



A Newsletter from the Office of Economic and Community Development

# What Is The New Office of Economic & Community Development?

by Dottie Brewer, Editor

Many of you have probably been wondering, "What is the difference in the department of Economics and Community Development and the former department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development?" Well, it's a name change and then some!

First of all, the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development did not go away. In April when Mayor Andy Berke took office, he reorganized the department to become two separate divisions within the Office of Economic and Community Development (ECD). This reorganization added other former departments and offices as divisions under the umbrella of ECD. The six divisions and their roles are:

**Community Development** uses funds from the U.S. Department of housing and Urban Development to support low-to-moderate income projects such as housing, infrastructure and social services.

**Land Development** enforces signage, building, safety and zoning codes.

**Neighborhood Services** enforces housing, litter, overgrowth and inoperable vehicle codes. Neighborhood Relations assists with the formation and issues of neighborhood associations.

**Outdoor Chattanooga** is responsible for the City's "signature" outdoor lifestyle, with

facilities dedicated to the recreational use, education, and stewardship of the region's natural areas.

**Public Art** is dedicated to introducing a wide variety of high quality public art into the community, enhancing the civic environment and enriching the lives of visitors and residents.

**Regional Planning Agency** oversees zoning and land use recommendations.

Why the change? The integration of these divisions is part of Mayor Berke's vision to fuel the economic and community growth in Chattanooga. Each of these divisions is integral to the character, well-being and growth of both downtown and all surrounding neighborhoods. Departments that once operated as separate entities within the City's structure are now working more closely together with a common goal.

As with any paradigm shift, there is a learning curve. As we at City Hall adjust to the new regimen, we hope the citizens of Chattanooga do as well, and begin to feel the positive impacts. ECD has many new plans and programs in the works that not only involve all of its divisions, but requires coordination with all City departments.

In upcoming issues of *Common Ground*, we will highlight the divisions of ECD to help everyone understand the role they play in making Chattanooga a great city.

"Building Better Neighborhoods... Block By Block"

# COMMONGROUND



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# National Night Out 2013

by Karen D. Clay, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

Tuesday, October 1, communities came together to participate in the 30th annual National Night Out. The event is known for neighbors, family and friends partnering with police to strengthen communities and bring cohesiveness in the fight against crime.

The kick-off was held at the East Chattanooga Recreation Center on Dodson Avenue. Ron Gilbert, president of Battery Heights Neighborhood Association, along with Glass Farms, Avondale, Wheeler Avenue, Bushtown, Churchville, Glenwood, Lincoln Park, and Riverside Drive co-hosted this year's kick-off. Music was provided by Love and Peace Entertainment as well as Tyner High School's Pride Band, Dance Team,



Residents of Ferger Place celebrated with a live band



Midfield Acres gathers for food and friendship on National Night Out

Flag Team and Broncos' Cheerleaders. Target is a national sponsor of National Night out, and they donated an array of items and bounce houses for the younger children. Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke, City councilpersons, the Chattanooga Police and Fire Chiefs, County Commissioners and other elected officials attended the kick-off. There was a great presence of police and fire fighters.

Other neighborhoods gathered for their own celebrations across town. Congratulations to all the communities that participated in National Night Out!



The large crowd at the kick-off in East Chattanooga enjoyed entertainment from the Tyner Pride Band (above right) and the Bronco's Cheerleaders (below right) as part of their festivities



## Want a Cleaner, Safer Neighborhood? Show You Care

If you saw someone accidentally drop a bunch of oranges on the sidewalk, would you help pick them up? A recent study shows that 40 percent of passersby would. What's incredible, though, is that for passersby who had witnessed an act of positive social behavior taking place nearby — like someone sweeping debris from the street — prior to the oranges' dropping, that percentage more than doubled, to 82 percent of people stopping to help.

Good social behavior spreads, whether we realize it's influencing us or not. The findings, published by Kees Keizer, a behavior scientist and professor at the University of Groningen, Netherlands, confirm the belief that setting a good example can positively affect others. But this study ventures even further to show that when we observe others caring about society, we end up caring, too.

This concept has broad applications, but in our own neighborhoods is a good starting place. Want a nicer street? Show your neighbors that you care about keeping it clean and safe; they might get the message and follow suit. "Showing that people care apparently has a big influence on other people in the neighborhood conforming as well," Keizer says.

I know what you're thinking. How could one person impact a whole neighborhood? Think back to that street sweeper in the orange experiment. "That one person sweeping the pavement had big influence. The beauty is that it's one person doing that and giving an example," Keizer says.

### How to Use Behavioral Science to Better Your Neighborhood

**Let your neighbors know you care.** If your neighbors see that you care, they're more likely to care as well. That means don't hide your actions from public view. The more your actions are on display, the better. Ever wonder why recycling bins are often brightly colored? It's actually a signal to others that you're being a good neighbor, and hopefully others will follow.

