

A Newsletter from the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development

“Building Better Neighborhoods... Block By Block”

COMMON GROUND



Neighborhood Partners Program Awards

The Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development is pleased to announce 28 neighborhood associations were awarded funds through the Neighborhood Partners Program.

The purpose of the Neighborhood Partners Program (NPP) is to provide assistance to neighborhood projects that substantially, positively and measurably impact the community. The program is open to neighborhood associations and neighborhood-based groups located within the Chattanooga city limits

Congratulations to the recipients for the 2012-2013 Neighborhood Partners Program:



District 2

- Cloverdale Neighborhood Association
- Fairfax-Bagwell Neighborhood Association
- Stuart Heights Neighborhood Association

District 3

- North Hixson Neighborhood Association

District 4

- Ashwood Homeowner Association
- Audubon Neighborhood Association

District 5

- King Oak Neighborhood Association
- North Brainerd Sunshine Neighborhood Association
- Washington Hills Neighborhood Association
- Woodmore Manor Neighborhood Association

District 6

- Belvoir Neighborhood Association
- Brainerd Park North Neighborhood Association
- Shepherd Community Action Council

District 7

- Alton Park-Piney Woods Neighborhood Association
- Clifton Hills Improvement Committee
- Cedar Hill Improvement League
- Community Association of Historic St. Elmo
- East Lake Neighborhood Association
- Ridgedale Community Association
- Southside Cowart Place Neighborhood Association

District 8

- Fort Wood Neighborhood Association
- Oak Grove Neighborhood Watch Association
- Wheeler Avenue Neighborhood Watch

District 9

- Foxwood Heights Neighborhood Association
- Glass Farms Neighborhood Association
- Glenwood Neighborhood Association
- Menlo Park Neighborhood Association
- Missionary Ridge Neighborhood Association

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Neighborhood Services and Community Development

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- Anthony Sammons, Deputy Administrator
- Sandra Gober, Manager, Community Development
- Dottie Brewer, Editor, *Common Ground*

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

East Lake Rocks - Again

On November 9, Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprises and Allied Visual Arts celebrated the second annual My Neighborhood Rocks video contest with a video premiere at Miller Plaza's Waterhouse Pavilion. It was a tough competition this year, but you cast your votes, and the top three in this year's contest were:

Second Runner Up - Glenwood

First Runner Up - Highland Park

Grand Prize winner of \$5000 - East Lake

Congratulations to all the neighborhood associations that submitted videos this year. They were all great, if you haven't seen them yet, go to myneighborhoodrocks.com. Stay tuned for details on next year's competition.



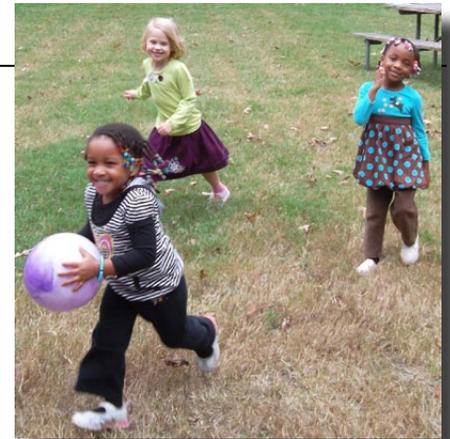
Neighborhood Reflections

Karen D. Clay, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

When I reflect upon my past, I think about running and playing in the neighborhood, going to the neighborhood store, walking to the community school and church, and playing with my friends.

Often we get so busy going about our daily routine; working, going to church, shopping, sports, and school; that we don't think a great deal of what has or what can happen in the community. Imagine if you just took a quiet moment to reflect on your neighborhood. Have you thought of all the amenities that many neighborhoods offer such as playgrounds, parks, community gardens, walking tracks, restaurants, and small business? Neighborhoods have evolved over the years and have changed demographically. As you drive through various neighborhoods you can see unique sign toppers, community markers, house banners, community meeting reminders and yard signs, which display pride and have become a conversation piece.

