



A Newsletter from the Department of Economic and Community Development



"Building Better Neighborhoods... Block By Block"

# COMMON GROUND



## Hello World Changers!

by Vanessa A. Jackson,  
Neighborhood Program Specialist

As the Department of Economic and Community Development prepares for the arrival of World Changers during the weeks of July 8 through July 20, we are filled with excitement and gratitude. A ministry of the North American Mission Board of Southern Baptist and Lifeway Student Ministries, World Changers will bring over 700 volunteers to our city during that period to perform free repairs on 30 homes within the Chattanooga city limits. The recipients, low to moderate income families, senior citizens and disabled homeowners, gleefully anticipate the improvements to their most valuable asset: their home.

The Department of Economic and Community Development is constantly receiving requests from homeowners looking for reputable home repair at a minimal cost or free of charge. While there are non-profits and organizations within the city that provide free home repair, the truth is they are few and far between and each source has its own selection criteria and process.

If we were to encounter a genie that would grant three wishes relevant to the mission of our department, one wish would be that our city could become better equipped with an arsenal of resources for low to moderate income families, senior citizens and disabled homeowners who are in need of home repairs. In reality, the



City of Chattanooga is fortunate for its partnership with at least one organization that meets this overwhelming need, while demonstrating standards of workmanship and servanthood.

Many Chattanooga citizens may not be aware of the qualities that make this program so unique:

### Youth Driven

Youth between the ages of 12-18 years is the fuel that drives every World Changers project. By the end of the summer, World Changers youth will serve 74 projects in 65 cities across *continued on page 2*

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#### Neighborhood Services and Community Development

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

101 East 11th Street, Suite 200, Chattanooga, TN 37402

Donna C. Williams, Administrator  
Anthony O. 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](mailto:brewer_d@chattanooga.gov)

## Hello World Changers

the United States with free labor. These young people are spending a large part of their summer vacations travelling around the country to serve others.

### Adult Supervision and Apprenticeship

World Changers successful mobilization of youth is not the only aspect of the program that deserves bragging rights. Much of their success is due to the willingness, patience and sacrifice of adults willing to share both their construction skills and Christian principles with the youth participants while broadening the youth's knowledge of construction techniques. The project also teaches what young people can do to better the environment in which they live.

### Partnership and the Leveraging Resources

The partnership between World Changers and the City of Chattanooga for the last 12 years has been successful due to the phenomenal support from various other partners who believed in the program and were committed to making it successful. Brainerd Baptist Church has hosted lodging for the last several years and various churches throughout the city provided the volunteers with lunches and snacks throughout the course of the project while other local partners provided other forms of valuable support.

### Visual Impact

The improvements that World Changers makes upon the individual homes and the community that they serve is a sight to behold. Since their first project in 2001, World Changers has improved the living conditions of over 350 homeowners. These repairs breathe new life and vitality



into our city as a whole and in many ways start a rippling of pride and investment in our neighborhoods.

Wouldn't it be simply wonderful if more youth in our city could take part in World Changers or be mobilized to engage in a program that provided home repairs to citizens of Chattanooga on a year round basis? Think about it!

Meanwhile, if you happen to see a group of World Changers volunteers at work during the two weeks of this project painting houses, building a ramp, performing carpentry or some other form of repair, please join us in thanking them for the unparalleled impact that they make upon the hearts, homes and landscape of Chattanooga. Take a moment to talk to these young men and women about their experiences and their mission. We guarantee you'll walk away with the most profound impact of World Changers - a positive feeling about today's youth.



*Donna C. Williams, Administrator*

## A Letter from the Administrator

A couple of weeks ago Dottie Brewer, editor of this publication, brought me the most gorgeous and fragrant magnolia bloom I'd ever seen. Its beauty and aroma were only outshined by its enormous size. It was a delightful gift shared by one neighbor to another. You see, Dottie's office is right next to mine.

During the course of the day our team members passed my office in route to copiers, printers or their offices. But, nearly all of them slowed down just a bit to take a look at the bloom or to comment on the soothing scent that was floating throughout.

Like most neighborly deeds that are done as gestures of friendship, thoughtfulness and support, that single gesture had a ripple effect throughout our office community. It also made me think about how a single paint job, mowed lawn or repaired fence can have a positive influence on the moods and opinions of others as they pass through our neighborhoods. In fact, these small actions can even fuel revitalization.

