



“Building Better Neighborhoods... Block By Block”

COMMON GROUND



A Newsletter from the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development

Looking for the Next Generation of Neighborhood Leaders

by Donna Deweese, Project Specialist

The Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development is now accepting applications for its third Neighborhood Leadership Institute. The program is designed to strengthen leadership in the community by providing training to leaders and potential leaders of neighborhood groups and community organizations.

The Neighborhood Leadership Institute boasts 42 graduates since the program’s inception in 2007. Participants leave the program armed with strengthened skills and new partnerships. “The leadership classes are informative and designed for anyone that has a passion to make positive changes in their community,” states Robert Paris, a 2008 graduate.

Leadership training sessions include: Effective Meetings, Strategic Planning, Conflict Resolution, and Cultivating Cultural Diversity among others. Classes will begin with an orientation in May and end with a recognition ceremony at the 11th Annual Neighborhoods and Codes Conference on October 23 at the Chattanooga Convention Center.

Participants in the Neighborhood Leadership Institute must be an active member of a neighborhood association or community organization, or in the process of starting a new group inside the city limits of Chattanooga.

Neighborhood LEADERSHIP Institute



2007 NLI graduate Ann Weeks conducts a class for 2008 students

The deadline to submit an application is April 10, 2009 and the class is limited to 25 participants. There is no fee required to participate in the program. To request an application or for more information, call Donna Deweese at 425-3718 or you can download an application at www.chattanooga.gov on the Neighborhood Services and Community Development web pages.

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Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator

Administrator's Letter

Get Involved!

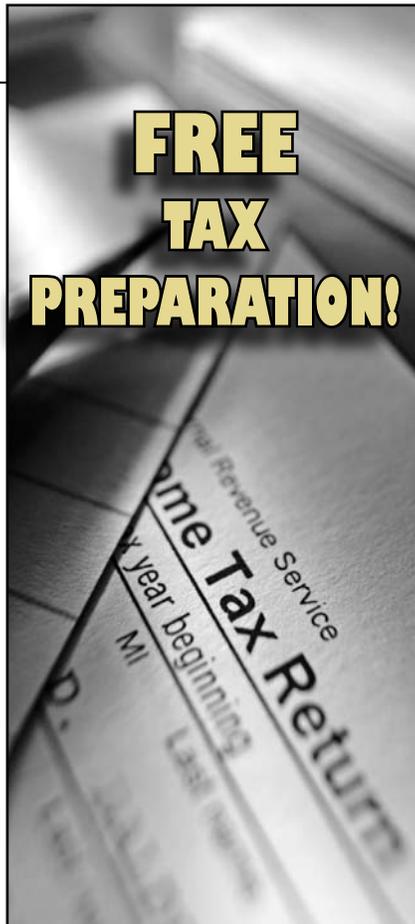
One of the buzz words of the new presidency is "Change." President Obama is asking everyone to volunteer to bring about change and make a difference in their communities. Becoming involved at the neighborhood level not only brings about positive change, but is rewarding as well. Whether it is enrolling in the Neighborhood Leadership Institute to become a leader of your neighborhood association, or volunteering for the upcoming "Day of Service" sponsored by the East Chattanooga Weed and Seed organization, when you volunteer your time and talent, you can make a difference.

Every department within the City of Chattanooga is busy investigating the prospects of what the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 may mean for

Chattanooga. This stimulus package brought forth by the Obama administration promises tax relief and funding for the most effective and helpful programs offered to our citizens.

Many people are confused about all that is included in the stimulus package, and for good reason, it is a lengthy bill. What I can tell you is that our department is preparing programs to use the dollars that may possibly come to Chattanooga. We must be ready, with a plan, to use these federal dollars quickly and efficiently to improve our neighborhoods and best serve our citizens in this economic crisis.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 includes provisions for job creation, energy efficiency, technology improvement, community investment and much more. Although we do not know exactly what Chattanooga will receive as part of this legislation, I can reassure you that we are making the proper plans to put whatever we receive to work improving the health and vibrancy of our neighborhoods.



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.

Great American Cleanup

by Jeanette Eigelsbach

Americans now more than ever want to do their part to improve not only their own community, but our planet as well. Scenic Cities Beautiful is reminding the community that Green Starts Here, with each volunteer and group that participates in the 2009 Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup™, which runs April through June.

Volunteers will join millions of others across the country to rid our streets, waterways and public spaces of litter and illegal dumpsites. Communities that are clean and cared for help deter crime and keep our neighborhoods safe.

America's leading companies support the campaign. National sponsors of the 2009 Great American Cleanup are: American Honda Motor Co., Inc.; ARM & HAMMER®; Colgate-Palmolive Company; The Dow Chemical Company; GLAD® Trash Bags; Pepsi-Cola Company; The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company; Solo Cup Company; Troy-Bilt® Lawn and Garden Equipment; University of Phoenix; Waste Management, Inc.; Wm. Wrigley Jr. Co.; and Educational Partner: Rubber Manufacturers Association.

