



A Newsletter from the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development

## Go Wild at Go!Fest at the Chattanooga Zoo

by Kathie Fulgham,  
Projects Manager,  
Mayor's Office

Visitors of all abilities will go wild for a free day at the Chattanooga Zoo during the fourth annual Go!Fest celebration Saturday, October 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Animal attractions and interactions abound, but breaking boundaries and increasing disability awareness are at the heart of Go!Fest, which also will showcase activities, entertainment and information from various social service agencies and other civic-minded groups, businesses and institutions.

Go!Fest is part of an initiative created by Chattanooga Mayor Ron Littlefield to help make Chattanooga more accessible to everyone, regardless of their ability.

"People of all abilities want to live their lives to the fullest – without limitations," said Mayor Littlefield. "And the public's perception and awareness about disabilities will expand



when discoveries are made about how people with different abilities live, work and play together."

In addition to being a celebration of living life without limitations, Go!Fest involves several major components:

- An education and career fair showcasing educational and health resources for people with and without disabilities;
- An art showcase by featured artists with disabilities; and
- Demonstrations

of adaptive athletics, including basketball and cycling;

- Fun-filled booths and exhibits that feature activities, food, music and giveaways.

A truly exotic destination, the Chattanooga Zoo literally takes visitors around the world, where they can explore exhibits like the Gombe Forest that features chimpanzees; South America, where spider monkeys swing and a jaguar lounges in the sun, while the macaws strike up a *continued on page 2*

"Building Better Neighborhoods... Block By Block"

# COMMON GROUND



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### Neighborhood Services and Community Development

(423) 425-3700 • [www.chattanooga.gov](http://www.chattanooga.gov)

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## Go Crazy at Go!Fest at the Chattanooga Zoo *(continued from page 1)*



conversation passersby; the Cougar Express that features mountain lions; and the Himalayan Passage that features red pandas as well as snow leopards and langurs.

The Chattanooga Zoo and Warner Park recently have undergone a \$5 million renovation that includes an endangered species carousel, new concessions area, parking and drop-off areas. Money raised from the Go!Fest event will help build a PlayCore all-access playground for children of all abilities.



Just two miles from downtown Chattanooga, the Zoo is located at 1254 E. 3rd Street. For directions: 697-1322 or 697-1319.

Go!Fest will be entirely ADA compliant. For more information: <http://gofestchattanooga.org/> or 425-7800.



*Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator*

## A Letter from the Administrator

I am pleased to announce a new addition to the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development. Brad Gardner is the new Manager of Codes, Community Services and Neighborhood Relations. Brad comes to Chattanooga

from his previous position as Chief Building Inspector for Osceola County, Florida. He brings a wealth of knowledge to the position. We are proud to welcome him to our city as well as to the department.

We are busy preparing for our 10th Annual Neighborhoods Conference to be held October 9 and 10. I hope to see many of you there. It will be an enriching event for all of us.

I want to encourage each and every one of you to get involved in your neighborhood. As they say, in unity there

is strength. If your neighborhood does not already have an association, start talking to your neighbors about organizing one. We have Neighborhood Relations Specialists to help you do just that. If there is an association where you live, join. It is truly the best way to bring about change. A neighborhood association gives your community a voice in City government and fosters a sense of unity among residents. And speaking of being involved, there are many opportunities listed in this newsletter to give you a voice in the community. I hope you take advantage of some of them and make yourself heard.

As summer fades, the time for mowing and planting gives way to raking leaves and pastimes better suited for cooler weather. Now is a good time to get out and clean up the yards, do some painting and spruce things up before winter sets in. It's also a great time to get out and enjoy everything our beautiful city has to offer. Go!Fest at the Chattanooga Zoo is just one such opportunity. Whatever you choose to do, now is a great time to live, work and play in Chattanooga!

## A Letter from the Mayor

We're growing! With the recent announcement from Volkswagen and earlier from Alstom Power and others, Chattanooga and the surrounding region is poised for unprecedented growth. Add that to the fact that we are already the fastest growing large city in Tennessee and you can understand that we have some work to do regarding our future growth. How we address this growth both locally and on a regional level is as important as all the work that resulted in these historic investments in our community.