We are fast approaching the beginning of another year and now would be a good time to reflect on how we can make our neighborhoods a better place to live, work and play. Ask yourself how can my input make a difference? How can inviting my neighbor to our neighborhood meetings make an impact on the meetings? Take a moment and reflect on the history, uniqueness and the future of your neighborhood. Get involved, invite your neighbor(s) and not just come to the neighborhood meeting but become active in the meetings. Let's not let crime be the reflection and the centerpiece of our neighborhoods. Have a good and safe holiday and I hope to see you at a neighborhood meeting.



Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator

Administrator's Letter

We want to extend holiday greetings to all Chattanooga neighborhoods. We hope that your holidays are safe, joyous and spent with friends and loved ones.

It has been another constructive year for the department. We have finished the 2012 round of Neighborhood Partners Program projects, and have chosen the recipients for 2013. World Changers repaired 31 homes for those in need. Community Development built 21 new homes, renovated 13 homes and provided funding for the development of a 48 unit housing complex through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The Neighborhood Leadership Institute graduated 15 new leaders. The department's code enforcement software was upgraded to enable inspectors to streamline much of their work while in the field. All this was accomplished while performing our regular duties of code enforcement and neighborhood relations.

We look forward to starting all over again to make next year as productive as the past year. We couldn't do it all without the participation of neighbors like you... keep up the good work!

Winter Pet Safety

from *Molly Ward, Larimer Humane Society*
and *Dr. Karen Becker, Healthy Pets*

As the temperature drops and snowflakes begin to fall, our pets—like us—will seek refuge from winter's chill. While we can easily put on warm jackets and hats to stay toasty, please remember our pets rely on us to make sure they are not left out in the cold. There are many simple things you can do to make sure your cat or dog stays safe and cozy this winter season. Here are a few great things to keep in mind:

Exposure to Cold

If your dog spends time outdoors, make sure he has access to a doghouse with a raised floor where he can stay warm, dry and protected from the elements. Older dogs and pooches with short coats get chilled faster than younger dogs and long-haired canines, so it's a good idea to limit their exposure and bring them in sooner from the cold. If the temperature dips below 20°F, it is recommended that pets not be left outside. Be sure to bring pets indoors at night when the temperature is often at its coldest.

Anitfreeze is Tasty

Did you know that antifreeze and windshield de-icer are both sweet-tasting? Sadly, they're also highly toxic to pets, so check your driveway and garage floor regularly for drips. Contact your veterinarian immediately if your pet ingests these chemicals.

Water Bowls Freeze

Monitor outside water bowls frequently to ensure that water hasn't frozen and that your pet has fresh drinking water available at all times. To prevent your pet's tongue from sticking to a frozen metal water bowl, consider choosing plastic or ceramic bowls instead for outside use.

Ice Melt is Toxic on Paws

During the winter season, regularly check the underside of your pet's feet for ice-melter, which can irritate or burn the pads of the feet and can be poisonous if ingested.

Brushing Helps

Brush your pet's coat regularly to keep skin moisturized in the cold winter air.

Check for Cat Napping in Warm Vehicles

Finally, keep in mind that outdoor cats may curl up under cars to in order to escape the cold and soak up the heat of a car engine. Before starting your vehicle when heading off to work, tap on the hood and check inside the tires to make sure that a feline has not taken refuge overnight.



The holidays present their own hazards to your pets. Here are a few guidelines for indoor safety:

Decorations

Secure your Christmas tree by screwing a hook into the wall or ceiling and running string or fishing line around the tree trunk and fastened to the hook. This will anchor your tree and prevent it from being tipped or pulled over by a curious cat or a rambunctious dog. It will also keep water at the base of the tree from spilling. Stagnant tree water can harbor bacteria and isn't something your pet should be drinking, so make sure it isn't easily accessible.

Place electrical cords, wires and batteries out of your pet's reach to prevent a potentially deadly electrical shock or burns from a punctured battery.

Especially if you are owned by a cat, skip the tinsel. It's a real temptation for kitties because it's sparkly and fun to bat around. But ingestion of tinsel can obstruct your pet's GI tract and bring on vomiting. If the situation is dire, surgery could be required to remove the tangle of tinsel inside your pet and repair any damage.

