



A Newsletter from the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development



“Building Better Neighborhoods... Block By Block”

COMMON GROUND



Donna C. Williams, Administrator

On May 28, City Council approved the appointment of Donna C. Williams for the position of Administrator to the Department of Economic and Community Development. A native of Chattanooga, Ms. Williams graduated from Brainerd High School and earned her Bachelor’s degree in Marketing from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She most recently served as the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Chattanooga. In addition to her leadership abilities, she brings a wealth of experience in real estate and neighborhood revitalization.

Ms. Williams has served as a strategy, sales and marketing consultant to several teams consisting of private and public partners for the redevelopment of some of Chattanooga’s historically under-served neighborhoods. Her experience with private, local and federal funds targeted for use by low-to-moderate income homeowners has led to numerous national assignments, group trainings and speaking engagements in the areas of neighborhood revitalization and community engagement.

Under her *Live Urban* brand and as a realtor, Ms. Williams has helped build momentum in under-served neighborhoods by working with hundreds of homebuyers, most of whom received public or private down payment assistance to help them achieve their dream of homeownership.

Her community involvement has included service on the boards of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Chattanooga



Area, Chattanooga Girl’s Leadership Academy, Cornerstone, Inc., the Trust for Public Land, the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga’s Chancellor’s Roundtable, Commissioner with the Historic Zoning Commission, the Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport, and Advisory Council member with Atlanta Habitat for Humanity.

It is a new day in the Department of Economic and Community Development. Join us in welcoming Donna to the department. We are excited to have her here and look forward to working with her to make Chattanooga’s neighborhoods the best that they can be.

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Neighborhood Services and Community Development

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Donna C. Williams, Administrator

A Letter from the Administrator

Sometimes it's funny how things come together.

In the spring of 2001, I returned home to Chattanooga after having lived in Atlanta for eleven years. Although I enjoyed the hustle and bustle of a much larger city and the experiences that come with the convergence of international cultures, earlier in that year I'd longed for home.

I especially longed for the sense of connectedness and belonging that can only come with being part of a community – not a “digital” community but a true, real world, “Hey, how ya doing” community. I knew I could find that sense of community if I were back in Chattanooga. But, what I didn't know was how much more I'd find when my yearnings drew me back to my hometown.

Fast forward to the summer of 2013. The city I had left behind just a few years earlier has grown and blossomed into a cool, green (ecologically and environmentally), high-tech place to live and work. The exquisite natural beauty that I once took for granted lures thousands and thousands of visitors from all over the world. And, we've started our own convergence of international cultures. In fact, it's not so uncommon to hear a conversation peppered with the beauty and rhythm of a German, French or Arabic accent.

As I assume my new role as the Administrator of Mayor Berke's newly-formed Office of Economic and Community Development, I'm grateful for the work that goes into making our community strong and humbled by the tremendous amount of vision, planning and hard work that make possible the city we all enjoy.

World Changers Making Preparations

The Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development welcomes the arrival of World Changers, a ministry of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist and Life Way Student Ministries, to our city during the weeks of July 8-13 and July 15-20. It is expected that the organization will bring over 600 youth volunteers to our city to perform home repairs for qualifying senior and disabled homeowners who applied to the department's Home Repair Program earlier this year.

The local World Changers leadership team is making visits to qualifying homes to make site selections and department staff is working on environmental reviews, building permits, procuring materials and equipment and coordinating logistics. We are also searching for organizations, churches and other groups that would like to provide daily lunches for a team of 15 people during the weeks of the project. If your group is interested in showing hospitality to an organization that impacts so many, please contact Vanessa A. Jackson, Program Specialist at 425-3741.

Front, L to R: Anthony O. Sammons, Modena Kagay, Meredith Adams, Vanessa A. Jackson, Pam Rector, Bobby Boutwell. Back, L to R: Bill Kagey, Eric Ferguson, Ricky Rector.



Neighborhood Planning for Healthy Aging

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is providing the City of Chattanooga with technical assistance through the Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program. The City of Chattanooga was one of two communities selected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to receive its Building Block for Sustainable Communities technical assistance on Neighborhood Planning for Healthy Aging. The Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development, Choose Chattanooga, and Southeast Tennessee Area Agency on Aging and Disability are partners in this initiative.