So, let's all do something for our neighbor and see what a shift it can make.

# 13 Ways To Make Your Neighborhood Better

We all want to be better neighbors — or at least have better neighbors. But what can we do? How do you build a better community for yourself and your family? The answer is actually quite simple; get to know your neighbors. Just interacting with the people you live near can significantly strengthen your community and spur organization.

Ashe Urban, a community outreach coordinator at the SE Uplift Neighborhood Coalition in Portland, Oregon, has seen firsthand how community involvement leads to better neighborhoods. “Civic engagement doesn’t have to be about meetings and city hall,” Urban says. “It doesn’t have to be a stodgy, administrative, nerdy thing. Anything that gets neighbors out talking gives them solidarity and power.”



*A poetry post*

Here are 13 ways to get your neighbors working together:

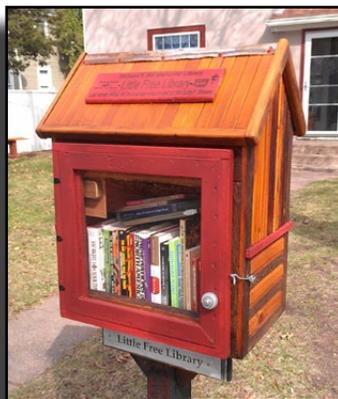
1. Make a poetry post or box. The idea is simple, really: create a box with a glass or clear plastic front. Put this box on a post or tree. Write your own poem or print out your favorite classic and display it in the box for all your neighbors to see. You can set up a drop box and encourage neighbors to write their own poems and post them as they come in.

2. Set up a tool library. How often do you need a leaf blower? Or a chain saw? How often do you use that electric cake mixer? Tool libraries answer

this dilemma by creating a space where neighbors can donate rarely used appliances to share. Check with a local business, community center or church group about space that can house a tool library.

3. Set up a free book library in your neighborhood. [Houzz.com](http://Houzz.com) has some great ideas and plans for making your own Little Free Library.

4. Turn your front yard into your backyard. How often do you run into your neighbors in your backyard? Probably never. Moving your typical backyard activity to the front instantly makes you more visible and approachable. Establishing front-yard gardens, building community benches and even just barbecuing in your front yard are great ways to connect.



*A Little Free Library*

5. Set up an emergency preparedness network. If disaster strikes it’s important to have people who know what to do. Establishing a common meeting space, appointing community members to take on various roles and having supplies ready can help strengthen your neighborhood and make things less chaotic should that day ever come.

6. Organize a garden tour. Got a thriving garden? Why not share it with others? Organize a neighborhood garden tour and invite neighbors to check out one another’s gardens to learn growing tips, sample fresh produce and mingle.



*A garden tour*

7. Plant a tree. Maybe it’s an intersection or a street corner that lacks greenery, or maybe it’s a neighbor in need of some landscaping, but planting trees is a good way to overhaul your neighborhood and build ties with neighbors.

8. Throw a block party. There’s no better way to get to know your neighbors than over food and drinks. For \$25, you can get a special events permit from [Public Works](http://PublicWorks) to close off your street.

9. Tell a story. Neighbors can get together for storytelling nights at coffee shops, recreation centers or homes to tell stories about things that have happened in their neighborhood. It’s a great way to hear about your neighbors’ lives and get to know them.

10. Go for more walks and bike rides. One of the best, easiest things you can do to get to know your neighbors is hit the pavement more often.

11. Carpool. Set up a ride share in your neighborhood to save gas and money and to get to know your neighbors.

12. Buy and shop locally. You’re more likely to run into members of your community if you shop at a neighborhood grocery store, produce stand, or retail store.

13. Brand your neighborhood. It’s important for communities to feel important and establish an identity. Neighborhood Services can help! We can assist with designing logos, banners and sign toppers to identify your neighborhood.

## Keep Cool When it's Hot

from [MedicineNet.com](http://MedicineNet.com)

Keeping cool when temperatures reach record highs isn't just about comfort. Dangerously high temperatures can result in heat-related illnesses ranging from heat cramps to heat exhaustion and heat stroke. The following tips can help you keep cool all summer long.

