



A Newsletter from the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development



“Building Better Neighborhoods... Block By Block”

COMMON GROUND



Pillars of Art

by Kathie Fulgham, Projects Manager

What started out as 12 concrete railroad trestle piers that transported coal long ago have been transformed into colorful pillars of urban art. Not only have these works of public art beautified 11th Street, they have inspired young and talented artists to learn from master urban artists.

“Previously a drab, dingy and dilapidated collection of vacant and underutilized properties, this little park creates an inviting space with an urban twist,” said Mayor Ron Littlefield. “The Art Pillars are a fitting complement to the city’s adjacent WellAdvantage Center and the nearby refurbished farmer’s market warehouse – now the art deco downtown police station.”

While some graffiti is art, a lot is not, and it’s illegal to paint or tag public property without permission. Thanks to a Community Cultural Connections grant from ArtsBuild, the outreach and youth empowerment efforts by *The Future is Ours* Gang Taskforce and the Mayor’s Office, artists and their young mentors were able to express themselves in a positive manner.

“I saw this as an excellent opportunity not only to mentor youth, but to showcase the talents of a few of Chattanooga’s emerging artists,” said artist Eric Finley, also known as “Seven.” Seven and his



mentees created the last four pillars, two of which, the shark and the Star Wars Storm Trooper, were featured in the Chattanooga Times Free Press.

The middle four pillars were inspired by the giant stone heads from Easter Island with a design that reflects the area’s Native American culture, said artist Rondell Crier.

“It’s been a great experience working on the pillars, and it’s always exciting to see area residents and people who work nearby appreciate the fact that ‘good art’ is going up in their neighborhood,” said Mr. Crier. “In addition to *continued on page 2*

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Neighborhood Services and Community Development

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Pillars of Art *continued from page 1*



the opportunity to create something large scale and having it be executed out in the community, the most rewarding part of the process is the mentoring component. I consider mentoring an art. In my experience, it has the same creative purpose and process as many other forms of art I practice. The collaborative and co-share experience is wonderful.”

Artist Jerry Allen agreed: “I like that I not only walked the Art Pillars project assistants through the process of creating a large outdoor mural, I also invited the young artists to participate in deciding colors, composition and subjects,” he said. “I want to thank ArtsBuild and Mayor Littlefield’s office for making the Art Pillars project possible.”

Mr. Allen and his mentees created the first four pillars.



Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator

Administrator’s Letter

It doesn’t seem like it, but Spring will eventually arrive. While it’s been hard to tell the difference lately, those are blooms on the Bradford Pear trees, not snow. Those blooms signal the start of growing season, so now is the time to get your lawnmower ready and begin cleaning up the yard.

For those neighborhood associations interested in improving their community, the Neighborhood Partners Program is beginning its technical workshops in May (page 3). Workshops are starting earlier this year to give associations more time to decide on eligible projects that would best benefit their community. If your neighborhood would like funding assistance for an improvement project, make sure to have a representative from your association attend one of the mandatory workshops.

Spring is also a great time to plan outdoor get-togethers. Whether it’s just a couple of neighbors or the whole neighborhood, an outdoor event is an open invitation to meet new neighbors or catch up with old ones. Existing associations can gain new members, and many neighborhood associations have been started by simply “chatting across the fence.” It’s been a long, cold Winter. Let’s go outside!

Neighborhood Partners Program Workshops

The Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development announces the availability of funding for the Neighborhood Partners Program (NPP). This program supports neighborhood associations and neighborhood-based groups, within the Chattanooga City limits, in carrying out development activities and improvements using the cooperative efforts of a project team and voluntary contributions of neighborhood individuals, businesses, schools and other organizations. A neighborhood association or neighborhood-based group is defined as a voluntary group of residents and/or property owners who advocate for common concerns or organize activities within defined neighborhood boundaries.

