



A Newsletter from the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development



"Building Better Neighborhoods... Block By Block"

COMMON GROUND



Neighborhood LEADERSHIP Institute

Applications Are Now Available

The Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development is now accepting applications for its sixth Neighborhood Leadership Institute (NLI). The Neighborhood Leadership Institute is designed to strengthen leadership in the community by providing training to leaders and potential leaders of neighborhood associations and neighborhood-based groups.

The Neighborhood Leadership Institute boasts 90 graduates since the program's inception in 2007. Past graduates of NLI include councilpersons Pam Ladd and Andrae McGary.

Participants leave the program armed with strengthened leadership skills and new partnerships with City government and other associations. Classes will begin with orientation in May and end with a graduation ceremony in the fall.

Applicants must meet the following selection criteria in order to be eligible:

- Live in the City of Chattanooga.
- Submit 2 original, signed letters of recommendation (1 personal and 1 professional) with the application.
- Be interviewed by an independent selection committee.

- Be an active member of a neighborhood association or neighborhood-based group, or in the process of starting a new group inside the city limits of Chattanooga. 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.
- Agree to attend 6 of the 7 class sessions to be eligible to graduate. Most classes will be held on Mondays (June through August) from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- Complete a project and present that project in October in order to participate in the graduation ceremony and receive a certificate for the course.

The deadline to submit an application is April 13, 2012 and class size is limited to 35 participants. There is no fee required to submit an application or participate in the program.

Applications are available on the department's website at www.chattanooga.gov. You may also call to request an application or for more information, contact the department at 425-3700.

Inside This Issue:	
NLI Applications.....	1
Recent Retirees.....	2
Administrator's Letter	2
Welcome, Donna Thomas	3
Vanessa A. Jackson Recognized	3
Neighborhood Assn. Registry.....	3
Technology Transfer Conference.....	4
Neighorly News	5,6
Announcements.....	7
Calendar of Events.....	8

Neighborhood Services and Community Development
(423) 425-3700 • www.chattanooga.gov

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

Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator
 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

Recent Retirees

Two long time employees of the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development retired last month. We will all miss their devoted service to the City of Chattanooga and wish them many happy years of retirement.

Nelsene Lowery

Nelsene Lowery began her career with the city of Chattanooga in 1988 as temporary employee in the position of clerk for the Better Housing Commission. Her immediate supervisor was Fred Houser and the Deputy Commissioner was Beverly P. Johnson. In 1989 she became a full time employee in that position.

In 1993 she transferred to Action Line, which at the time was a call center for the Public Works Department, the precursor to 311. Beverly P. Johnson was the Deputy Administrator of that department.

Following a short tenure in Action Line, Nelsene was promoted to the position of Code Enforcement Inspector within the Better Housing Commission, which later became known as the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development. Dan Thomas was manager at that time. Beverly P. Johnson was later appointed Administrator, so Nelsene was once again working for her.

Now, 23 years later, Nelsene is retiring. "It is truly a blessing when you are able to retire from a job where you not only enjoyed the job, but also appreciated and liked your supervisor, coworkers and the Administration. I will truly miss all of you," says Nelsene.



Nelsene Lowery Beverly P. Johnson Elluwead Love

Elluwead Love

A native of Jackson, Mississippi, Elluwead Love resided in Los Angeles, California and then landed in Chattanooga after a short residence in Nashville and Louisville, Kentucky. Her husband, a Methodist minister was bound to "go when sent, and come when called."

In 1992 Elluwead accepted the position of receptionist with the Chattanooga Public Works Department with Administrator Jack Marcellis, David Buckner and Beverly P. Johnson.

Two years later, Elluwead became secretary to the then Better Housing Division of Public Works under manager Dan Thomas. She has served with four administrators through the transition of Better Housing to the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose. As mother of three sons, grandmother of two girls and two boys and great grandmother of two grandsons, I look forward to this new season called retirement and of being able to spend quality time with them," says Elluwead.



Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator

Administrator's Letter

Future leaders of Chattanooga, now is your opportunity to enroll in the Neighborhood Leadership Institute. Many of the graduates from this program have become presidents of their neighborhood associations or community leaders in other capacities. Two of them have become City Councilpersons. The program is free, but enrollment is limited. Applications are due April 13.

It is also time to update the Directory of Registered Neighborhood Associations. Whether you are already registered and need to update your list of officers or meeting dates, times and locations; or, if your association has not registered, please take a moment to provide us with your information. This enables City Council and other civic groups to keep you apprised of pertinent information and events.

It is with great pride that we introduce you to Donna Thomas, the new Chief Neighborhood Code Enforcement Inspector for the department (page 3). Donna brings with her a wealth of information about building codes from her experience as a general contractor, and she is busy now learning our systems and getting acquainted with the teams of inspectors she will be supervising. If you see her out riding around with one of them, be sure to say hello.

Welcome, Donna Thomas



Donna Thomas recently joined our staff as Chief Neighborhood Code Enforcement Inspector. A graduate of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, she has 15 years experience as a general contractor and developer, and also has experience renovating properties.

Donna has been an instructor at Cleveland State Community College where she taught Zero Energy Construction, Business Management, Accounting, Remedial Algebra, and Student Success, as well as contract work with local industries teaching Time Management and other classes. She managed field operations for a 6-county area during the 2010 Census, and most recently worked as the Area VITA Coordinator for the Urban League of Greater Chattanooga.

Join us in welcoming Donna to the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development. We look forward to working with her.

Vanessa A. Jackson Recognized

On January 27, 2012, Neighborhood Program Specialist, Vanessa A. Jackson was one of five honorees recognized by the Thankful Community Development Corporation (CDC) at its Annual Recognition Banquet and Gala held at the Olivet Baptist Church Kingdom Center. The Thankful CDC's aim is to act as a change agent while combating community deterioration and equipping individuals with the skills necessary to become productive citizens in their community.

Vanessa was recognized along with Bobby Boutwell of World Changers and each received the Community Development Award for their roles in organizing a successful execution of the Home Repair Program sponsored by the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development in partnership with World Changers, a home repair mission ministry. Others honorees recognized during the event were John P. Franklin, Sr., Pioneer Award; Church of The Good Shepherd, Faith- Based Award; and Elder Oscar Lockhart, Sr., Vision Award. Congratulations Vanessa!



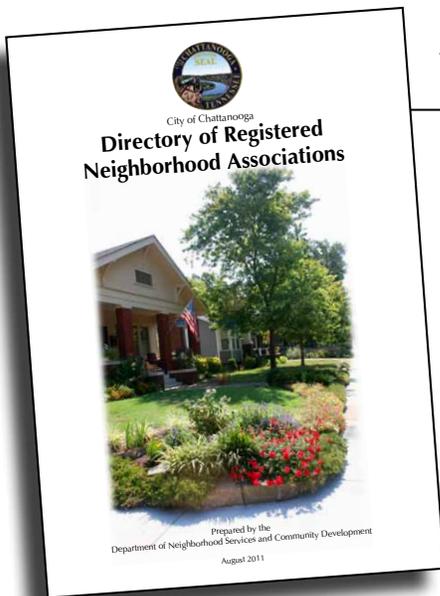
Neighborhood Association Registry

Do you want to stay informed? Does your neighborhood association want to take advantage of the numerous programs the City of Chattanooga offers? If you answered yes, then make sure your association is on our Neighborhood Association Registry.

If your association is already on the registry but you have had elections in recent months, make sure the information is current. The list is updated periodically and the date of any changes is indicated for each registrant. The registry can be found on our website at www.chattanooga.gov. If your information is over a year old but is still accurate, drop your Neighborhood Relations Specialist a note so we may adjust the date to reflect it as being current.

If your neighborhood association is not registered with us, please visit our website and register. Just follow the instructions for submitting the form or call your Neighborhood Relations Specialists Ty Armour, Karen Clay or Debbie Johnson at 425-3700 for registration assistance.

Our Neighborhood Registry helps to communicate information to associations' officers about upcoming events, programs and provides your city council representatives contact information for their districts. Remember the mantra: A healthy, vibrant neighborhood is an informed neighborhood!