- Alter your pattern of outdoor exercise to take advantage of cooler times (early morning or late evening). If you can't change the time of your workout, scale it down by doing fewer minutes, walking instead or running, or decreasing your level of exertion.
- Wear loose-fitting clothing, preferably of a light color.
- Cotton clothing will keep you cooler than many synthetics.
- Fill a spray bottle with water and keep it in the refrigerator for a quick refreshing spray to your face after being outdoors.
- Fans can help circulate air and make you feel cooler even in an air-conditioned house.
- Try storing lotions or cosmetic toners in the refrigerator to use on hot, overtired feet.
- Keep plastic bottles of water in the freezer; grab one when you're ready to go outside. As the ice melts, you'll have a supply of cold water with you.
- Take frequent baths or showers with cool or tepid water.
- Combat dehydration by drinking plenty of water along with sports drinks or other sources of electrolytes.
- Some people swear by small, portable, battery-powered fans. At an outdoor event I even saw a version that attaches to a water bottle that sprays a cooling mist.



- I learned this trick from a tennis pro: if you're wearing a cap or hat, remove it and pour a bit of ice cold water into the hat, then quickly invert it and place on your head.
- Avoid caffeine and alcohol as these will promote dehydration.
- Instead of hot foods, try lighter summer fare including frequent small meals or snacks containing cold fruit or low fat dairy products. As an added benefit, you won't have to cook next to a hot stove.
- If you don't have air-conditioning, arrange to spend at least parts of the day in a shopping mall, public library, movie theater, or other public space that is cool. Many cities have cooling centers that are open to the public on sweltering days.
- Finally, use common sense. If the heat is intolerable, stay indoors when you can and avoid activities in direct sunlight or on hot asphalt surfaces. Pay special attention to the elderly, infants, and anyone with a chronic illness, as they may dehydrate easily and be more susceptible to heat-related illnesses. Don't forget that pets also need protection from dehydration and heat-related illnesses too.

Mark  
Your  
Calendar!



[www.sceniccitystreetfest.com](http://www.sceniccitystreetfest.com)

# SCENIC CITY STREETFEST

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS  
OF CHATTANOOGA'S HISTORIC GLENWOOD

Labor Day Weekend

**AUGUST 30, 2013 – SEPTEMBER 1, 2013**

## Neighborly News from...

### History of the Shepherd Community

by Ty Armour, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

The Shepherd Community was established in 1877 as a sparsely settled agricultural area centered on the farm of the late Judge Lewis Shepherd. Judge Shepherd owned vast amounts of land, and as the need for more laborers increased, a portion of the farm was set aside for residences. This area is now known as the Shepherd Community.

At that time, the main road began at Shallowford Road and ran north to Old Cleveland Pike Road (perhaps now Bonny Oaks Drive). The railroad tracks that ran through this area were a way of transportation to and from work and other parts of the city for residents living there.

A small two room school on Airport Road known as the Chickamauga Elementary School provided an opportunity for the local children to learn to read and write. One teacher taught grades one through four while the principal taught grades five through eight. There were many successful people who attended the Chickamauga Elementary School such as Ms. Mamie Walton and Mr. Clarence Robinson, who both became well known teachers.

The Shepherd Community Council was awarded funding through the Neighborhood Partners Program to create sign toppers to go on top of various street signs in the community. In keeping with the importance of education, the streets in Shepherd are named after historically African-American colleges such as Clark, Fisk, Meharry, Spelman, Talladega and Tuskegee.

The Shepherd Community Council meets the first Sunday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Shepherd Recreation Center, 2124 E. Shepherd Road.

Shepherd Community  
Est. 1877

FISK AVE  
6000

SHEPHERD RD  
1700

### East Lake Cleans Up

by Debbie Johnson, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

As soon as the call for action was issued from Scenic Cities Beautiful Commission (SCBC) for neighborhoods to participate in the Great American Cleanup, the East Lake Neighborhood Association sprung into action.

Linda Richards, President of the East Lake Neighborhood Association, said, "The association decided to do more than just walk around and pick-up paper, bottles and cans. We chose a spot that would help many individuals in the area." The area was a double lot on South Orchard Knob between 33rd and 34th Street. The group cleaned out the overgrowth and litter and now they have a wonderful pathway for neighborhood walkers. "We plan on continuing to work this area to prevent the overgrowth from returning," said Richards.

