



A Newsletter from the Office of Economic and Community Development



“Building Better Neighborhoods... Block By Block”

# COMMON GROUND



## The Regional Planning Agency

by John Bridger, Executive Director of the Regional Planning Agency

Last month we introduced you to the new Office of Economic and Community Development (ECD). As promised, this is the first in a series of articles to familiarize you with the different divisions that fall under the umbrella of ECD.

Have you ever visited a place that makes you want to come back for more, or a place where everything seems so haphazard or “out of place” that you avoid it? We have all experienced these places in some form; these experiences ultimately shape our choices about where to live and invest. Great places have a way of persisting, of attracting investment and more importantly being exceptional places to live. The Regional Planning Agency (RPA) is about advancing great places in the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Region.

### What is the Regional Planning Agency?

The Regional Planning Agency is a city-county, bi-state regional planning entity that works with the Economic and Community Development Department to facilitate Mayor Berke’s vision of promoting economic and community development in the City through land use and transportation planning.

Think of “land use planning” as how we arrange land activities (residential, commercial, industrial, parks, conservation areas) and the design of the built/natural

Chattanooga-Hamilton County



Regional Planning Agency

environment. Think of “transportation planning” as providing a variety of options (walking, biking, public transit, driving) to move people and goods through our region.

In order to do the best job of planning land use and transportation, you really need to think how they work together. The design and function of our streets impact how we plan land use – who wants to live on a highway or commercial strip road? How we plan land use affects how we move – it’s hard to walk for daily needs or use transit if the place where you live is far removed from everything else. Great places do a good job of organizing transportation and land use to work together. This is so important that RPA uses both disciplines together when we plan.

### Where RPA works

RPA provides land use planning support for the City of Chattanooga, unincorporated county, and seven *continued on page 2*

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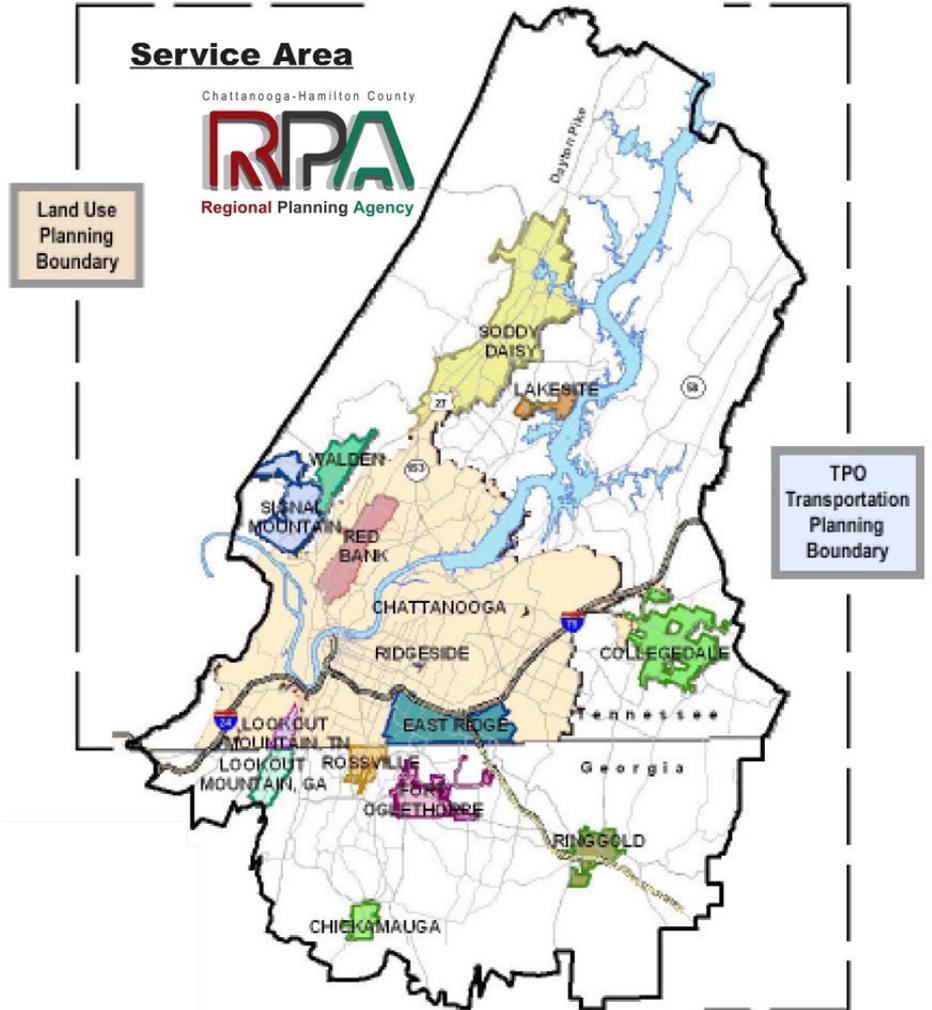
# The Regional Planning Agency *continued from page 1*