How will this growth affect us and how can we manage it? Let's begin to answer these questions by inviting everyone to discuss the issues so we can discover solutions together. This sort of growth will require regional planning on a larger scale than any time in our history. Regional solutions that address regional issues such as work force development, infrastructure, education, transportation, sprawl, and environmental conservation, among others,

**This sort of growth will require regional planning on a larger scale than any time in our history.**

only strengthens our commitment to our future, to our community and to each other.

Now is the time to do the work. Let's not quarrel over who should or should not be included in these discussions. It's simple...all should be involved!

It will not be easy and it will require input from everyone in Chattanooga and Hamilton County, as well as the surrounding municipalities and counties...but we can do it. We have made Chattanooga a model for other cities. We can do the same regionally.

We have proven that we are a community that can come together and tackle complex issues. We've done it many times before and now it's time to do it again. The work has just begun...



*Mayor Ron Littlefield*

## The New Face at City Hall

As the new Manager of Codes, Community Service and Neighborhood Relations, I would like to express how very happy I am for the opportunity to serve in such a wonderful city as Chattanooga. It is a pleasure to live and work in a city that takes such pride in their neighborhoods, and works tirelessly seeking new and unique ways to make them even better. I spent many years in the central Florida area dealing with many of the same issues, so I appreciate the forward thinking of this city, and the ways in which these difficult issues are met.

It is not always an easy road to follow in trying to make changes happen, but we will work together to constantly improve our neighborhoods and make them a better and safer place to live and raise our children. By eliminating blight and removing or refurbishing vacant or unsafe properties, we can take a giant step in ridding the neighborhoods of crime, drugs, prostitution and declining property values. Together we can turn these dangerous and unsavory properties into something that we can be proud of, and at the same time create a more beautiful and safe neighborhood in which to live. None of us can do it alone, but together we can make change happen that everyone will benefit from.

Chattanooga is already one of the best places in America to live, and if we work together, we can make it THE BEST place to live by "building better neighborhoods, block by block!"



*Brad Gardner, the new Manager of Codes, Community Services and Neighborhood Relations for the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development*

## Let's Move Those Junk Cars...

by Ed Graham, Code Enforcement Inspector Supervisor

The Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development's Code Enforcement division deals with many issues that are eyesores to a community. One issue that has a negative affect on neighborhoods is an inoperable or abandoned vehicle that has been in the community for days, weeks or in some cases years. Citizens are encouraged to contact the city 311 call center to report these violations. A Code Enforcement Inspector will investigate and deal with the violation as the city codes allow.



Many people are not aware of a free service provided by the City to help solve this problem. City residents with vehicles that are inoperable, wrecked or dismantled may contact the Neighborhood Services Department at 425-3700 to arrange for towing services. Before towing the vehicle, residents will be asked to provide a certificate of title and photo identification. They also will be asked to sign a release of the vehicle to the towing company. There is no charge to city residents for the towing service. If you have an inoperable car that has become an eyesore, let the city remove it for you at no cost.

## Digital TV Transition

Your TV signal is switching to "digital." For more than fifty years, TV broadcasters have sent their shows to your TV using "analog" signals. After February 17, 2009, most of the old analog signals will be gone and most of the stations you watch will use only the new digital signals.

### Why is The Government Switching to Digital?

For improved public safety for everyone. The transition to digital will help police, fire, and other public safety departments to communicate more easily with each other during emergencies.

For you, digital TV offers better picture and sound quality, as well as more channels and programming choices.

### What Does this Mean to You?

If all of your TVs are hooked up to cable or satellite, you will continue to get your TV after the switch. Just check with your cable or satellite company to be sure.

If you have a digital TV, you are ready for the switch. (If your TV is more than 10 years old it probably is not digital. If it is

#### For more information about the digital transition

Call 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322) (voice)

or 1-888-TELL-FCC (1-888-835-5322) (TTY)

Or go to [www.dtv.gov](http://www.dtv.gov)

#### For information about converters and coupons

Call 1-888-388-2009 (voice) or 1-877-530-2634 (TTY)

Or go to: [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov)

less than 10 years old, ask the manufacturer if your TV is "analog-only.")