Also forego breakable tree ornaments. Glass shards can injure pet paws, mouths, and can be very dangerous if swallowed.

Candles are very popular holiday décor, but make sure to never leave lighted candles unattended.

Food and Drink

Pets and sweets don't mix, so make sure your dog or cat has zero access to holiday goodies like candy, cookies, chocolate and other sugary foods, including any food that is artificially sweetened.

Beverages should also be kept out of your pet's reach. Beer, wine and liquor can make your dog or cat quite ill, and can even be life threatening.

It's also a good idea to keep pets separated from tipsy guests. So if the party is getting lively, it's your cue to tuck your four-legged family member away in a safe, quiet location of the house.

There's Help in the Time of Need

Notes from the November Roundtable Meeting by Ty Armour, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

Asking for help doesn't always come naturally - particularly for those who let pride get in the way of those who simply may not be aware that a helping hand is out there, just waiting for you to grab on. In times of need, however, particularly when you need help with bills, it's time to take some action. The November Neighborhood Roundtable featured speakers providing information about the State of Tennessee's Property Tax Relief program and programs offered by the Social Services and Emergency Services Division of the City of Chattanooga's Human Services Department.

Mary Jo McAfee, Property Tax Supervisor with the City of Chattanooga's Treasury Division shared information about Tennessee's Property Tax Relief program for elderly or disabled homeowners and veterans. To participate in the program, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

- Be 65 or older on or by the end of the calendar year that you are applying for assistance.
- Provide proof of age and/or annual income from all sources.
- If disabled, provide documentation of the disability.
- Own and use the property for which you are applying as your primary residence. The value of the property does not determine whether the applicant can apply; however the maximum market value on which tax relief is calculated will be on the first \$25,000. If the residence is a mobile home, a copy of the title or bill of sale is required.
- Combined 2011 annual income for applicant spouse and all other owners of the property cannot exceed \$26,830.

Ms. McAfee also stated that individuals may apply as soon as they receive their county and/or city property tax bill. The deadline to apply is 35 days after the jurisdiction's delinquency date. **In Chattanooga that date is April 5th.** Taxes must be paid by this time also. For application assistance contact the Hamilton County trustee, if property is within city limits, the applicant may also contact the city collecting official to apply.

For more information about the Property Tax Relief Program, call the City of Chattanooga's Treasury Division at (423) 757-5191, or the State Tax Relief Office at (615) 747-8871 or visit the website at www.tn.gov.

Camilla Bibbs-Lee, Director of Social Services and Emergency Services stated "We are here to share information with you concerning our Utility and Energy

Programs offered at Chattanooga Human Services Department, Social Services/Emergency Services Division. We wanted to equip you with information and resources that might be beneficial to families living in your communities." Ms. Bibbs-Lee was accompanied by members of her staff, who talked about the assistance opportunities that may benefit people in the communities.

Angela Daniels, Case Manager Coordinator, presented information on the Emergency Services Program. This program provides assistance to customers who are experiencing a crisis such as loss of job or illness. Funding for services come from various sources that include local and state government, Atlanta Gas & Light and The United Way. All services are designed to help families transition from a crisis mode to stability and eventually to self-sufficiency. Customers have to meet income guidelines and present verification of emergency.

Ms. Daniel discussed the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Counseling Program. HUD counseling is available by appointment for first time home buyers, renters or those in foreclosure due to loss of job or illness and need a way to keep their home.

Rachel Howard, LIHEAP Coordinator, shared information regarding the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). This program provides assistance to low income individuals and families with home energy bills. Applications are accepted daily and processed quarterly the months of July, October, January and April. Ms. Howard explained the applications can be obtained at the Social Services Office or online at www.tn.gov. Eligible customers must meet income guideline and provide a home energy bill.

Calandra Smith, Commodity Distribution Program Consultant, discussed the Commodity Distribution Program which is a quarterly program that provides supplemental food assistance to eligible households. Eligible customers must meet income guidelines and live within the Hamilton County. Persons receiving SSI, Food Stamp Assistance and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families are automatically eligible for services. Persons must apply a card prior to the supplemental food distribution.