NPP responds to years of input from neighborhood and community leaders for increased direct resources to neighborhood associations and other community-based groups working on local neighborhood projects. Over the past eight years, 322 neighborhood and community organization projects have been funded through the Neighborhood Partners Program. Proposed neighborhood projects demonstrate civic participation and create community-based solutions that will substantially improve neighborhoods as well as nurture relationships among neighbors. Projects proposed will be evaluated by an independent selection committee based on a point system and the following criteria: impact, implementation, evaluation, and sustainability.

Organizations interested in submitting proposals must attend a technical assistance workshop to be eligible for these highly competitive and limited funds. The technical assistance workshop will provide interested



neighborhood associations and/or neighborhood-based groups a forum to answer questions about the application process, the application, what projects are eligible for funding, and new requirements of NPP. The workshops will be held on the following dates:

Technical Assistance Workshops (Mandatory)

Wednesday, May 8, 2013	1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 9, 2013	5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 14, 2013	10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 14, 2013	5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.
Thursday, August 8, 2013	5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

All workshops will be held at City Hall in the 3rd floor training room. Pre-registration is not required.

Guidelines and applications will be available after the last technical assistance workshop at the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development on the 2nd Floor of City Hall or online at www.chattanooga.gov. The application deadline is Tuesday, October 8, 2013, at 4:00 p.m. No applications will be accepted after the deadline.

For more information, contact Lauren Lowery at 423-425-3718 or lowery_l@chattanooga.gov.

Announcing 2013 Rental Property Renovation Program

The City of Chattanooga Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development has funding available to assist private landlords in renovating their rental units. The program awards grants to property owners who substantially renovate their rental units and agree to keep them affordable for a five year period. Following are some of the program details and requirements:

1. Rental units MUST BE VACANT at the time of application and renovation.
2. Rental units must require significant renovation work.
3. The grant covers fifty percent of renovation costs, up to a maximum of \$12,000 for a 3-bedroom unit, \$10,000 for a 2-bedroom unit, and \$8,000 for a 1-bedroom unit.
4. The HUD/EPA lead paint regulation must be

followed for structures built prior to 1978.

5. There is a limit of two rental units per owner (per applicant).
6. All building codes will apply and all building permits secured.
7. Funding is on a reimbursement basis once renovation is complete.

Applications will be chosen on a competitive basis and will be available beginning April 1 at www.chattanooga.gov. Applications can also be obtained by calling Doug Smith at 423-757-5127.

Once applications are completed, they may be hand delivered or mailed to: Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development, 101 E. 11th Street, City Hall, Suite 200, Chattanooga, TN 37402. Applications are due by 4 p.m. on April 30, 2013. No applications will be accepted after the deadline.

Neighborhood Roundtable by Debbie Johnson, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

With the advent of spring and the daylight savings time chant to "Spring Forward" on our clocks, we are ready to get up and out to play. Chattanooga is a town on the move and is always on the ready with things for residents and guests to do.

Brian Smith, Public Relations Coordinator for the Chattanooga Parks and Recreation Department was on hand to talk about the many activities and programs offered by his department. Chattanooga's recreation centers offer many programs that range from student tutoring, homework help and active sports programs to adult fitness classes and crafts activities. It is a challenge to get the word out to all of Chattanooga's residents. In these tight economic times, it is an even bigger challenge to stay within a budget. Mr. Smith utilizes technology to promote and inform, using the department's website, email distribution lists, flyers, talk radio and television news programs. So he asked for our help to make sure that we share information with our neighbors-help get the word out. Mr. Smith also invited us to make suggestions on how he may improve communications to the residents. If you want more information or desire to make helpful suggestions, you may contact Mr. Smith at 643-6096 or email smith_br@chattanooga.gov. Be sure to check out the Chattanooga's Parks and Recreation Department at www.chattanooga.gov and don't forget to tell your neighbors.

