardening. It's not uncommon to have a neighbor show up with a basket of homegrown vegetables to share.

With vibrant interaction among new and old neighbors the association was formed in 2003. They participate annually in the Scenic Cities Beautiful Clean-up and have picnics, yard sales and community projects. This year they applied for and received funding from the Department of Neighborhood

Services and Community Development's Neighborhood Partners Program to purchase yard signs and banners to inform residents about neighborhood meetings. Congratulations to the association for their hard work.

Neighborly News from...

Outdoor Chattanooga

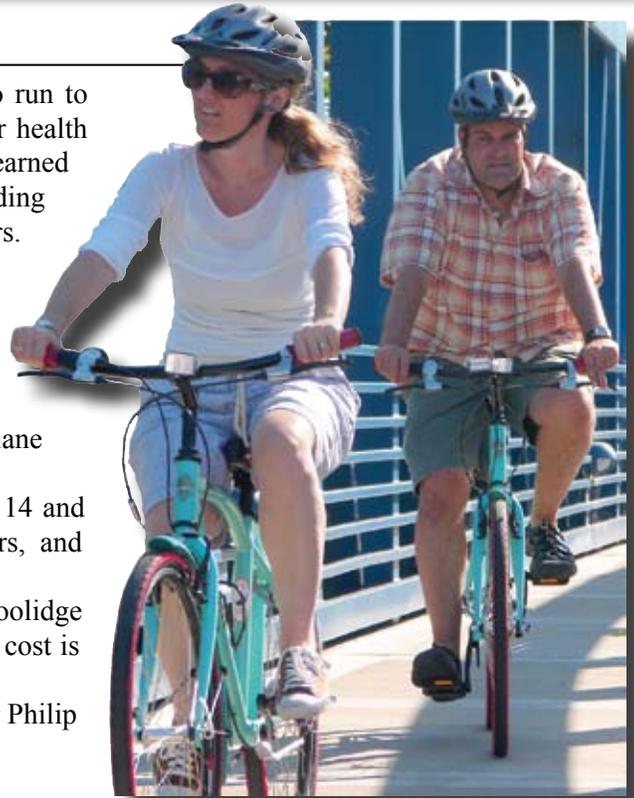
Riding a bicycle back and forth to work, to school, or just to run to the store can be one of the most rewarding things you do for your health and the health of the environment. However, much of what we learned as kids riding bikes in our neighborhoods does not translate to riding safely in traffic with motor vehicles, pedestrians, and other road users. Sometimes what *feels* safe is not safe or legal.

The Street Smarts Road Cycling Class teaches bicyclists the skills they need to begin safely riding on the road for transportation and recreation. In class, students will learn the rules of the road, how to change a flat tire, how to properly fit a bicycle and helmet, emergency traffic maneuvers, and proper signaling and lane positioning.

The teaching format, which is geared for adults and kids ages 14 and older, consists of classroom instruction, bike handling maneuvers, and instructor-guided practice on the road to build skills and confidence.

Classes are held at the new Outdoor Chattanooga Center in Coolidge Park the second Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$25 and students must have a road-worthy bicycle and helmet.

To sign up for a class, contact Chattanooga Bicycle Coordinator Philip Pugliese at 643-6887 or email ppugliese@outdoorchattanooga.com.



Parks and Recreation

Artwork by City's Kidz Kamp in Quilts at New Outdoor Chattanooga Center

The Ridgedale Sewing and Crafts Society, a group of individuals who live in the Ridgedale neighborhood that enjoy sewing and crafts projects, recently donated six hand-made quilts to the Parks and Recreation Department's new Outdoor Chattanooga Center. Group member Mary Shaw created the quilts using fabric art squares made by children ages 6 – 12 who were introduced to the area's natural environment, animals, and plants during the 2007 Kidz Kamp program. "The Ridgedale Sewing and Craft Society's friendly ladies noticed the pile of "unclaimed" squares in our office at the end of the summer", explains Rhonda Seeber. "Mary Shaw volunteered to take them and after working on the project for a year and a half, returned to our office recently with the wonderful quilts".



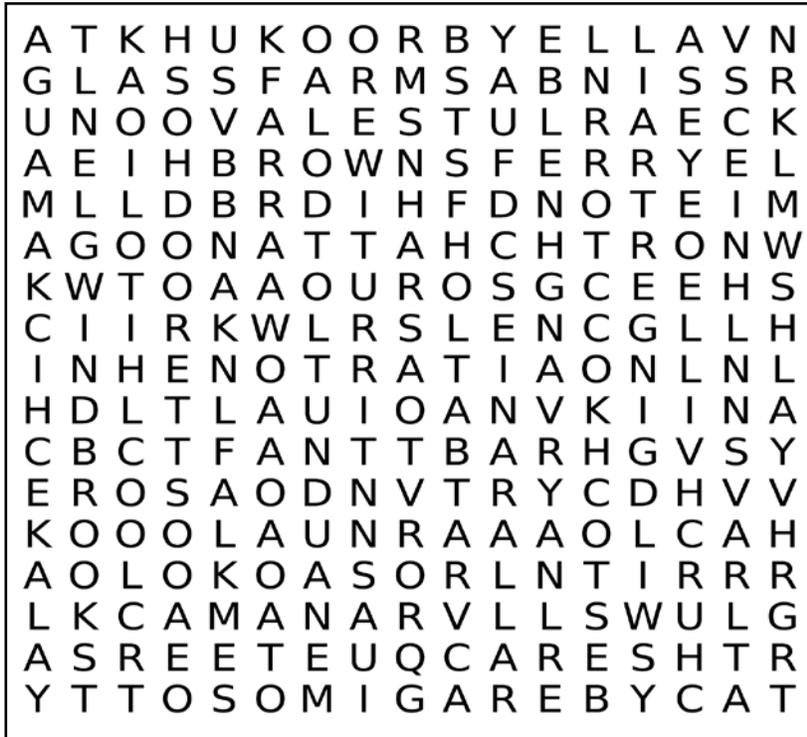
Quilter Mary Shaw in front of the donated quilts