5th Annual Technology Transfer Conference

Preparations are underway for the Fifth Annual Technology Transfer Conference presented by The Enterprise Center. This valuable one-day conference will focus on technology transfer and commercialization. The conference will feature technologies linked to advanced manufacturing, renewable green energy, electric vehicles, and the medical device industry.

This year's conference will also showcase inventions and technology from Y-12 National Security Complex, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, University of Tennessee, and other research institutions. Attendees will be able to observe proto-types, inventions, and newly commercialized products.

The afternoon session of the conference will feature The Chattanooga Venture Forum. Local technology companies will be presenting for investment capital. Last year companies presenting at the Forum were ultimately successful in raising over \$9 million in funding. The Forum is a great opportunity for companies to raise investment capital, and to educate future entrepreneurs on the path to funding and access to capital.

The conference will be held at The Chattanooga Convention Center on Thursday April 19, 2012 from 8:00am – 2:00pm with the Venture Forum from 2:00pm – 5:00pm. This event is free to the public and lunch will be provided. Participants must RSVP in advance as seating is limited.

The Enterprise Center is focused on technology-based economic development to create jobs and build wealth. Created in 2002 by the City of Chattanooga, and with the support of Mayor Ron Littlefield, The Enterprise Center, Inc. promotes collaboration, accountability and communications for a variety of local technology-related growth initiatives in the Chattanooga area. Its mission is to support and capitalize on new research and technologies

and work closely with local entities in the quest to develop a knowledge-based economy. Through partnerships, The Enterprise Center, Inc. connects local entrepreneurs, business and industry to national laboratories, research universities and federal research-oriented programs.

Registration for the conference is now open and more information can be found on our website at www.theenterprisctr.org or call 423-425-3772.



GET JOIN US FOR THE 5TH ANNUAL
PLUGGED IN

APRIL 19 • 2012
TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CONFERENCE

APRIL 19, 2012
8:00 am - 2:00 pm
Chattanooga
Convention Center

CHATTANOOGA VENTURE FORUM
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

RSVP BY APRIL 16TH
423-425-3772
Doll_C@theenterprisctr.org

THE ENTERPRISE CENTER INVITES YOU TO A VALUABLE ONE-DAY CONFERENCE focusing on technology transfer and commercialization. The 2012 conference will feature technologies linked to advanced manufacturing, renewable green energy, electric vehicle, and the medical device industries. Explore the corridor of technologies on display where Exhibitors showcase inventions, and newly commercialized products, and product development practices. Attend the CHATTANOOGA VENTURE FORUM which follows the conference, where local technology companies will pitch to investors for funding. The Forum is a great opportunity for companies to raise investment capital, and to educate future entrepreneurs on the path to funding and access to capital.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

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CHATTANOOGA CONVENTION CENTER - CHATTANOOGA TN

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

Neighborly News from...

Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association

by Ty Armour, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

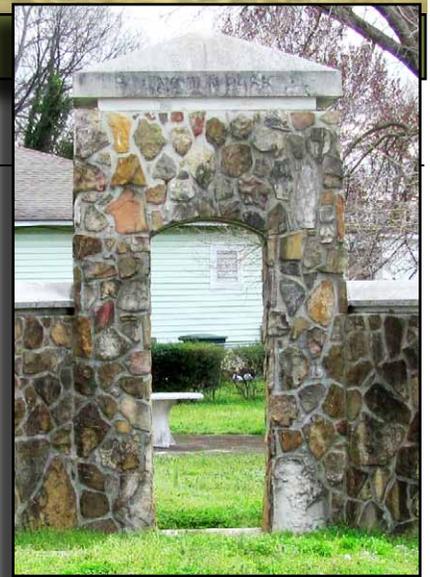
Because of the threat of being overrun by Baroness Erlanger Hospital and CSX Railroad, the Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association was created. The Lincoln Park community is adjacent to the historic Lincoln Park, the first park dedicated to African-Americans in 1918. Warner Park was segregated at the time and would not admit Blacks.