If you have an analog-only TV with a roof top antenna or "rabbit ears," you will not be able to watch most TV stations after February 17, 2009, unless you get a "converter box."

### Converter Box?

The converter box will attach to your TV and let you go on getting free TV.

With the converter box you can get a better picture and more channels. The antenna you have should work with the box.

You can buy a converter box at a retail store. The boxes will cost \$40 to \$70.

You can get two \$40 coupons per household from the US Government to help you pay for up to two boxes. (One coupon per box only. Please note that these coupons will expire 90 days after mailing.)



## Neighborly News from...

## Oak Grove Neighborhood Association

by Debbie Johnson, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

In August, the Oak Grove Neighborhood Association held their officers' election. At this meeting, Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator of the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development, presented Louise Hammonds with a Certificate of Appreciation from the City of Chattanooga. Ms. Hammonds served as the president of the association for nine years. Ms. Hammonds said, "I believe it is time to pass the torch to new blood with fresh ideas to continue improving the community and the association." Newly elected President Andrae McGary expressed his admiration for Ms. Hammonds and her unwavering dedication to the community. Ms. Hammonds pledged her continued support to the Oak Grove community and to President McGary.



*Andrae McGary and Louise Hammonds*

## Fairfax Heights

by Debbie Johnson, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

In September the community of Fairfax Heights came together to discuss organizing a neighborhood association. With the assistance of the Department of Neighborhood Service and Community Development, they are in the process of working on the organizational basics of bylaws, election of officers and development of plans and goals. They are meeting monthly at the Brooks Memorial United Methodist Church, which also hosts the Lupton City Neighborhood Association meetings. The Fairfax Heights community is utilizing the department's Neighborhood Tool Kit, which includes a working partnership with a Neighborhood Relations Specialist and the use of meeting signs, flyers and much more. We congratulate the Fairfax community on their community spirit and commitment to their neighbors.



## Cedar Hill

by Lee Tripp

National Night Out went well at Cedar Hill. Judge Bob Moon dedicated the new rose garden in memory of members who have passed away. He wrote a poem especially for this event entitled "Between The Roses." Councilman Rico and his wife Barbara donated a small monument marking the purpose of the garden. Cedar Hill is currently installing a butterfly garden with a Williamsburg-style bird house in its center. A swing and benches also have been added. The area around the flag pole, donated years ago by former Hamilton County Commissioner Ben Miller (deceased), will be landscaped spring 2009.

Starting this month, Cedar Hill will serve a "Country Breakfast". The event will take place the second Saturday of each month from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in the Cedar Hill Building, 4501 13th Avenue. The cost will be \$3.50. There will be plenty of food for everyone and all are welcome.



*Judge Bob Moon, Councilman Manuel and Barbara Rico dedicating the rose garden*

## Neighborly News from...

### Everyday Democracy



The Office of Multicultural Affairs is in the process of establishing an Everyday Democracy program (formerly “Study Circles”) in Chattanooga with the purpose of bringing community members together to solve problems. In 2000, the Chattanooga Human Rights and Human Relations Commission sponsored the Study Circle Program, which brought together almost 120 citizens to discuss ways of improving relations among the people of Chattanooga.

Likewise, the program has seen tremendous results in cities such as Indianapolis and Kansas City. This approach has been successful because everyone is invited to participate. More participants ensure that all ideas are represented and better solutions are created.

This month, the program committee of the OMA advisory board will implement Chattanooga’s Everyday Democracy program. Anyone interested in participating in the Everyday Democracy program should contact the Solomon Hatch, OMA Community Outreach Coordinator, at 643-6708, or visit [www.everyday-democracy.org](http://www.everyday-democracy.org).

### “Lunch & Learn” Workshops

A series of free “Lunch & Learn” workshops in September and October will highlight local, state and federal incentives for commercial property owners, small and large business owners, artistic entrepreneurs, investors in downtown area retail and rental housing development, and developers focusing on green building design.

These one-hour workshops will take place on Tuesdays at noon in the Development Resource Center, 1250 Market Street, Conference Room 1-A. Lunch will be provided to participants who register at least two business days prior to the workshops on October 14 and 28.