The local affiliate, Scenic Cities Beautiful, is a nonprofit that forms public-private partnerships and programs that engage individuals to take greater responsibility for improving their community environments. Locally, City of Chattanooga Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development and the Department of Public Works, City-Wide Services Division are vital partners.

For more information or to join the Great American Cleanup, contact Jeanette Eigelsbach at Scenic Cities Beautiful 757-0061 or email Eigelsbach_j@mail.chattanooga.gov.



Volunteers at last year's Great American Cleanup

East Chattanooga Weed and Seed "Day of Service"

by Ricardo Morris

The East Chattanooga 2009 Day of Service is an effort to uplift our communities, provide service to those in need and to create enthusiasm among the East Chattanooga neighborhood residents, organizations, churches and businesses to give back regularly to their community. Everyone is invited to join in a Day of Service on Saturday, April 25, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

In cooperation with the East Chattanooga Weed and Seed Program, Downtown Chattanooga Neighborhood Associations, The Church of Latter Day Saints and many downtown churches will be cleaning up and beautifying the East Chattanooga neighborhoods. Additionally, this event will be gathering, preparing and providing needed items such as gently used and new clothing for adults and children; hygiene products including dental items; seasonal decorations to benefit Erlanger Hospital (including T.C. Thompson Children's Hospital), The Red Cross and Santa for All Seasons.

Some Items needed for donation to T.C. Thompson Children's Hospital include:

- Fleece or flannel blankets (no crochet or knitted blankets because baby's fingers getting caught in them)
- Hygiene kits for patient's parents (toothbrush, tooth paste, shampoo, conditioner, soap, lotion, Chap Stick)

- Gently used clothing for children (stretch pants-size 4 and up, sweatpants-teenager to young adult sizes)
- New clothing (girls underwear size 6 to adult, boy's boxers-all sizes)
- Dental care kits for the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile (tooth paste for children, tooth brushes, dental floss)

The mission of the Day of Service is to link arms with churches, civic organizations and government agencies to strengthen local communities with meaningful service projects that will beautify communities, build friendships, help those in need and bolster the spirits of all. We hope to provide needed services to those who may not be able to do it on their own and to engage volunteers and ensure that the leave with a good feeling for having helped others.

When the Day of Service is concluded we will create guidelines that others can follow for future such activities. We hope to also have improved the overall neighborhood appearance, increase the idea of neighbors helping neighbors, identify skills within a neighborhood that can be utilized on a regular bases and breakdown barriers between the various religious organizations in the area.

To find out more about donations, to volunteer or get more information, call Ricardo Morris at 883-0178 or the Weed and Seed Office at 752-4449.

Neighborly News from...

Woodmore Manor Neighborhood Association

by DeSharla Lavette, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

Woodmore Manor, a neighborhood association in the Brainerd area, is making things happen. The association started in 2000-2001, became inactive, and was reactivated July 31, 2008. In January 2009 Ms. Janet Moore was elected the new president. Ms. Moore states “Woodmore Manor is a diverse community made up of single and multi-family dwellings. Our goal is to work together as good neighbors by embracing our diversity and strategically focusing on our future.”

Recently, the organization was awarded Neighborhood Partners Program funding to obtain meetings signs and supplies to encourage more participation from its residents. A partnership with Major Gary Bergen and the Salvation Army has been developed, allowing the association to use the facility for its monthly meetings. Plans are underway for Woodmore Manor to hosts its first reactivation event, “2009 Meet and Greet,” where residents, elected officials, and community leaders will have an opportunity to get to know each other on Thursday, March 26 in the Salvation Army gymnasium from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.



Woodmore Manor Neighborhood Association members at one of their recent monthly meetings

March 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 March 13, 2009
RadmoorDistrict 4

Week of March 27, 2009
Hixson.....District 3

Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council



The Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council (CNAC) is poised to host its 2nd annual retreat on Saturday, March 28th.

At the same time, the group prepares to seat interim members from city council districts where representation has been minimal or non-existent. Districts 3, 6 and 8 have no representation; districts 1, 2, 4, and 7 are under represented; while district 9 has one vacancy on the Council. District 5 is the only council district that has full Council representation. Several Neighborhood Leadership Institute graduates are now seated on the governing board as interim members.

Recently, CNAC President Charles Payne encouraged Chattanooga City Council members to recommend representatives from their respective district to join CNAC, which they have agreed to do. With this support, CNAC expects to have representation for all council districts within the near future, ensuring that neighborhoods throughout the City are fully represented.