municipalities within Hamilton County. RPA provides transportation planning support for an even larger area that includes all of Hamilton County and portions of Catoosa, Dade and Walker Counties in North Georgia through a federally funded organization called the Transportation Planning Organization (TPO).

## As you can tell, RPA covers a large area. How do we keep up with this?

Starting with the region as a whole, RPA uses the Comprehensive Plan and the Regional Transportation Plan to establish the vision, goals and overall framework for how we grow and move throughout our region. These two documents are the foundations around which RPA builds other planning tools such as area plans, Transportation Improvement Program, urban design, zoning/subdivisions, and research of specific issues such as housing or freight movement. Collectively, these tools lay the policy framework around which our places are built.

We know that our lifestyles and place needs are changing; therefore we need to revisit our framework for places. The RPA will launch a new initiative in 2014 to engage the community in a conversation about our future place needs. Stay tuned!



### How can I stay up to date on what is going on at RPA or get involved?

Visit [www.chcrpa.org](http://www.chcrpa.org) to stay informed about current projects and TPO activities. Our site also has information about rezoning requests scheduled to be heard by Planning Commission.

RPA has a planner assigned to each area of the City-County. If you have a question about current plans or policies in your area, call us at (423) 757-5216.

# Neighborhood Talk

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

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

# Neighborhood Leadership Institute Graduation

by Lauren Lowery, Program Specialist

On Tuesday, October 22, 2013, the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Office of the Mayor, and City Council recognized 14 new graduates of the Neighborhood Leadership Institute (NLI).

Over the last five months, the graduates have strengthened their skills as neighborhood leaders, learned about resources to connect their neighborhood associations or neighborhood-based groups to, met and discussed with several City departments and local agencies about the services offered to the community, attended city-sponsored public meetings, and presented action-oriented projects that are either in the process of being implemented or are currently being implemented in their neighborhood.

This year Wayne Brown, Jeffery Cross, Dale Grisso, and Enora Moss were awarded the Neighborhood Image Award. Wayne Brown was awarded third place, Jeffrey Cross was awarded second place, and Dale Grisso and Enora Moss were awarded first place. The Neighborhood Image Award recognizes graduates who are catalyst for neighborhood change in their community.

Please join us in congratulating the Neighborhood Leadership Institute's Class of 2013, and wishing them well in their leadership endeavors!



Mayor Andy Berke congratulates NLI graduates at the ceremony held in City Council chambers.



The 2013 NLI graduating class. Front, L to R: Enora Moss, Marva Naylor, Melissa Espy, Thesseleaner Roberts, Stephanie Toombs, Gregory Davis, Wayne Brown. Back row: Dale Grisso, Jeffrey Cross, John Arnold, Anthony Drew, Charles Manis. Not shown: Tabitha Carroll and Fletcher Williams.

## Grateful Gobbler



On November 28, 2013, Thanksgiving morning, over 3,000 people will converge upon Coolidge Park to participate in the Annual Grateful Gobbler Walk to benefit the Chattanooga Regional Homeless Coalition. There will be walkers, skaters, scooters, strollers and wheelchairs. Families will gather to mark an occasion that has become an important part of their Thanksgiving tradition.

This event is an effort to raise funds to make a difference for families and individuals experiencing homelessness in our community. Last year, a region wide count of homeless persons found 591 persons to be living in emergency shelters, in transitional housing, and in places not meant for human habitation. The proceeds of the Grateful Gobbler Walk can provide critical assistance to those without housing or facing a very real prospect of homelessness. Please start your Thanksgiving by giving back to those in need! For more information visit [gratefulgobbler.org](http://gratefulgobbler.org).