The workshops are targeted to property owners, investors, business owners, entrepreneurs, developers, real estate professionals, architects, lawyers, finance professionals and others who help create jobs for Hamilton County residents. They are sponsored by the Renewal Community Office at The Enterprise Center.

For more information or to register, contact Maria Noel at 425-3776 or [noel\\_m@theenterprisectr.org](mailto:noel_m@theenterprisectr.org).

### Community Police Interaction Committee (CPIC)

CPIC is a once-a-month meeting when community groups and neighborhood associations are invited to meet with police supervisors in their sector. The meetings are designed to bring community groups together to share ideas, understand what is occurring throughout the community and understand better how to work with the police and other departments within the City of Chattanooga. Having a forum like this gives citizens the opportunity to problem solve, learn from each other and establish a better working relationship.

This has proven to be a successful program in Sector II, and now the Chattanooga Police Department is implementing the program in Sector III. Sector III is the area of Chattanooga from Chickamauga dam to the county line, out 58 Hwy to the county line and from the top of Missionary Ridge south and east to the county line. It extends to the Georgia line and East Ridge City limits.

The meetings will be held on the second Thursday of each month for Delta Zone (bordered by South Crest Road, Lightfoot Mill Road, Access Road to Highway 153, to I-75 and East Ridge) and third Thursday for George Zone (bordered by the Tennessee River, up Highway 58 to the county line, Highway 153 and I-75 to the county and Georgia line). Delta Zone will held at the Eastgate Precinct and George Zone will be held at the Tyner Recreation Center. All meetings begin at 6 p.m.

### Court Watch Partners

Court Watch Partners, Cedar Hill Improvement League and The Hamilton County Voters’ Council hosted a Sheriff Candidates’ Forum in August very successfully with some 75 in attendance, setting a new record for Cedar Hill. Court Watch Partners asked questions of the candidates with great results. Ms. Charline Kilpatrick was the moderator.

On September 30, Court Watch Partners recognized four judges for outstanding judicial service. Awards were presented by Congressman Zach Wamp and Representative Richard Floyd.

Court Watch Partners now has some 24 members. Meetings are held at the Cedar Hill building on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. For more information about Court Watch Partners, contact Lee Tripp at [leetripp@bellsouth.net](mailto:leetripp@bellsouth.net).

# Neighborly News from...

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

FY 2009-2010

### Allocation/Public Process

#### October 30, 2008

Application/Allocation Process Workshops  
First Floor DRC-----1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
HOME Investment Act—1:00-3:30  
CDBG and ESG----- 4:00-5:30

#### December 4, 2008

Technical Assistance Workshop  
First Floor DRC-----5:00-6:30 p.m.

#### December 12, 2008

Applications Due: 4:00 p.m.  
Community Development Office  
City Hall, Second Floor

#### January 19, 20, 22, 26, 27, 29, 2009

Allocation Team Application Interviews  
(City Hall, Conference Rooms Third Floor)

#### March 2009

City Council Approval & Resolution

#### March 2009

Letters of Project Approvals & Rejections

#### March 2009

Staff Development of 2009-2010 Action Plan  
April 6, 2009 30-day Public Comment  
Period of Action Plan

#### May 15, 2009

Annual Action Plan to HUD  
(Electronic and Hard Copies)

## Important Dates to Remember...

2008 Property Taxes due.....October 1

10th Annual Neighborhoods Conference  
.....October 9-10  
Chattanooga Convention Center

GoFest!.....October 11  
Chattanooga Zoo

Neighborhood Partners Program applications  
due .....4:00 p.m. October 13

Demolition Hearings.....October 22  
Development Resource Center Room 1A  
1250 Market Street 10:00 a.m.