For more information on these Social Services and Emergency Services programs, you may contact the Human Services Department at 757-5541 or visit www.chattanooga.gov.

**Join us at the next
Neighborhood
Roundtable
January 9, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.
Mayor's Conference Room
City Hall • 3rd Floor
101 East 11th Street**

Neighborly News from...

Stuart Heights Neighborhood Association

by Debbie Johnson, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

It is the fall season and with it comes that crispness in the air, filling both the body and mind with a renewal of energy and change. The leaves are turning into beautiful canopies, weekends are occupied with festivals and fellowship, and the ever present holidays to celebrate and enjoy. It is a busy time of year for everyone and it is a particularly busy time for the Stuart Heights Neighborhood Association (SHNA).

The daylight savings time motto may be to “fall back” in October but to the Stuart Heights Neighborhood Association it was more like the March motto to “spring forward!” The SHNA partnered with the St. Luke United Methodist Church (St. Luke UMC) and hosted a “Trunk or Treat” party. Free hot dogs were provided along with the popular play inflatable house and slides that kids love to play on. Charlotte Freeman, President of the Stuart Heights Neighborhood Association said, “People decorated their cars, trucks and vans and handed out treats to the children. We had about 150 people attend with most coming from the community but some from neighboring communities. It was a good response and there was a lot of socializing for adults



Grownups and children alike enjoyed Stuart Heights “Trunk or Treat” party



and a safe Trick or Treat event for the children.” Not only did the kids get treats, but a prize was awarded for the best decorated ‘trunk’.

The Stuart Height Neighborhood Association promptly moved on in its partnership with the St. Luke UMC to planning the annual “Bags of Grace” event. This event allows neighbors to fill “Bags of Grace” with

socks, gloves, water and other personal items to be distributed to the homeless. Ms. Freeman said “activities also include the lighting of the “world’s smallest community tree” and singing of Christmas songs.” The event will be on December 2, 2012 beginning at 5:00 P.M. at the St. Luke United Methodist Church, 3210 Social Circle. The SHNA is accepting monetary and/or socks and glove donations for the “Bags of Grace”. Anyone wishing to donate items may contact the St. Luke UMC by calling 877-6447.

For more information about this event and other happenings in the Stuart Heights community check out the Stuart Heights Neighborhood Association on Facebook.



Neighborly News from...

Parks & Recreation



Let's face it, by the end of the holidays, YOU will be the one that is stuffed. Then comes the New Year and we all think the same thing. "I need to lose weight".

Chattanooga Parks and Recreation is proud to maintain a long history and a large variety of classes offered to all citizens of Chattanooga, however, we must first think "FUN" and not work, when it comes to exercise. When is the last time you went line dancing? Did the Electric Slide? Fun huh? Did you know we offer FREE Line Dancing Classes at Brainerd Community Center, Tuesday/Thursday at 6 p.m.? Glenwood Center, Monday/Wednesday at 6 p.m., East Chattanooga, Saturdays at 10 a.m. and the Chattanooga Fitness Center Tuesday/Thursday at 12:15 p.m.? Check out our video!

Line dancing is only the beginning. Zumba classes are currently being offered at Hixson, Tyner, Patten Center and the Chattanooga Fitness Center at low cost.

Dancing in the Pool? That's what some think water fitness class is. And they lose weight. Water Fitness Classes are offered at both Brainerd Community

Center and South Chattanooga Center for only \$2! Open swim and lap swim available too!

Aerobics Class for all ages and skills offered at Glenwood, Avondale and Carver centers, weeknights starting at 5:30 p.m. Seniors, your options are endless with light and low aerobics, walking, 3 wheel bikes, shuffle boarding, badminton, pickle ball and more at several Community Centers throughout the City. Youth are welcome, too! Most classes FREE!