## GreenTrips

by Heather Sivley, Outreach Specialist, [GreenTripsCha.org](http://GreenTripsCha.org)

If you are not yet familiar with us, GreenTrips is a new city program (launched in June) to promote alternative transportation. For the month of October we focused on "Community Connections" to highlight the ways alternative transportation bridges gaps in our car-dependent culture.

Transportation is about more than getting where you need to go; it is about making connections. Several groups joined together to celebrate those connections in the Brainerd community. On Friday, October 18, the Main Street Bicycle Cooperative hosted a kids bike rodeo at Barger Academy. Students received new helmets, had their bikes safety checked by mechanics, and practiced safe cycling in a fun group format. A teacher learned how to use her bike rack on her van. Volunteers from the Bike Co-op, the Bicycle Pedestrian Task Force, the Health Department, National Partnership for Safe Routes to Schools, the Chattanooga Police Bike Patrol, and the Chattanooga Bicycle Club worked together for this event.

The following day, at the Brainerd Farmers Market at Grace Episcopal Church, the same groups spoke with market visitors about local transportation options. Bike Chattanooga talked with folks about replacing short drives downtown with a bike ride. Children pedaled the Dragon Bike, built by urban youth with Art 120. Adults joined the Bike Co-op for a safe cycling class, to practice basic bike handling and strategic lane positioning.

Through the GreenTrips program, area residents can win prizes for replacing drive-alone trips with greener modes of travel. Residents can also learn about our local resources and read about what community groups are doing to help connect neighbors and co-workers to



*A youngster learns bike safety from Chattanooga Police Bike patrol officers at Barger Academy.*

places they live, work, and play. The web-based program offers its own tools for connection, with a networking system to help neighbors meet for carpools, bike rides, walks, and bus trips. Visit [GreenTripsCha.org](http://GreenTripsCha.org) or email [GreenTrips@Chattanooga.gov](mailto:GreenTrips@Chattanooga.gov) for more information on the many community-driven efforts to improve our transportation options.

## Neighborly News from...

### Avondale Neighborhood Association

by Karen D. Clay, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

Avondale Neighborhood Association has been in existence for a number of years and works closely with East Chattanooga Inc., stakeholders and area businesses for the betterment of the community. The association realized that to achieve their goals of community pride and a clean and safer neighborhood, they must encourage participation from all residents.

Avondale strives to keep residents informed of neighborhood activities such as brush and trash pick-up, suspicious activities, break-ins, and other pertinent information. The president, John Lewis, works hard to recruit new members, focus on neighborhood safety and any zoning changes that may effect the community. He is committed to attending hearings, the president's monthly meetings and any other meetings that disseminate valuable information to help enhance the community. John encourages residents to attend the association meetings to meet with him, guest speakers and city officials to discuss ideas and concerns.

Avondale Association has applied for funding for neighborhood projects to keep the association informed and to help build membership. As you drive through the neighborhood, take note of the sign toppers, community markers and the display sign to announce upcoming events, meetings and other information pertaining to the community. The association meets the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at Avondale Youth and Family Center, located at 1305 Dodson Avenue. The president welcomes one and all to be a part of the rebuilding of the Avondale Neighborhood Association.



### Youth & Family Development

The City of Chattanooga's Department of Youth and Family Development unveiled its comprehensive Chattanooga Ambassadors Program (CAP) on October 19, "signing" its first 25 youth, who will learn leadership skills in the 48 week program. "Just as student athletes sign scholarships, our CAP program signing day represents students signing commitments for a successful and brighter future." says Lurone "Coach" Jennings, Administrator for the City of Chattanooga Department of Youth and Family Development.

The young men who were pre-selected by area high schools, faith-based organizations, and Chattanooga Youth and Family Development staff, signed a letter of intention for the program. Ultimately, these young men will learn the process for becoming better leaders, make solid decisions, and be recognized as emerging ambassadors for a better city.

"Students need more opportunities, programs and services to increase their chances for success," says Jennings, "and that is what we are attempting to do for the youth in the City of Chattanooga." Mayor Berke provided funding for an expansion of teen education and leadership programs in the FY2014 City budget. The Berke Administration is committed to growing young leaders, smarter students and stronger families in Chattanooga. CAP exemplifies the Mayor's vision.

Each CAP participant will receive mentors, tutoring, educational and life enrichments, career coaches, leadership training, volunteer projects and will be connected to post secondary opportunities prior to graduation, falling in line with 5 divisions of focus; Education, Leadership, Career Development, Recreation, and Social Services.