In the 1940s and 1950s there were carloads and busloads of tourists from Nashville, Knoxville, Cleveland as well as from Georgia and Alabama that enjoyed a place to have picnics and swim in the pool. They also came to enjoy other attractions in the park such as the Ferris wheel, swings, bumper cars, merry-go-round and other amusements. The children from South Chattanooga would walk the railroad tracks instead of riding the bus or taking the trolley (street car), to save money to swim in the pool, ride on the rides and purchase food.

In the 1980s and 1990s the Lincoln Park Community was the pilot area for Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise (CNE) in rehabilitating older homes and building new homes in the City of Chattanooga. During this time Lincoln Park became partners with Erlanger Medical Center. Erlanger removed the basketball and tennis courts from the park and replaced them with a playground, picnic tables, barbecue grills, and swing sets for the community to enjoy.

Before Erlanger began to expand, there were houses on both sides of East Third Street as well as on both sides of Central Avenue. During the time of Lincoln Park's existence, the houses on Central Avenue were lined with "Kool-Out Stands" that sold Kool-Outs, candy, peanuts, and various other snacks and treats. Lincoln Lane was a street that dead-ended inside the park where all local and out-of-town tourist buses parked.

The Lincoln Park neighborhood is a small community still thriving today. It is bounded by East Third Street, Central Avenue, Scruggs Street and CSX Railroad. The association meets at Gethsemane Baptist Church, 1127 Garfield Avenue.



One of the gateways to Lincoln Park

Southside/Cowart Place Neighborhood Association

by Debbie F. Johnson, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

Neighborhood associations are always searching for an answer to the perennial question, "How can we increase participation in our association?" The Southside/Cowart Place Neighborhood Association pondered this question and decided to have a pot luck dinner - but not in the typical indoor style.

Late fall of last year, the association set a date and an outdoor venue in the heart of the neighborhood. Association members walked the entire neighborhood five days prior to the event and placed door tag reminders on all the residents' homes. The reminder told residents to bring a food dish and lawn chair. The result was a well attended, fun and exciting social event. They had food, drink, bon fires and made old fashioned S'mores. Heidi Hefferlin, President of the Southside/Cowart Place Neighborhood Association, said the result was "increased fellowship, new members, and strengthened neighborhood connections." Given the success of this event, the association has included two pot luck socials in their 2012 plans.

As an added bonus, the event assisted in strengthening the association's growing neighborhood watch committee. Southside/Cowart Place Neighborhood Association now boasts of having 100 participants, 26 block captains and a phone tree.

Five stars to Southside/Cowart Place Neighborhood Association for creativity and dedication to their community. Keep up the good work!

The water tower at Southside/Cowart Place is a landmark in the community





Lookout Valley Fire Station Grand Opening

By Karen D. Clay Neighborhood Relations Specialist

It has been a long wait but Fire Station 3 came to fruition. Construction for the fire station began June 30, 2011 with approximately \$1.5 million spent. The River City Architecture, LLC, Designer and Construction Consultants, Inc. were the general contractor. On Monday, February 6 the station had its grand opening ceremony with Mayor Ron Littlefield and Fire Chief Randy Parker dedicating the

station. Councilwoman Deborah Scott, County Commission Joe Graham, Judge Russell Bean and other dignitaries were on hand to help celebrate. Some features of the fire station:

- A total of 6,725 square feet, includes accommodations for two fire companies, training room and offices.
- A “green” building in design and energy efficiency. Seeking LEED Certification. The Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) was developed by the U.S. Building Council to establish standards for environmentally sustainable construction.
- Durable, low-maintenance materials used throughout that are low-to-zero VOC off-gassing.
- High-efficiency plumbing and light fixtures with occupancy and daylight sensors. Low maintenance floors.
- It will also house Quint 3 which is a modern fire apparatus that provides a pump, water tank, fire hose, aerial device and ground ladders.

The fire station is located at 4003 Cummings Highway with 15 firefighters, with five (5) working each of the three shifts. This is the 19th fire station operated by the Chattanooga Fire Department. Station 20 is located at 3003 Cummings Highway will remain open and will house Squad 20. A squad truck is equipped not only for fire suppression, but also with specialized tools for vehicle extrication and other rescue situations.