With the weather getting warmer there will be more traffic on the roads. It was very timely that Mr. John Van Winkle, Chattanooga's Traffic Engineer, provided an overview of the Traffic Engineering Division of the

Join us at the next Neighborhood Roundtable

**May 8
1:00 p.m.**

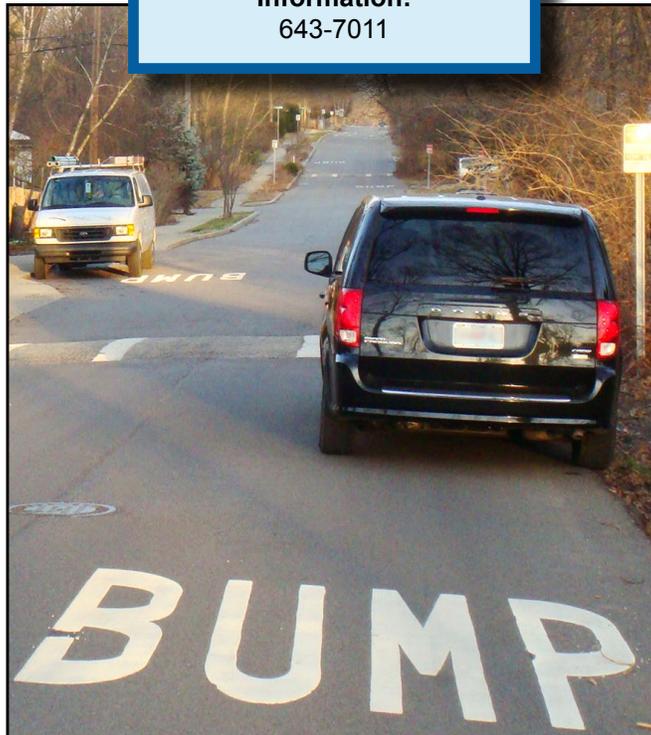
Mayor's Conference Room
3rd Floor City Hall
101 East 11th Street

For more information about
Traffic Engineering Division:

Traffic Operations:
call 311 to report signs down
or signal malfunctions.

Traffic Engineering:
call 311 or 643-5950 to
request traffic studies
(including the Neighborhood
Traffic Management program)

**Drivers Education
Information:**
643-7011



City's Public Works Department. Mr. Van Winkle talked about Traffic Operations and Traffic Administration. Traffic Operations oversees the construction and maintenance of traffic control devices, such as the construction and maintenance of over 400 signalized intersections, school and flashing beacons; coordinated signal control using computer systems to keep traffic moving; the fabrication, installation and maintenance of traffic signs and directional signs; and pavement markings and line striping.

Traffic Administration oversees engineering designs to include the creation of signal, sign, and work zone traffic control plans to the design review and approval of various site plans and subdivisions. They also conduct traffic counts and speed studies to determine daily traffic volumes and habits. This information is then utilized to upgrade intersections to reduce accidents, adjust timing or turn issues at intersections or to make changes in signing or pavement markings to ensure the safety of motorists and pedestrians. They are also responsible for guardrail designs, street lighting, and Neighborhood Traffic Management. The Neighborhood Traffic Management program assists residents in dealing with speeding issues in their neighborhood. Speed humps or speed cushions are but just one of a number of options considered for traffic calming in the neighborhoods.

Additionally, Traffic Administration oversees the permitting process for special events, neighborhood block parties and other street closures as well as the Driver's Education Program.

Neighborly News from...

Wheeler Avenue Neighborhood Association

by Karen D. Clay, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

Wheeler Avenue Neighborhood Association Watch has been in existence for a few years, and has certainly been busy with efforts to take back their neighborhood and engage residents in activities. One of the association's main driving force is the close knit bond they have for each other. If a family crisis arises the association comes together to send a sympathy card or a beautiful garden dish to let residents know the association is thinking of them and their loved ones.