CNAC meets on the 4th Monday of every month at 6:00 p. m. at the Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga. Anyone interested in attending may do so by calling 899-1748 for information.

Neighborly News from...

Glass Farms Neighborhood Association

by Karen D. Clay, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

Glass Farms Neighborhood Association is located in East Chattanooga. The neighborhood derived its name from a dairy farm owned by the Glass family. The association meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Community Christ Center located at 2508 Glass Street (formerly Western Auto).

In 2007, Glass Farms applied for funding from the department's Neighborhood Partners Program to complete a project to beautify the area where their neighborhood sign is located at the corner of Glass and North Chamberlain. Weeds and litter were removed from the area and replaced with weed fabric and red mulch to create an aesthetic landmark of which the community can be proud.

The goal of Glass Farms Neighborhood Association is to make the East Chattanooga area a safe and clean place where everyone can live and play. The membership and officers, under the leadership of president Etta Kanipes, work tirelessly in pursuit of their shared goal. Since its establishment in 1999, membership has grown to approximately 30 members.

Glass Farms realizes the importance of using their collective input and resources for the betterment of their community including youth, seniors, safety, and housing concerns. With the help of their elected officials, the group was instrumental in obtaining the traffic signal at the corner of Glass and Campbell Streets. This spirit of cooperation is one of many reasons why the City of Chattanooga Police Department, Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development, elected officials, code enforcement inspectors and others look forward to collaborating with the association to assist them in accomplishing their goals. Hats off to Glass Farms for all they do in the community!



Glass Farms Neighborhood Association members gather for a Christmas celebration.



Ridgedale Community Association

by Debbie Johnson, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

The Ridgedale Community Association has been busy with the process of renewal, reevaluation and creating a strategic plan for not only the association but of the community which they serve.

With funds received from the 2008 Neighborhood Partners Program, consultant Steven Nikkel was recruited to facilitate a planning process to learn how to work together, focus on common goals, and formulate a ten year vision for the community. The plan included realistic action steps to obtain the goals of the Ridgedale Community Association for both its members and their community.

Theresa Ivey, Secretary of the Ridgedale Community Association, said "The entire process was a great way to distill the needs of our community into a comprehensive and doable plan. It taught our neighborhood association members a lot of skills they may not have been previously exposed to. These are skills we can use again and again to tackle all sorts of problems."

The Ridgedale Community Association meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the City of Chattanooga's Parks and Recreation Building at 1102 South Watkins Street, in the upstairs meeting room.

Neighborly News from...

Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation Department Summer Camps Are Still the Best Value in Town!!

The City Parks and Recreation Department offers very affordable and fun camp experiences at the city's many leisure facilities. This year's theme, "Passport to Wellness" will focus on fitness, nutrition, and healthy lifestyles.

Kidz Kamp 2009 at Area Recreation Centers—June 1st – July 31st

Kidz Kamp Plus Swim Lessons during the first session of camp June 1-12, offers optional swim lessons to help beginner swimmers. Offered at Brainerd, Carver, or South Chattanooga recreation centers. Call Kim Battle at 643-6052 or Cynthia Gates at 643-6070

All Sports Camp at Warner Park—June 1st -- 26th. Everything for the sports lover: baseball, softball, soccer, basketball, volleyball, golf, swimming, tennis, track & field, clinics, tournaments, guest coaches, and more! Call Richard West at 643-6055 or Ron Drake at 697-1281.

Tennis Camp at Champions Club Tennis Complex. Tennis instruction taught by professional coaches and instructors. Call Orlando Lourenco at 870-3112.



Outventure Camp at Greenway Farm. Kayaking, hiking, mountain biking, outdoor games, nature study, camp site basics, river trips, and more! Call Marcus Hulsey or Tiffany Ellison (423) 842-6629.

Zoo Camp and Camp Zoo-Ability at the Chattanooga Zoo. Summer fun at the Zoo is both recreational and educational. Call 697-1322 for details.

More information is available on-line at www.chattanooga.gov/parks&recreation or call 643-6079.

Education, Arts & Culture

"Whats Going On?"

"What's Going On?" is an issue-driven reading initiative launched by the City of Chattanooga Department of Education, Arts & Culture (EAC) encouraging the community to read, share, and discuss books focused on a particular social issue. The theme for 2009 is "bullying".

"What's Going On?" will build community partnerships through service-based learning experiences. The first pilot project connects Notre Dame High School students with elementary and middle school students at Glenwood Recreation Center for afterschool reading and tutoring. "What's Going On?" reading sections will appear in Chattanooga Hamilton County Bicentennial Library locations, Hamilton County Schools, and City of Chattanooga Parks and Recreation Reading Centers.