As a community's population ages, it will be necessary to plan for the changing needs and abilities of older citizens. Supportive neighborhood design can help residents "age in place" and maintain healthy activities. This tool will help communities create great places for aging residents.

"Creating resilient communities is vital to protecting public health and the environment," said Regional Administrator Gwen Keys Fleming. "EPA's Building Blocks Program will give city leaders and other community partners the necessary tools to stimulate local economies and promote thriving, sustainable communities".

The technical assistance provided by the EPA focuses on evaluating whether Chattanooga's current neighborhood designs support or hinder an individual's mobility, accessibility, safety, housing choice, and social interaction to successfully age in place. Glenwood, an



Brett VanAkkeren speaks to community stakeholders

aging community with over 75% of the single-family dwelling units owned by seniors, was selected as the pilot neighborhood to evaluate.

The two-day technical assistance was conducted by Brett VanAkkeren, Director of the Codes Standards and Sustainable Design Division, Office of Sustainable Communities and Susan Robinson, Senior Consultant to International City/County Management Association. It consisted of a tour of the Glenwood community, a presentation of issues and solutions and a group exercise with community stakeholders to identify and prioritize strategies. The key issues found in Glenwood were the lack of services, lack of mobility and connectivity, and the need for an improved community involvement process.

The next steps are to address the issues in the Glenwood community with the assistance of the EPA. Utilizing a template provided by EPA, the goal is to assist each neighborhood in Chattanooga to make their community more livable and supportive to the needs of its aging residents.

Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities is a project of the Partnership for Sustainable Communities among EPA, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). The partnership is helping communities across the country create more housing choices, make transportation more efficient and reliable, reinforce existing investments, and support vibrant and healthy neighborhoods that attract businesses.

For more information on the Building Blocks program visit <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/buildingblocks.htm>.



Dr. Everlena Holmes guided the bus tour of Glenwood for EPA representatives and community stakeholders

Record Your Neighborhood's History

by Debbie Johnson,
Neighborhood Relations Specialist



During a recent meeting with a neighborhood association, the discussion centered around good record keeping. This included the obvious financial records, but it led into another type of record keeping: your neighborhood association's history. It does not matter if your association is but a year old, start recording your history now.

Why is that important? Your neighborhood has a long history of getting things done, the accomplishments are many. As time progresses, members transition out of the community and pertinent information is either thrown out or left forgotten in a box. Your neighborhood association is building on your accomplishments and building a legacy. Promotion of your association and community is being able to "tell your story." An association's history is the story of beginnings, cooperation, accomplishments and even failures. Your story is the very heart of what you are today. It is a map that shows how the association began, overcame obstacles and accomplished so many positive things in your neighborhood. It gives new residents an understanding of their roots as they are now participants in another page of the association's history.

Start collecting pictures, recording your activities, interviewing past and present members, and stay the course. Collect newspaper articles about your neighborhood along with neighborhood flyers, newsletters, etc. Consider designating an "association historian" as a permanent position in the association. An organization's history is important as it gives everyone a sense of who they are and how they got here.

Research the History of Your Neighborhood Excerpts from Yahoo Voices by C. Jeanne Heida

Collecting a neighborhood history can be a very rewarding and satisfying project. We've met many new neighbors, made lots of new friends, and gained a deeper sense of appreciation for the area. Knowing the area history also helped us better understand the significance of our home to the neighborhood.

Where to Begin

Long time residents are often the best resources when it comes to digging up old neighborhood history. If the neighborhood is small, you should know of several people who have lived in the area 30 years or more. These individuals can guide you to other longtime residents as well.

Some topics that may be discussed in the interview could include:

- significant changes the neighborhood has seen (redevelopment, socio-economic changes, etc.);
- notable early residents;
- what businesses and churches used to be here;
- what are the oldest homes in the area,
- and what early history can be recalled.

Hamilton County

The [Hamilton County Register of Deeds](#) is a wealth of information when it comes to back records. Property deeds often have the names of prior owners. Deeds and surveys can also provide insight to when the area was developed. Visit the [Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency](#) for a record of aerial maps, land surveys and plat maps.