Meanwhile, a dumpster provided by the SCBC was located at the East Lake Seniors parking lot and volunteers worked on cleaning the roadways and working with individual residents with yard cleanups.

"Creating, building and maintaining a clean and healthy neighborhood is just one of the many goals the



The before (left) and after (above) photos of the East Lake clean up area

East Lake Neighborhood Association is working on. We want to create an environment that not only fosters the physical beauty of our community, but also brings all our neighbors together in an atmosphere of trust and confidence in each other," stated Ms. Richards.

Neighborhoods interested in becoming part of the Great American Cleanup are encouraged to contact Ms. Jeanette Eigelsbach, Director of SCBC at 757-0061.

## Neighborly News from...

### Youth and Family Development

#### Free Movies in the Park

Popcorn and refreshments will be available for purchase, plus activities for the little ones till the movie starts, at dusk. The evening feature shown at the following locations will be about a video game villain who wants to be a hero and sets out to fulfill his dream, but his quest brings havoc to the whole arcade where he lives. A cute movie, not a wreck by any means! If your neighborhood association is interested in having a free movie shown in your neighborhood park, contact Brian Smith at 643-6096.

**East Lake Park** (In partnership with East Lake Neighborhood Association) Friday, July 12 at 9p.m. This movie will be in Spanish, with English subtitles.

**Riverview Park** (1000 Barton Avenue) Saturday, July 13 8:30p.m. Earlier in the day, Park Stewards will clean and polish Riverview Park at 10am. Volunteers are needed, all ages are welcome.

**Heritage Park** Friday, July 19 at 8:00p.m. Bring the lawn chairs, blankets, etc... most important, bring the FAMILY!!



#### FREE Bike Safety Events

For children and adults at Westside Recreation Center 12:30-2p.m.

**July 13 Rodeo:** Kids will receive new helmets and have their bikes inspected by mechanics. They will practice bike safety lessons about riding with friends, signaling, when to use the sidewalk, and how to share the road with cars. Ages 8-15.

**July 20 Safe Cycling:** Learn the basic pre-ride check and then practice your basic handling and avoidance drills. We'll finish the class with on-street instruction for lane positioning and intersection navigation. For adults and teens 16 and up.

**July 27 Fix A Flat:** Learn how to fix the most common mechanical problem yourself. Diagnose, repair, and prevent all types of flats on all types of bikes. For adults and teens 16 and up.

### Chattanooga Public Library

*By Justin Hoenke, Teen Librarian, Chattanooga Public Library*

In late April, we did a bit of reshuffling at the Chattanooga Public Library. That month, all of our tween and teen materials moved on up to the second floor as we began expanding the services we offer to kids, tweens, and teens ages 0-18.

For the past two months, we've been working nonstop on adding more materials and features to the second floor. In early May, we installed a fully functioning original Ms. Pac Man arcade machine. Our teens have been crowding around the arcade machine daily, trying to top the high score and get their name on the high score list. A lot of new friends have been made around the machine in such a short time. We also brought in a button maker for the tweens and teens to use. To say it has been popular is an understatement: it is *the* thing that the tweens and teens have been enjoying the most.

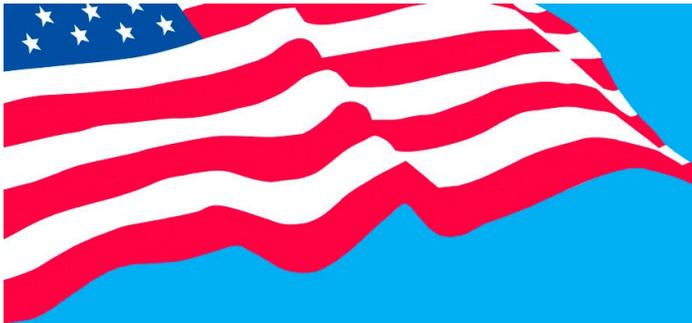
In two weeks, we'll begin our code camp, "DEV DEV <summer of code/>" which will teach 50 teens ages 12-18 all about programming, robots, and more. We'll be showing them just how important and exciting it is to have these skills as they grow up in the Gig City, home to the fastest internet in the western hemisphere. This program will give teens in our community an advantage as they head towards a future full of technology.