The participants were selected from 5 schools, including Brainerd, East Ridge, Howard, Lookout Valley and Tyner High Schools, providing 2 students each. Five faith-based organizations, including New United, New Covenant, Mt. Canaan, Olivet and Hawkinsville Churches also provided 2 students each. The remaining teens were selected by facility managers at various Youth and Family Development Centers. Multiple incentives will be given upon successful completion of activities, including earning a weekly stipend while working in their community. Parents of each individual will also be eligible to receive career development training and volunteer opportunities, while supporting their child. Gary Rudolph, CAP Director, said "CAP provides wrap-around services and support to ensure youth development on a personal and professional level. Support will only be seconds away." The City plans to offer the same support system to 25 young ladies this winter.

## Neighborly News from...

# North Chattanooga Installs Little Free Libraries

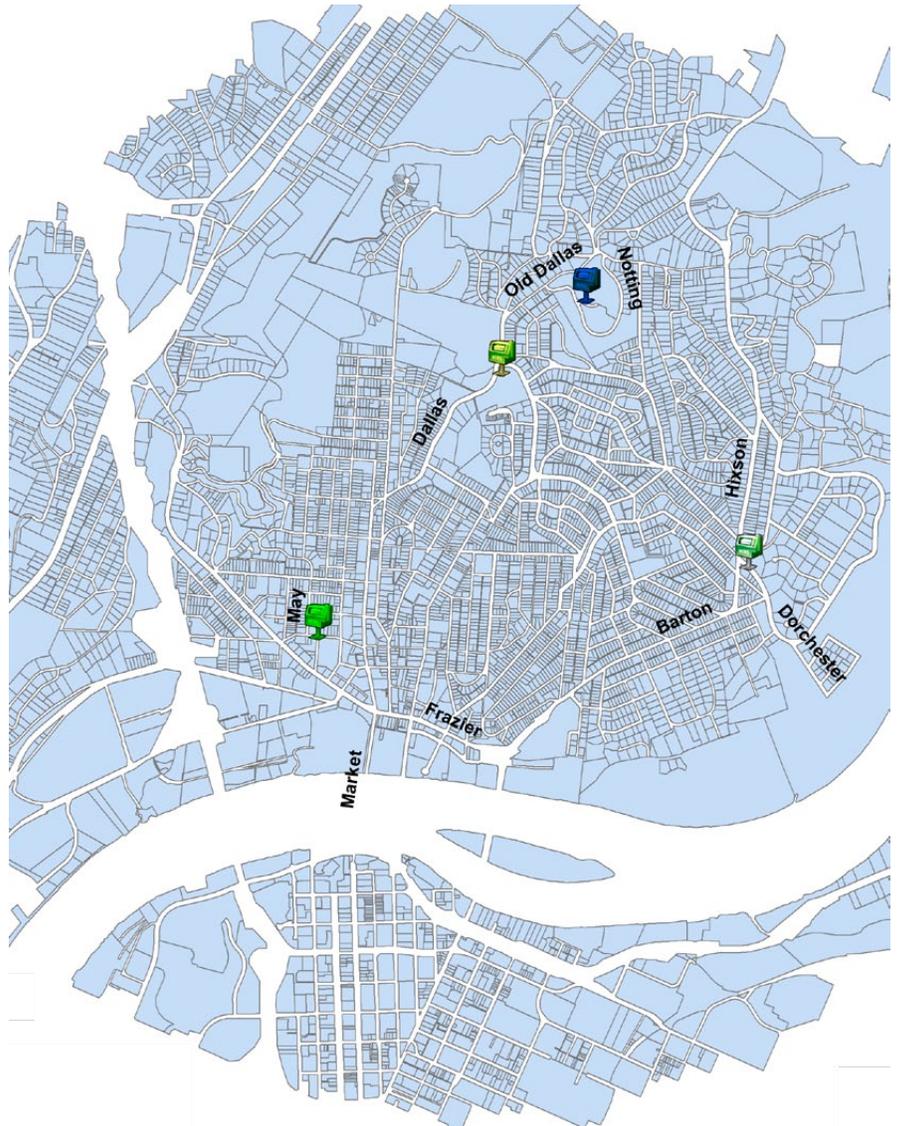


by Trevor Slayton, Regional Planning Agency

Little Free Libraries are sprouting up across the United States. Recently, Murray Hills Neighborhood built a Little Free Library. Now, North Chattanooga is following their example to strengthen the community through sharing literature and to create a unique sense of place in North Chattanooga's neighborhoods.