Public Library

Many neighborhoods are not listed by name in regional history books. However, early residents were often listed along with important neighborhood and area news. State, Regional and local history books are an excellent place to start. Old newspapers, census records, and the Polk Reverse Directories can also provide a great deal of information about early residents and businesses.

State of Tennessee

The [Tennessee Historical Commission](#) is the official State Historic Preservation Office and is also the starting point for people interested in placing their home on the National Register of Historic Places.

The [Tennessee Historical Society](#) houses old publications, old photographs, historic records, oral histories and other historical data from around the state.

Other Ideas

To gather up more information about our neighborhood, we had a neighborhood reunion. The local newspaper provided us with free advertising in the form of a feature story, and nearly 100 former residents came for tea & pastries, and the chance to share memories.

From these former residents, we collected old photographs, names, dates, hand drawn maps and historical events from the past. We were also put in touch with many other former residents who had stories of their own to share.

Researching your neighborhood history and be a fun and fulfilling project for your neighborhood association.

Neighborly News from...

Midfield Acres Community Club

by Ty Armour, *Neighborhood Relations Specialist*

When Midfield Acres subdivision was being developed by J. Clyde Roy in the early 60's, it was a very rural area. It had been farmland and was built literally in the middle of a field; hence the creation of Midfield Acres. Across Standifer Gap Road stood a barn and a wooded area where apartments now stand. In the spring, after a pretty good pouring of rain, the road would flood at the intersection of Lee Highway and Shallowford Road, blocking the way to the nearest supermarket. At that time it was a Kroger store at the location now known as Brainerd Village. Over the years, the Midfield Acres Community has maintained a reputation of caring people who are proud of their homes, their community and work hard to ensure it remains that way for generations to come.

In 1968 Midfield Acres Community Club was formed and Ms. Imogene Liner was the first president. Dues were set at \$5.00 per family, and were only recently increased to \$10.00 per family. The club met regularly at the homes of members where they developed a theme to "cooperate, appreciate and beautify the community." The organization took on various projects. The members paid to have a street lights installed at the intersection of Standifer Gap Road and Lee Highway to improve vision at night as drivers turned onto Lee Highway. Midfield Acres Community Club was awarded funding through the 2009-2010 Neighborhood Partners Program to landscape the entry way into the neighborhood.

The Midfield Acres Community Club meets the 1st Monday of each month (except during the months of January, June, July and August) and the meeting time is 7:00pm. The organization continues to rotate the meeting location throughout the community.



Foxwood Heights Neighborhood Association



by Karen D. Clay, *Neighborhood Relations Specialist*

Foxwood Heights Neighborhood Association has been in existence for several years. Since its beginning, the group has been busy with efforts to keep their neighborhood safe and rid of unwanted debris and abandoned vehicles.

Like other neighborhoods, Foxwood residents take pride in their community. They sponsor events

and activities throughout the year such as National Night Out and the annual Christmas event held at River City Restaurant. After working on neighborhood projects, some members of the group work and support the East Chattanooga Improvement Corporation.

In 2006 Foxwood applied for funding to continue branding the community. In the past, house banners and a community landscaping project have been awarded through the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development's Neighborhood Partners Program. This year the association applied for funding to purchase sign toppers to continue the branding and showcasing community pride.

Foxwood Heights Neighborhood Association meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m. at Eastdale Recreation Center, 1312 Moss Drive. Isabella Lane, president, welcomes all to come and be part of this growing association.

Neighborly News from...



In Memoriam

The Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development staff were saddened to learn of the recent passing of Bob Graham. A very active community leader before declining health, this Chattanooga native, retired CEO and business owner channeled his love for Chattanooga with his diplomacy and business savvy into his passion for volunteerism and creating better neighborhoods within Chattanooga. In addition to his personal and professional accomplishments, those of us who knew Mr. Graham can attest to his community service as the Security Committee Chair and later president of the Missionary Ridge Neighborhood Association (MRNA). His trailblazing tenacity led him in 2000 to serve as Charter Board Member and founding president of the Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council (CNAC). Mr. Graham also served as Chairperson of the Sector 2 Fox/Echo Team's Police/Neighborhood Coalition and coordinated the regular meetings of the Citizens Police Interaction Coalition (CPIC). His calm demeanor and skillful problem solving was asset to many of our department's early initiatives as well as the rapport of partnership between neighborhood leaders and city staff.