The Ridgedale Sewing and Crafts Society is free, open to anyone, and meets on Tuesday and Friday from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Department Office building at 1102 S. Watkins Street. The participants hone their sewing skills, help one another on projects, share resources and materials, exhibit and market their creations, and work together on such fun projects as pet toys and bedding for local animal shelters, holiday and seasonal crafts for fundraising events, and decorations for a variety of community activities. For more information call 643-6079.

Neighborhood WordSeek

by Doris Cato Parham, Code Enforcement Inspector Supervisor

Find the Neighborhood Associations in Districts 1,3 & 9:



- Arbor Landing
- Avondale
- Browns Ferry
- Bushtown
- Churchville
- Colonial Shores
- Glass Farms
- Lake Chickamauga
- Lookout Valley
- Murray Hills
- Mountain Creek
- North Chattanooga
- Racqueteers
- Valleybrook
- Wild Ginger Trail
- Windbrook

Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council

The second quarter started well. Several new members joined the Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council (CNAC) fulfilling several unexpired vacant seats on the governing board. Every city council district was represented at the recent retreat. There was much enthusiasm at the meeting, which dealt with issues regarding bylaw amendment, crime, tenants rights, codes and ordinances, court watch and the upcoming citywide election that will take place tentatively in November. With the advent of new members, a conscientious effort is being made to work on issues that affect every neighborhood in Chattanooga.

CNAC needs the input of concerned citizens to address these fundamental problems, and is asking that all neighborhood organizations join this opportunity to become a unified body, so we can worked together, rather than independently, since we share many of the same goals and objectives. CNAC encourages everyone to attend the monthly meeting on the 4th Monday at 6:00 p. m. at the Community Foundation, 1270 Market Street. For more information call 899-1748.



Become One of Chattanooga's Best & Brightest

- We offer...
- A Challenging Career
 - Paid Training
 - Competitive Pay
 - Advancement Opportunities
 - Tuition Reimbursement

The Chattanooga Police Department is actively seeking qualified applicants to join our ranks. If you have integrity, strong character, strong communication skills and a commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of our citizens, we're looking for you.



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

COMMONGROUND

May Calendar of Events

4 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
7 Thu	10:00A	Environmental Court (Neighborhood Services)
	6:00P	Glenwood Neighborhood Watch Meeting
	7:00P	Lookout Valley Neighborhood Association Meeting
9 Sat	12:00P	Churchville Neighborhood Association Meeting
11 Mon	1:00P	Regional Planning Agency Meeting
	7:00P	Fairfax-Bagwell Neighborhood Association Meeting
12 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
	7:00P	Lake Hills Neighborhood Association Meeting
13 Wed	10:00A	Board of Zoning Appeal Meeting
	11:00A	East Lake Senior Citizens Meeting
	6:00P	Hamilton Acres Neighborhood Association
	6:00P	Hamilton Acres Neighborhood Association
14 Thu	10:00A	Environmental Court (Neighborhood Services)
	6:00P	Missionary Ridge Neighborhood Association Board Meeting
	6:00P	Sector 3 Community Police Interaction Committee (CPIC) - George & Delta Zone

14 Thu	6:00P	Southside/Cowart Place Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:30P	Clifton Hills Neighborhood Improvement Committee Meeting
	7:00P	Cedar Hill Improvement League Meeting
18 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
19 Tue	6:00P	Orchard Knob Neighborhood Association Meeting
	7:00P	Cloverdale Neighborhood Association Meeting
21 Thu	10:00A	Environmental Court (Neighborhood Services)
	5:00P	Menlo Park Neighborhood Association Meeting
	7:00P	Highland Park Neighborhood Association Meeting
25 Mon	6:00P	Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council (CNAC)
	6:30P	Sylvan Drive Neighborhood Association
	7:00P	Oak Grove Neighborhood Association Meeting
26 Tue	4:00P	Community Anti-Drug Coalition Across Hamilton County
	7:00P	Stuart Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting
27 Wed	11:30A	Court Watch Partners
28 Thu	10:00A	Environmental Court (Neighborhood Services)
	5:30P	South Broad Redevelopment Group, Inc. Meeting
	6:00P	Glenwood Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00P	Woodmore Manor 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: May 6

Area 3: May 20

Area 2: May 13

Area 4: May 27

For More Information Visit Recycleright.org

May Systematic Codes Inspections

Teams of code enforcement inspectors will be going block by block in the following neighborhoods inspecting each parcel for City code violations including litter, overgrowth, abandoned vehicles and housing code violations. Signs will be posted in the neighborhood in advance to advise residents that the code inspectors will be present.

Week of May 4, 2009

ChurchvilleDistrict 9

Week of May 18, 2009

HilltopDistrict 6