Remember, our classes are open to the public! Our activities focus on 'fun' and 'play'. Why pay for a membership? Chattanooga Parks and Recreation offers over 30 different ways to PLAY and lose weight. From water fitness to yoga to Zumba, we have it. For a list of activities, check out your local center, visit www.chattanooga.gov or call 643-6096 for more information about locations and times and follow us on [Facebook](#).

Chattanooga Police Fund For Homeownership

Abby Garrison, Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise

Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise is offering the Chattanooga Police Fund for Homeownership. The purpose of this fund is to promote homeownership among City of Chattanooga Police officers within the City limits by offsetting the initial costs of homeownership through a forgivable second mortgage.

About 58 percent of the city's sworn police officers live outside the city. A program like this could result in a lot more officers living where they work. It also makes residents feel safer if there is an officer living next door.

A sworn officer may receive \$10,000 toward the purchase of a home if they relocate from outside the City limits or transition from renting to owning anywhere in the City. An officer may receive \$20,000 if the home is located in featured area where revitalization efforts are currently underway. These areas include Glenwood, Ridgedale, Highland Park and Bushtown neighborhoods. Home purchased must be owner-occupied, single family residential.

The benefit comes in the form of a forgivable loan, 20% of which is forgiven each year over 5 years. If the officer leaves the force or sells the home within 5 years,

the remaining balance of the loan must be paid. The benefit may be combined with other CNE programs (total cannot exceed purchase price or appraisal, plus closing costs).

For more information about the Chattanooga Police Fund for Homeownership, visit www.cneinc.org or contact Abby Garrison at Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise, 756-6201 or email her at info@cneinc.org.



Announcements



FREE Home Repair

World Changers Applications will be available January 14

call 425-3700 or come by City Hall 101 East 11th Street, Suite 200

*Mayor Ron Littlefield and Chattanooga City Council
Invite you to the*

City of Chattanooga's Christmas Party

Friday, December 21, 2012

12 Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Bessie Smith Hall

*****No Early Admittance*****

Drivers Education Classes Spring 2013

Course schedule and application forms for the City of Chattanooga Drivers Education Program will be posted online at www.chattanooga.gov beginning Monday, December 3, 2012.

Due to the popularity of this program, there is a very brief opportunity to enroll before classes reach capacity. It is recommended that interested students and their parents visit the webpage as soon as possible to submit an application.

Public Library Downtown

1001 Broad St

4 consecutive Saturdays 9:00 - 4:45

February 23, March 2, 9 & 16, 2013

Hixson Community Center

5400 School Drive

Spring Break, March 25, 26, 27 & 26; 2013

Monday through Thursday 9:00 - 4:45

Tyner Community Center

6900 Ty Hi Drive

Spring Break, March 25, 26, 27 & 26; 2013

Monday through Thursday 9:00 - 4:45

For more information, call the Drivers Education information line at 423-643-7011 or call 311.



We can bring this class to your neighborhood, either as a seminar or a class plus bicycle ride. All equipment provided. It's FREE!

Street Smarts

**Don't Just Ride Your Bicycle.
Drive It!**



With a few tips and tricks from the experts, you can learn how to drive your bicycle confidently and predictably in traffic.

(423) 643-6888

ruth@outdoorchattanooga.com

December Calendar of Events

Sunday December 2	
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Hemphill Neighborhood Association
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Shepherd Community Council
Monday December 3	
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 December 4	
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Bushtown Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Shawnee Hills Neighborhood Association
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Forest Plaza Neighborhood Association
Wednesday December 5	
10:00am – 11:00am	Board of Zoning Appeals
Thursday December 6	
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
Monday December 10	
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 December 11	
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 December 12	
11:00am – 12:00pm	East Lake Senior Citizens

Thursday December 13	
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
Friday December 14	
2:00pm – 5:00pm	2nd Annual Southside Community Parade
Monday December 17	
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 December 18	
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Orchard Knob Neighborhood Association
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Cloverale Neighborhood Association
Thursday December 20	
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
Tuesday December 25	
Christmas - City Hall Closed	
Thursday December 27	
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 December 31	
6:00pm – 8:00pm	Chattanooga Organized for Action

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