Recently, Wheeler Avenue Neighborhood Watch applied for funding from the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development to implement a neighborhood pride project. The group selected house banners as their project. They polled residents and were able to come up with a house banner residents can display and show a sense of pride in the Wheeler Avenue neighborhood. Displaying house banners hopefully will stimulate interest and motivate residents to want to build cohesiveness in the neighborhood.

The president, along with the members, welcome all who wish to work to build and strengthen their association. Join them at their regular monthly neighborhood meeting the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Avondale Recreation Center.



Meadowbrook Heights Neighborhood Watch



by Ty Armour, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

One morning in 1995, a stolen car was left in front of Ms. Georgia Eastman's home. In the weeks that followed it became clear - something had to be done. The idea persisted that a neighborhood watch needed to be started. Ms. Eastman resisted the idea for a while but she finally sat down and wrote a one page letter to all the residents in the 50 house neighborhood. She walked around on a hot July afternoon handing out the letter and asking the question "Does anyone want to form a neighborhood watch?" and over half of the neighborhood said YES! They held their first meeting in a nearby dance studio and a chairman and committee were elected.

Some years later a friend asked if they were registered with the City of Chattanooga as a neighborhood association. They immediately took steps to register as Meadowbrook Heights Neighborhood Watch. As a registered neighborhood association, they were able to apply for a grant with the Department of Neighborhood Services to improve the entrance to their neighborhood. The City Forester replaced the breaking Bradford Pear trees with six cherry trees which have pretty blossoms in the springtime. Eight to ten neighbors take turns mowing the grass on the median to maintain the beautiful entrance.

There are no scheduled meeting dates. The association generally meet two or three times a year, but the committee is active year round. They email residents whenever they need to share information with them. Those who do not have email are called by a member of the telephone committee. On occasions when it is necessary to notify all neighbors of a situation quickly, the chairman calls the 7 members on the telephone committee and they each call the neighbors on their individual lists. Within 15 minutes everyone knows.

Over the years Meadowbrook Heights has held a variety of meetings and gatherings ranging from barbecue cookouts to hot chocolate and cookies socials. The biggest blessing of the Meadowbrook Heights Neighborhood Watch is the fellowship that quickly developed and continues to grow. Everyone looks out for everyone.

Neighborly News from.

Parks & Recreation

Youth and Adult Sports Signups and Fun!

Sign your child up for FREE Baseball at Community Centers in Chattanooga. Boys and girls, ages 5-12 can play...and no experience is needed. RBI program begins in May with games at Warner Park all summer...but you must sign up by April 6th. Just stop by your local center or call 643-6055!

OR...how about Adult Softball or Adult Kickball? That's right, sign your team up today! Spring Softball will be held at beautiful Summit of Softball and Kickball games held at the beautifully restored Warner Park! Call Richard West at 643-6055 by April 16th!

And join Chattanooga Parks and Recreation and Hamilton County Department of Health for a FREE PLAY DAY at Warner Park on April 2nd, starting at 3:30, with a Fire Academy Fitness Display, then you have your chance to have fun on the new Health Trail at Warner Park...15 Outdoor Fitness Stations...but the fun doesn't stop there, as we encourage you to join us for an Free OUTDOOR Zumbathon at 5:30pm. All at Warner Park, next to the zoo!



Chattanooga Public Library

The Chattanooga Public Library offers free computer classes for adults. Get the skills you need to find job postings, create text documents, or stay in touch with friends by email. Other topics may range from how to fill out an on-line job application to learning how to use an iPad or other tablet. Participants may choose to learn how to download library books to their eReaders.

Classes are offered on Thursdays and Saturdays, every other week, 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., at the Downtown Library, 1001 Broad Street. For more information, visit the Public Library - Downtown or call 757-5310. Classes will be held April 11, 13, 25, 27, May 9, 11, 23, and 25.

Outdoor Chattanooga and Chattanooga Green Trips invite you to: Get on a Bike and Ride!