And to think... it's all happening here in our wonderful city of Chattanooga. Stay focused on what's going on at the library for our tweens and teens over at [teens.chattlibrary.org](http://teens.chattlibrary.org). The best is yet to come.



*Tweens and Teens use the popular button maker*

Announcements



**POPS**  
ON THE RIVER **2013**

**FREE** ON **JULY 3rd** AT **COOLIDGE**  
**CONCERT** ON **WEDNESDAY** AT **PARK**

\*\*\*\*\*  
8pm **CONCERT** - 9:45 pm **FIREWORKS**

**EASY ACCESS TO THE EVENT** → Free shuttle service from UNUM lots between 4th and 5th Streets to Coolidge Park from 6 pm to 11 pm. UNUM lots are pay-to-park.

Produced by **CHATTANOOGA PRESENTS**



**Outdoor Chattanooga**  
COME OUT AND PLAY!

**Chickamauga Battlefield Bicycle Tours**

July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 18, 2013  
9:30 a.m.  
Free  
Adults and kids ages 8 and older

[OutdoorChattanooga.com](http://OutdoorChattanooga.com)  
(423) 643-6888



City of Chattanooga  
Department of Economic and Community Development



**MCKAMEY ANIMAL CENTER**

**Sun. July 7th**  
**2:15pm**

Bring your dog to the Lookouts game to benefit McKamey Animal Center!

**Dogs On The Diamond**

**Neighborhood Talk**

A weekly radio show from the Department of Economic and Community Development

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

# July Calendar of Events

**Monday, July 1**

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

**Tuesday, July 2**

6:00 PM	Shawnee Hills Neighborhood Association
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**Wednesday, July 3**

10:00 AM	Board of Zoning Appeals
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**Friday, July 7**

6:00 PM	Hemphill Neighborhood Association
7:00 PM	Shepherd Community Council

**Monday, July 8**

7:00 PM	Fairfax-Bagwell Neighborhood Association
7:00 PM	Jefferson Heights Neighborhood Association
6:00 PM	Chattanooga Organized for Action

**Tuesday, July 9**

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

**Wednesday, July 10**

11:00 AM	East Lake Senior Citizens
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**Thursday, July 11**

7:00 PM	Cedar Hill Improvement League
6:30 PM	Clifton Hills Improvement Committee

**Thursday, July 11**

9:00 AM	Environmental Court
6:00 PM	Churchville Neighborhood Association
6:00 PM	North Hixson Neighborhood Association

**Thursday, July 11**

6:30 PM	Belvoir Neighborhood Association
6:30 PM	Sector 3 CPIC Meeting
7:00 PM	Fort Wood Neighborhood Association
7:00 PM	Martin Luther King Neighborhood Association

**Monday, July 15**

6:00 PM	Avondale Neighborhood Association
6:00 PM	Chattanooga Organized for Action
6:00 PM	Washington Hills Neighborhood Association
6:00 PM	North Brainerd Neighborhood Association

**Tuesday, July 16**

7:00 PM	Cloverale Neighborhood Association
6:00 PM	Hickory Creek Townhome Association
6:00 PM	Orchard Knob Neighborhood Association

**Thursday, July 18**

9:00 AM	Environmental Court
6:00 PM	Menlo Neighborhood Association
6:30 PM	Highland Park Neighborhood Association
6:00 PM	Southside Chattanooga Oak Hills Neighborhood Association
6:00 PM	Missionary Ridge Neighborhood Association
7:00 PM	Lake Chickamauga Association
6:00 PM	Dogwood Village Homeowner's Association
6:00 PM	Brainerd Park North Neighborhood Association
6:30 PM	Olde Town Brainerd Neighborhood Association

**Monday, July 22**

6:00 PM	Chattanooga Organized for Action
7:00 PM	Oak Grove Neighborhood Association

**Thursday, July 25**

7:00 PM	Ridgedale Community Association
4:30 PM	South Broad Redevelopment Group
9:00 AM	Environmental Court
6:00 PM	Glenwood Neighborhood Association
6:00 PM	Woodmore Manor Neighborhood Association

**Monday, July 29**

6:00 PM	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