Join the City of Chattanooga and Bridge Christian Church for the return of Movies in the Park at Dark. This year we have 3 exciting family movies at Heritage Park in East Brainerd. Bring the lawn chairs, blankets, etc...most important, bring the FAMILY!!

Popcorn and refreshments will be available for purchase, plus activities for the little ones till the movie starts, at dusk.

For our first movie, in it's third installment, A Lion, a Zebra, a Hippo, and a Giraffe are still fighting to get home to their beloved Big Apple. Their journey takes them through Europe where they find the perfect cover: a traveling circus, which they reinvent.

Global Leadership Workshop - June 11

Jewish Cultural Center, 5461 North Terrace Road, Chattanooga 37411

Doing Business Where Global & Southern Connect

Join the American Diversity Report & Cross Cultural Academy for a community forum of state & local experts in TN

Speakers include:

- Hayley Hovious: *TN Trade Director, TN Department of Economic & Community Development*
- Sharyn Moreland: *Director, TN Small Business Development Center, Chattanooga*
- Guenther Scherelis: *General Manager of Communications, Volkswagen Chattanooga*
- Yuri Cunza: *President, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce/Nashville*
- Terry Olsen: *Attorney of Olsen Law Firm; Incoming Chair of Immigration Section/TN Bar Association*
- Dr. Ken Goldsmith: *Professor of Global Legal Studies, Chattanooga State Community College*
- Deborah J. Levine: *Award-winning cultural diversity expert, trainer & author*

8:30 Networking/Continental breakfast

- Session 1: 9:00am The South & Tennessee Go Global
- Session 2: 10:00am Southern-Global Team Building & Mindset
- Session 3: 11:00am Hot Issues in the Global Workplace

Adjourn at noon

Ticket price: \$69.00

Register online at <http://americandiversityreportshop.com/main.sc>

Announcements

NeighborGood Week



**Sunday June 2nd
Kiddie Crafts @ the
Chattanooga Market**
First Tennessee Pavilion
Time: 11:00 – 4:00

**Monday June 3rd
Batter UP! CNE @ the Lookouts**
Lookouts Stadium
Time: 7:00 – 9:00

**Tuesday June 4th
Do Good in the Neighborhood
CNE Service Day**
Location TBD
Time: All Day

**Wednesday June 5th
Partner Appreciation Luncheon**
Coolidge Park Pavilion
Time: 11-2

**Thursday June 6th
NeighborGood Mixer
The Artists Gallery Residence/
Miki Boni Studios**
1611 Mitchell Avenue
Time: 6:30 – 9

**Friday June 7th
Recess in the Park. Yard
Games @ Fresh on Fridays**
Center Park
Time: 11:00-2:00

**Saturday June 8th
Picnic in the Park and
Volunteer Day at 3rd St. Pocket
Park**
2419 3rd Street
Time: 10:00 – 2:00

Neighborhood Talk

A weekly radio show from the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development

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

June Calendar of Events

Sun June 2, 2013

6pm - 7pm	Hemphill Neighborhood Association
7pm - 8pm	Shepherd Community Council

Monday June 3, 2013

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

Tuesday June 4, 2013

6pm - 7pm	Bushtown Neighborhood Association
6pm - 7pm	Shawnee Hills Neighborhood Association
7pm - 8pm	Forest Plaza Neighborhood Association

Wednesday June 5, 2013

10am - 11am	Board of Zoning Appeals
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Thursday June 6, 2013

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

Monday June 10, 2013

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

Tuesday June 11, 2013

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

Wednesday June 12, 2013

11am - 12pm	East Lake Senior Citizens
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Thursday June 13, 2013

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

Monday June 17, 2013

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

Tuesday June 18, 2013

11:30am - 12:00pm	Hamilton County Coalition
6pm - 7pm	Hickory Creek Townhome Association
6pm - 7pm	Orchard Knob Neighborhood Association
7pm - 8pm	Cloverale Neighborhood Association

Thursday June 20, 2013

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

Monday June 24, 2013

6pm - 8pm	Chattanooga Organized for Action
7pm - 8pm	Oak Grove Neighborhood Association

Thursday June 27, 2013

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

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