Chattanooga Tweed Ride

A free, guided bicycle ride in fashionable attire
Monday, April 15 at 6:00 p.m.
Warehouse Row Plaza

3 Rides 3 'Hoods

Free, guided neighborhood bike rides with guest speakers and engaging conversations
Sunday, May 5 Join in for 1, 2, or all 3 rides.
9 a.m. North Chattanooga (Outdoor Chattanooga)
10:30 a.m. Downtown (Outdoor Chattanooga)
1:30 p.m. St. Elmo (Community Playground)

For more info: Email mild_c@chattanooga.gov



Bring your own bike or rent a Bike share

City of Chattanooga Curbside Recycle Containers Available

The Department of Public Works now offers 96-gallon roll-out recycle containers for curbside recycle collection customers. The containers are the same size and structure as existing garbage containers. Customers may receive up to two recycle containers for a one-time cost of \$50 each.

Customers who have more than one garbage container at their property may exchange one for a recycle container at no charge. Customers can still participate in curbside recycle collection without maintaining a city issued recycle container by placing recyclable materials on the curb in blue bags or clearly marked containers.

To request a container call 311 or 423-425-6311.



Announcements

PUBLIC NOTICE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDING FY 2013-2014

The City of Chattanooga, as a HUD Entitlement community, has available the following funds:
CDBG-\$1,900,000; HOME-\$700,000; and Program Income-\$400,000; for a total of \$ 3,000,000.

All funds are contingent upon final approval by HUD and the Tennessee Housing Development Agency.

The following projects were approved for funding by the City Council on March 19, 2013, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013 thru June 30, 2014:

Catholic Charities of East Tennessee Housing Counseling	\$9,100
Funding to supplement the operation of organization's housing counseling program.	
Chattanooga Community Housing Development Organization (CCHDO)	\$131,000
Operation of a program to provide new roofs to eligible low to moderate income homeowners.	
Chattanooga Regional Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care	\$25,000
Assist with costs related to the preparation and coordination of the Continuum of Care application process.	
Chattanooga Homeless Coalition	\$34,000
HMIS: Match for HUD funding to provide the HMIS and the web-based community voicemail programs linking homeless individuals and families to services.	
Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise, Inc. (CNE)	\$300,000
Funding to assist approximately 18 homeowners with home improvements.	
Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise, Inc. (CNE)	\$36,967
Homeowner Improvement Program: To support the Chattanooga Foreclosure Prevention Housing Hotline and the Foreclosure Prevention Counseling Program.	
Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise, Inc. (CNE)	\$300,000
Homebuyer Assistance Program: To provide down payment assistance to approx. 22 low-moderate income households.	
Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development- Administration	\$380,000
To cover administrative costs related to managing grant funds and programs.	
Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development-Debt Service-Loan Repayment	\$425,000
To cover interest and principal payments on Section 108 Loan.	
Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development-Code Enforcement	\$75,000
To eliminate slum and blight in low/moderate income census tracts through the demolition of substandard structures. Funds will be used to demolish 10 to 20 structures.	
Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development-Rental Housing Rehabilitation	\$50,000
Partnering with private rental property owners in the renovation of substandard units, making them decent, safe, affordable and available to low-moderate income renters.	
Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development-Home Repairs	\$15,000
Home repair project in partnership with the World Changers Organization to assist forty (40) low-moderate income, elderly households with minor home repairs.	
Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development-Home Again Program	\$200,000
To create approximately ten (10) units of permanent, supportive rental housing for individuals and families facing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless.	
Department of Public Works	\$292,375
Sidewalk Installation & Replacement: To install/replace sidewalks in eligible census tracts.	
Department of Public Works	\$20,000
Sanitary Lateral Assessment Program: To provide assistance for sewer lateral repair/or replacement to qualified homeowners.	
Family Promise Of Greater Chattanooga	\$25,000
Centralized Intake Program: Providing support for the one-stop, accessible intake service for homeless or near homeless individuals and families to get securely connected to services.	
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Chattanooga	\$387,000
To supplement the construction of seven (7) energy-efficient homes in "The Villages of Alton Park" on Canary Circle.	
Partnership for Family, Children & Adults	\$7,625
To supplement costs for a building project. Funds to be used for concrete and soil testing, permits and bonds.	
Grand Total	\$3,000,000