Outdoor Chattanooga Winter Workshops

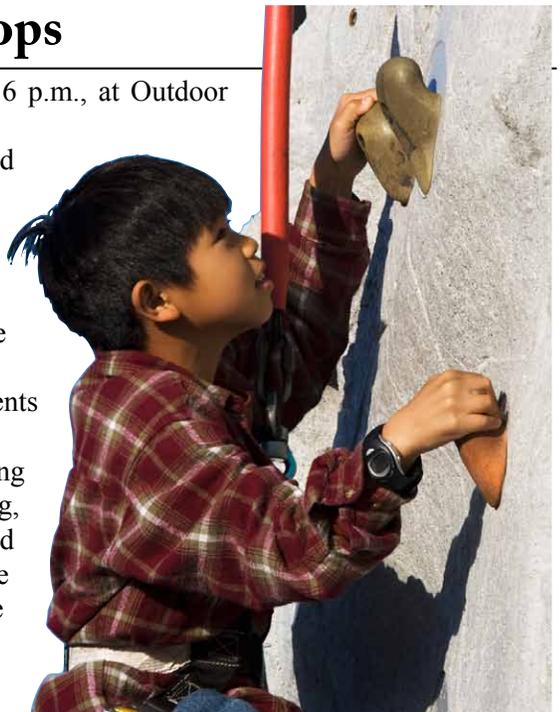
Winter Workshops for March. All workshops happen on Thursdays, 6 p.m., at Outdoor Chattanooga, 200 River St. in Coolidge Park.

Mar. 8 - Introduction to Climbing for Beginners Urban Rocks Gym and Outdoor Chattanooga will offer up the basic tools and information that beginners need to start climbing. Class followed by a session on Outdoor Chattanooga’s traverse climbing wall.

Mar. 15 - Bicycle Riding for Pre-Schoolers Taylor Keaton of the Chattanooga Trek Store will explain why training wheels are passe for the kindergarten crowd. Free riding demos for pre school aged kids.

Mar. 22 - How Does your Bicycle Fit? Learn how some simple adjustments can make riding more comfortable and efficient.

Also, on Wednesday, March 14 at 6:00 p.m. - Street Smarts Safe Cycling Class offers adults and kids ages 12 and older the basics of vehicular cycling, or driving a bicycle in city traffic. With some short video examples and Q&A, participants will receive an introduction to the rules of the road, lane positioning and basic road riding technique. The class is taught by League of American Bicyclists certified instructors. No bicycle or registration is required. The class will also be offered on: Apr. 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, Aug. 8, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14



Announcements

Parks & Recreation Seeks Park Stewards

Introducing Chattanooga Park Stewards. This team of volunteers will help guarantee that all parks, greenways and trails in the City of Chattanooga will be here to stay, and in great condition while being safe and well supervised. The City of Chattanooga Parks and Recreation is proud to support this "Friends of the Park, or Adopt a Park" style of commitment by those who love their green spaces. Chattanooga Park Stewards objective is to provide a service not only to the beautiful city of Chattanooga, but will take a pivotal role in the preservation of parks and greenways by doing various projects that may include:

- Litter pickup
- Leaf raking
- Friendly patrol of Parks/crime reduction
- Point of contact for questions or concerns
- Painting

- Graffiti removal or prevention
- Gardening or landscaping
- Staining, preserving of benches, bridges, etc
- Contribute goods and services
- Provide recommendations for quality of life or park improvement to the City of Chattanooga for review.

The first Town Hall style meeting is open to those interested in becoming a Chattanooga Park Steward, and will be held on March 29th at 6 p.m. at the Stadium Club inside Finley Stadium. The event is free with plenty of parking. During the meeting, we will provide a better explanation of the Chattanooga Park Steward Program and show you how you can help with a park(s) of your choice. Hear from speakers of Parks and Recreation, Chattanooga Police, DOGood Chattanooga and more. We hope to see you there.