## 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

## Sweet Diversity

### A Dessert Reception

*Coming to Your Neighborhood!*



**Districts 2 & 3**

**Thursday, October 30**

**6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

**Big Ridge Elementary School**

**5210 Cassandra Smith Rd, Hixson, TN 37343**

# COMMONGROUND

## October Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Division	Description	Date	Time	Division	Description
1 Wed		■	2008 Property Taxes due		6:00P	■	Sector 2 Community Policing Interactive Committee (CPIC)
	10:00A	■	Environmental Court (Neighborhood Services)	14 Tue	6:00P	■	Bushtown Neighborhood Association Meeting
2 Thu	6:00P	■	Glenwood Neighborhood Watch Meeting		6:00P	■	Foxwood Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting
	7:00P	■	Lookout Valley Neighborhood Association Meeting		6:00P	■	Lupton City Neighborhood Association Meeting
3 Fri		■	Registration Deadline for Neighborhoods Conference		6:00P	■	Glass Farms Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:30P	■	East Lake Neighborhood Association Meeting	16 Thu	10:00A	■	Environmental Court (Neighborhood Services)
6 Mon	6:30P	■	Hill City Neighborhood Association Meeting		6:00P	■	Menlo Park Neighborhood Association Meeting
	7:00P	■	Community Association of Historic St. Elmo Meeting		6:00P	■	Community Police Interaction Committee (CPIC) - George Zone
	7:00P	■	Murray Hills Neighborhood Association Board Meeting		7:00P	■	Highland Park Neighborhood Association Meeting
8 Wed	10:00A	■	Board of Zoning Appeal Meeting	20 Mon	6:00P	■	Avondale Neighborhood Association Meeting
	11:00A	■	East Lake Senior Citizens Meeting		6:00P	■	North Brainerd Neighborhood Association Meeting
	8:00A - 5:00P	■	10th Annual Neighborhoods Conference		6:00P	■	Washington Hills Neighborhood Association Meeting
	10:00A	■	Environmental Court (Neighborhood Services)	21 Tue	6:00P	■	Orchard Knob Neighborhood Association Meeting
9 Thu	6:00P	■	Missionary Ridge Neighborhood Association Board Meeting	22 Wed	10:00A	■	Demolition Hearings
	6:00P	■	Sector 3 Community Police Interaction Committee (CPIC) - Delta Zone		11:30A	■	Court Watch Partners
	6:30P	■	Clifton Hills Neighborhood Improvement Committee Meeting		10:00A	■	Environmental Court (Neighborhood Services)
	7:00P	■	Cedar Hill Improvement League Meeting	23 Thu	5:30P	■	South Broad Redevelopment Group, Inc. Meeting
10 Fri	8:00A - 2:00P	■	10th Annual Neighborhoods Conference		6:00P - 7:00P	■	Glenwood Neighborhood Association Meeting
11 Sat	10:00A - 3:00P	■	GolFest		7:00P	■	Ridgedale Community Association Meeting
		■	Neighborhood Partners Program Applications due	27 Mon	6:00P	■	Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council (CNAC)
13 Mon	1:00P	■	Regional Planning Agency Meeting		6:30P	■	Sylvan Drive Neighborhood Association
	6:00P	■	Hamilton Acres Neighborhood Association		7:00P	■	Oak Grove Neighborhood Association Meeting
		■		28 Tue	4:00P	■	Community Anti-Drug Coalition Across Hamilton County
		■		30 Thu	10:00A	■	Environmental Court (Neighborhood Services)

- Neighborhood Relations
- Code Enforcement
- Neighborhood Association
- Other

For more information on these events and all registered neighborhood association meeting dates, go to Neighborhood Services at <http://www.chattanooga.gov>

### Recycling Schedule

Area 1: East of Hwy 153 and West of I-75		
October 8	November 5	December 3
Area 2: East of I-75, West of Hwy 153, and East of Crest Road, Campbell Street, and Bonny Oaks Drive		
October 15	November 12	December 10
Area 3: West of Crest Road, Campbell Street, and Bonny Oaks Drive, West of Hwy 153, and South of the Tennessee River		
October 22	November 19	December 17
Area 4: North of the Tennessee River and West of Hwy 153		
October 29	November 26	December 31

### Brush Pickup Schedule

<b>Area 1:</b> East of Hwy 153 and West of I-75 Collection begins on the first Monday of each month
<b>Area 2:</b> 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
<b>Area 3:</b> 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
<b>Area 4:</b> North of the Tennessee River and West of Hwy 153 Collection begins on the fourth Monday of each month

Save The Date  
October 9-10, 2008



## Neighborhoods Conference

Chattanooga Convention Center  
1150 Carter Street • Chattanooga, Tennessee  
For more information Call (423) 425-3700  
[www.chattanooga.gov](http://www.chattanooga.gov)