Notre Dame students delivering books from their book drive to Glenwood Recreation Center

EAC Administrator Missy Crutchfield says, "My son James Ward originally inspired our 'Think & Draw and Talk About It' booklet which helps kids and parents discuss important social issues through artwork and caricature drawings. Kids can turn in their drawings to EAC to be used for billboards around the city. "What's Going On?" takes the 'Think & Draw' campaign to the next level by further addressing these issues through literacy and community partnerships."

For more information about the "What's Going On?", "Think & Draw and Talk About It" or the City of Chattanooga Department of Education, Arts & Culture, contact Melissa Turner (423) 425-7826 or turner_m@mail.chattanooga.gov.

Effective Recruiting Strategies for Your Organization by Vanessa A. Jackson

Just like the human body or the vehicles that we drive, neighborhood organizations need a periodic check-up to ensure that they are functioning properly. One common malady of neighborhood organizations is a condition known as STP Disease-“Same Ten People”. Membership recruitment is the life blood to any successful organization. Without an effective recruitment strategy your organization runs the risk of burnout and eventually, extinction. Does your neighborhood association suffer from STP Disease? Here are some suggestions that your organization can use to head off this organizational parasite and aid in maintaining and increasing members in your organization.

- Recruiting new members should be an on going process. Remember, its relationships that help grow any organization. As new people make contact with your group, invite them to participate. Opportunities to recruit new members include local civic organizations, neighborhood events, and anywhere neighborhood residents are gathered.

- Take advantage of instances where people express interest in a neighborhood concern such as code enforcement, crime reduction or youth development. Use these opportunities to ask if they would be willing to work on a committee or chair a special project.

- Study the demographics of your neighborhood. Is your organization representative of the demographic make up of your community? As you strategize upon ways to increase membership, be sure to seek out those individuals who represent a variety of racial, ethnic, and religious groups.

- Appeal to the self-interest of potential new members. Explain how their involvement might help them learn a new skill or meet new people. The best way we can learn about

people is by talking to them and cultivating a relationship.

- Encourage people to join your ranks even if they can participate in limited ways or for limited periods of time. From home bound seniors to the busy working mothers, everyone’s talents and contribution are valuable.

- All proactive neighborhood presidents should have a succession plan for the organization’s future. This includes a process that allows for periodic rotation of the organization officers. Cultivate new leaders by giving members small tasks they can easily achieve. In time their confidence and abilities will grow and they will become more comfortable taking on expanded leadership roles. There are many advantages to cultivating leadership. New leaders bring with them new ideas and an energized approach to problem solving. It’s also forward thinking to groom young people for leadership roles by thinking of ways they can simultaneously participate and learn.

- Offer encouragement, support, and recognition to neighborhood volunteers and association members. There are many inexpensive ways that you can recognize members and the payoff for a little acknowledgement will work wonders to keeping people engaged and looking forward to participating with your organization.

Even though it only takes a few committed individuals to spark positive changes within a community, so much more can be accomplished when there is a cadre of individuals committed to your efforts. If your organization is suffering from STP Disease, the prognosis does not have to be grim. Be encouraged! Proactively follow these suggestions and watch your organization steady return to good organizational well-being.



Vanessa Jackson and Jill Black co-host “Neighborhood Talk”

“Neighborhood Talk”

Since 2004, The Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development has partnered with WNOO 1260 AM Radio to bring listeners *Neighborhood Talk*, the department’s weekly radio broadcast.

Neighborhood Talk addresses the relevant needs, interest and issues affecting Chattanooga’s neighborhoods. The show is co-hosted by Jill Black and Vanessa Jackson, Neighborhood Program Specialists. Guests include city departments, non-profits agencies, social service providers, public officials, civic and community based organizations and more.

The weekly broadcast airs live on Tuesdays from 9:00-9:30 a.m. Listeners can call in to ask questions of the guests and co-hosts, regarding codes, housing, problems affecting them in their neighborhoods as well as any topic pertinent to the guests that day. Be sure to tune in and listen!



COMMONGROUND

March 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)
	6:00P	Missionary Ridge Neighborhood Association Board Meeting
	6:00P	Sector 3 Community Police Interaction Committee (CPIC) - George & Delta Zone

Date	Time	Description
12 Thu	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)
	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
30 Mon	6:30P	Sylvan Drive Neighborhood Association

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: March 4

Area 2: March 11

Area 3: March 18

Area 4: March 25

For More Information Visit Recycleright.org

Save This Date:

October 22 & 23, 2009

as the

City of Chattanooga

Department of Neighborhood Services and
Community Development

UNITES

Uniting Neighborhoods In Times of Economic Stress

The 11th Annual Neighborhoods & Codes Conference

at the Chattanooga Convention Center
1201 Broad Street • Chattanooga, Tennessee

Registration information coming soon
For more information call 425-3700