Curbside Recycling Expands Plastic Collections Program

The City of Chattanooga announces the expansion of curbside recycle collection to include all plastics marked with a #1 through #7 resin identification stamp. Previously, curbside recycle collection only accepted plastics marked with a #1 or #2 classification. This change simplifies household recycling programs by reducing the need for sorting and promotes increased landfill diversion.

Also, the City's recycling centers announce a newly established residential fats, oils, and grease (FOG) collection program. Fats, oils, and grease generated as a byproduct of cooking are problematic for sewers since they stick to the inside of the pipes where they build up over time causing blockages and may eventually overflow damaging your home and the environment. Managing residential cooking byproducts benefits homeowners, municipal maintenance programs, and the environment by reducing sanitary sewer overflows.

Participating Recycle Center locations include:

5955 Brainerd Road 1250 E. 3rd Street
3202 Kelleys Ferry Road 4500 N. Access Road

Hours of Operation:

Monday – Friday 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Sunday 1:00PM – 5:00 PM

EARN YOUR G.E.D.[®]

Assessment Into G.E.D.[®] Prep Classes Being Offered!

Assessment is mandatory for classroom instruction

WHERE: BRAINERD COMPLEX (1010 N. MOORE RD)
WHEN: FEBRUARY 23rd & March 8th FROM 5pm-7pm

COST: FREE!!



CALL 423-643-6800
TO SIGN UP OR FOR MORE
INFORMATION!

TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED
DAY OF TESTING AT 4pm!

Pick Up Locations:

- BETHLEHEM COMMUNITY CENTER
- HARRIET TUBMAN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
- WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER



PARKS AND RECREATION



re:start
The Center for Adult Education



CHAMBER
MIDTOWN

*Funded partially by the TN Dept of Labor and Workforce Development Division of Adult Education.



Chattanooga Parks and Recreation

March Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Description
Mon Mar 5	6:30pm – 7:30pm	East Lake Neighborhood Association Meeting
	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Community Association of Historic St Elmo Meeting
Tue Mar 6	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Shawnee Hills Neighborhood Association Meeting
	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Forest Plaza Neighborhood Association Meeting
Wed Mar 7	10:00am – 11:00am	Board of Zoning Appeals
Thu Mar 8	6:30pm – 7:30pm	Clifton Hills Improvement Committee Meeting
	6:30pm – 7:30pm	Belvoir Neighborhood Association Meeting
	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Fort Wood Neighborhood Association Meeting
	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Martin Luther King Neighborhood Association Meeting
	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Stuart Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting
Mon Mar 12	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Cedar Hill Improvement League Meeting
	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Jefferson Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting
Tue Mar 13	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Fairfax-Bagwell Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Indian Hills Neighborhood Association Meeting
Wed Mar 14	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Alton Park Piney Woods Neighborhood Association Meeting
	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Narrows Homeowners Association Meeting
	11:00am – 12:00pm	East Lake Senior Citizens Meeting
Thu Mar 15	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Brainerd Park North Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Southside Chattanooga Oak Hills Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:30pm – 7:30pm	Olde Town Brainerd Neighborhood Association Meeting
Mon Mar 19	5:30pm – 6:30pm	Villages at Alton Park Neighborhood Watch Meeting
	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Washington Hills Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00pm – 7:00pm	North Brainerd Neighborhood Association Meeting
	7:00pm – 8:00pm	East Lake Community Council Meeting
Tue Mar 20	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Hickory Creek Townhome Association Meeting
	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Cloverale Neighborhood Association Meeting
Thu Mar 22	4:30pm – 5:30pm	South Broad Redevelopment Group Meeting
	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Woodmore Manor Neighborhood Association Meeting
	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Ridgedale Community Association Meeting
Mon Mar 26	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Oak Grove Neighborhood Association Meeting

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

Systematic Codes Inspections

Code enforcement inspectors will be inspecting each parcel in the following neighborhoods for City Code violations including litter, overgrowth, abandoned vehicles and housing code violations:

- Week of March 12, 2012.....North Chattanooga.....District 2**
- Week of March 26, 2012.....Orchard KnobDistrict 9**