Four Neighborhood Libraries will be posted in North Chattanooga over the next two months. Two of them will be registered as Little Free Libraries with the International Little Free Library organization. Home Depot in Hixson will be building, painting, and posting the libraries.

The libraries can hold up to 40-50 books each. All of the books will be provided by neighbors and most of the books will have a sticker that reads "Always a gift. Never for Sale." Each library is located beneath a street light and will contain an emergency whistle.



### Locations:

**May Street (North Chattanooga Recreation Center)** - Hamilton County's Read20 Program has agreed to provide books for this library via the Bookmobile. Staff at the Recreation Center will lock the library in the evenings. Home Depot is holding a kids' workshop so that the library can be painted by kids for kids.

**Riverview Grande Apartments** - This library will be registered with the Little Free Library organization and placed into a national database.

**Curve Street and Dallas Street** - This Neighborhood library will serve the neighborhood and hopefully attract students from CCA and Normal Park.

**Dorchester and Hixson Pike** - This Neighborhood Library will serve as a memorial to the recently deceased Dr. David McCallie. This library will also be registered with the Little Free Library Organization and registered in a national database.

# Announcements

## CDBG, HOME and ESG Funding APPLICATION/ALLOCATIONS WORKSHOP

The Department of Economic and Community Development will conduct the annual workshops for the Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Grant and the Emergency Solutions Grant for FY 2014-2015

**November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Third Floor Training Room, City Hall, 101 East 11th Street, Chattanooga, TN 37402**

**Wednesday, November 6**

**Emergency Solutions Grant: 1:00 – 2:30 P.M.**

**Thursday, November 7**

**HOME Investment Grant: 1:00 – 2:30 P.M.**

**Community Development Block Grant: 3:00 – 4:30 P.M.**

The workshops will provide information on estimated funding available under each grant, funding criteria, grant regulations, and the application process, including due dates.

Applications are now available on the City's website at [www.chattanooga.gov](http://www.chattanooga.gov).  
Applications will **not** be available at the workshops.

If you have any questions, please contact the Community Development Office at 423-3700.

LEARNING DOESN'T  
STOP WHEN THE  
BELL RINGS.

HOMEWORK HELP  
LEADERSHIP  
CAREER DEVELOPMENT  
LITERACY PROGRAMS  
RECREATION/SPORTS  
SOCIAL SERVICES

YOUTH & FAMILY  
DEVELOPMENT



Catch "PEP Talk"  
w/Lurone "Coach" Jennings  
Mondays 7-8pm on:



423-643-6096  
[chattanoogayouthandfamily.com](http://chattanoogayouthandfamily.com)

# November Calendar of Events

**Sunday November 3**

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

**Monday November 4**

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 November 5**

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

**Wednesday November 6**

10am - 11am	Board of Zoning Appeals
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**Thursday November 7**

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

**Monday November 11**

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

**Tuesday November 12**

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
7pm - 8pm	Lake Hills Neighborhood Association

**Wednesday November 13**

11am - 12pm	East Lake Senior Citizens
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**Thursday November 14**

9am - 10am	Environmental Court
6pm - 7pm	Churchville Neighborhood Association
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 November 18**

6pm - 7pm	Avondale Neighborhood Association
6pm - 8pm	Chattanooga Organized for Action
6pm - 7pm	North Brainerd Neighborhood Association
6pm - 7pm	Washington Hills Neighborhood Association
6:30pm - 7:30pm	Fort Negley Neighborhood Association

**Tuesday November 19**

6pm - 7pm	Hickory Creek Townhome Association
6pm - 7pm	Orchard Knob Neighborhood Association
7pm - 8pm	Cloverale Neighborhood Association

**Thursday November 21**

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	Missionary Ridge Neighborhood Association
6pm - 7pm	Southside Chattanooga Oak Hills Neighborhood Association
6:30pm - 7:30pm	Highland Park Neighborhood Association
6:30pm - 7:30pm	Olde Town Brainerd Neighborhood Association
7pm - 8pm	Lake Chickamauga Association

**Monday November 25**

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

**Thursday November 28**

<b>Thanksgiving Holiday - City Hall Closed</b>	
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**Friday November 30**

<b>Thanksgiving Holiday - City Hall Closed</b>	
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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