The projects noted herein were approved by the City Council in an open public meeting on March 19, 2013. The Action Plan, which provides complete details on funding and activities for FY 2013-2014, will be available for review and comments beginning April 1, 2013, through May 1, 2013. Citizens wishing to comment regarding these projects or 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.

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.

Written comments must be received by May 1, 2012.

***Funding amounts do not include projected 5% cuts as a result of Federal Sequestration Order.**

April Calendar of Events

Monday April 1

6:00pm – 7:00pm	Spring Valley Charitable Corporation
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Northside/Cherokee Community Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Battery Heights Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Wheeler Avenue Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 8:00pm	Chattanooga Organized for Action
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Hill City Neighborhood Association
6:30pm – 7:30pm	East Lake Neighborhood Association
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Murray Hills Neighborhood Association
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Community Association of Historic St. Elmo

Tuesday April 2

6:00pm – 7:00pm	Bushtown Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Shawnee Hills Neighborhood Association
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Forest Plaza Neighborhood Association

Wednesday April 3

10:00am – 11:00am	Board of Zoning Appeals
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Thursday April 4

9:00am – 10:00am	Environmental Court
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Alton Park Development Corporation
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Glenwood Neighborhood Watch
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Lookout Valley Neighborhood Association

Sunday April 7

6:00pm – 7:00pm	Hemphill Neighborhood Association
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Shepherd Community Council

Monday April 8

6:00pm – 8:00pm	Chattanooga Organized for Action
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Jefferson Heights Neighborhood Association
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Fairfax-Bagwell Neighborhood Association

Tuesday April 9

5:00pm – 6:00pm	Foxwood Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Indian Hills Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Sector 2 CPIC Meeting
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Glass Farms Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Alton Park Piney Woods Neighborhood Association
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Biltmore Neighborhood Association

Wednesday April 10

11:00am – 12:00pm	East Lake Senior Citizens
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Thursday April 11

9:00am – 10:00am	Environmental Court
6:00pm – 8:00pm	North Hixson Neighborhood Association
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Clifton Hills Improvement Committee
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Belvoir Neighborhood Association
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Sector 3 CPIC Meeting
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Fort Wood Neighborhood Association
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Cedar Hill Improvement League
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Martin Luther King Neighborhood Association

Monday April 15

5:30pm – 6:30pm	Villages at Alton Park Neighborhood Watch
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Washington Hills Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	North Brainerd Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Avondale Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 8:00pm	Chattanooga Organized for Action

Tuesday April 16

6:00pm – 7:00pm	Orchard Knob Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Hickory Creek Townhome Association
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Cloverdale Neighborhood Association

Thursday April 18

9:00am – 10:00am	Environmental Court
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Dogwood Village Homeowner's Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Brainerd Park North Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Southside Chattanooga Oak Hills Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Menlo Neighborhood Association
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Olde Town Brainerd Neighborhood Association

Monday April 22

6:00pm – 8:00pm	Chattanooga Organized for Action
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Oak Grove Neighborhood Association

Thursday April 25

9:00am – 10:00am	Environmental Court
4:30pm – 5:30pm	South Broad Redevelopment Group
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Woodmore Manor Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Glenwood Neighborhood Association
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Ridgedale Community Association

Monday April 29

6:00pm – 8:00pm	Chattanooga Organized for Action
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For more information on these events and all registered neighborhood association meeting dates go to Neighborhood Services at <http://www.chattanooga.gov> and check our Calendar of Events