**Pick up litter.** There's just something about litter that encourages disorder. As you walk through your neighborhood or on your street, make a point to pick up trash whenever possible. It's all about making other people think of these norms and rules as important. "If you know that all your neighbors think it's important to have a clean street, it's going to be harder to litter in that environment," Keizer says. "So communicating that we care about this is key."

**Organize a street-cleaning day.** Get your neighbors involved. Even if everyone doesn't participate, the fact that people know their neighbors care about having a clean street can influence their behavior.

**Pick up your toys.** Parents pick up after their kids to set a good example. They show children how to do it and encourage them to do it, too. The same applies for adults. If you want a nice street, start with your own home. Keep your yard clear of debris and leaves, and keep things mowed and trimmed. Don't leave your trash cans out for long stretches of time. "The cleaning-up part makes others not transgress as easily," Keizer says.

**Erase graffiti in communal areas.** Nobody wants



to be the neighborhood grouch. After all, it's just some innocent kids writing on the community mailbox, right? Well, yes and no. Keizer found that things like graffiti have a spreading effect on social norms.

Keizer has also published a series of studies in the journal *Science*, showing the negative side effects of graffiti on walls and unreturned shopping carts. Not only did people copy the behavior, but there was a spreading component, too. "People are more likely to graffiti when there's graffiti there, but also litter and be more likely to steal," he says. "This suggests that if you keep your street neat and clean, you might help in a way reduce other transgressions as well."

**Have a group mentality.** We often live in our own little bubbles. As a result, we might not know if we're causing a problem with our neighbors. By meeting with neighbors regularly to talk about concerns, people are more likely to think about the group as a whole than in terms of individuals.

Maybe you didn't realize how frustrated your neighbors were by that one tree branch hanging from your yard that dropped berries onto the sidewalk and cars. After hearing this concern, you might consider trimming back the tree. Maybe the neighbors would even help pitch in to pay for it. This would reinforce a group mentality for future behavior in your neighborhood. "The more you think a certain behavior is common or approved of, the more likely other people will pick it up," Keizer says.

Neighborly News from...

Office of Multicultural Affairs & ArtsBuild

ArtsBuild has announced that they are accepting requests for the 2013-14 Community Cultural Connection grant program that will support arts projects throughout Hamilton County. Community Cultural Connections is a program that is a result of Imagine Chattanooga 20/20, Chattanooga's cultural plan that created strategies to improve our community through arts and culture. Organizations, clubs and groups in Hamilton County are eligible to apply for the grants which will fund up to \$3,000 per project that will benefit underserved populations.

"Our working group took on a broad definition of diversity," stated ArtsBuild board member James McKissic. "Through the Community Cultural Connections grants, we want the arts to be available to cultural and ethnic communities, seniors, persons with disabilities and in every region of our county."

The grant deadline is November 22, 2013. Organizations and groups do not need to have 501(c)(3) status to apply. According to diversity working group co-chair, Lillie Wills, "We encourage neighborhood associations, ethnic and cultural clubs, recreation centers, faith-based organizations and social service agencies to apply for the grants."



Community Cultural Connections Grant Info Sessions  
 October 21, 5:00 - 6:00  
 City Hall, 3rd Floor, Veranda Room

About the Grants

ArtsBuild is currently accepting requests for the 2013-14 the Community Cultural Connections (CCC) grant program that supports arts and cultural projects for underserved populations in Chattanooga/Hamilton County. Now in its second year, Community Cultural Connections grant is a direct result of Imagine Chattanooga 20/20, the community-wide cultural plan that created strategies to improve the greater Chattanooga area through arts and culture.

The **deadline** for CCC grant proposal requests is **November 22, 2013. Organizations and groups are not required to have 501(c)(3) status to apply.** ArtsBuild will host two grant workshops for those interested in applying: October 21 at 5 p.m. with the Office of Multicultural Affairs at Chattanooga City Hall in the Veranda Room, 3rd Floor and October 30 at 9 a.m. at ArtsBuild, 406 Frazier Ave.

[Click here to RSVP for October 21 Office of Multicultural Affairs Grant Workshop at City Hall](#)

[Click here to RSVP for the October 30 Grant Workshop at ArtsBuild](#)

The Community Cultural Connections grant guidelines and application will be available on the ArtsBuild's website beginning Friday, October 4 at [www.ArtsBuild.com](http://www.ArtsBuild.com). Additional information is available by contacting Rodney Van Valkenburg, Director of Grants and Initiatives, (423) 756-2787 or [rodney@ArtsBuild.com](mailto:rodney@ArtsBuild.com).

LEARNING DOESN'T  
 STOP WHEN THE  
 BELL RINGS.



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



423-643-6096

[chattanoogayouthandfamily.com](http://chattanoogayouthandfamily.com)

## Neighborly News from...

### Eastdale Neighborhood Association

by Karen D. Clay,  
Neighborhood Relations Specialist

A few months ago, I had a conversation with a young lady who was full of energy and wanted to make a difference in her community. Her goals were clear and concise; she wanted to build a relationship within her community for all residents. The Eastdale Neighborhood Association had not been active in several years, and Ms. Demetres Conrood was interested in restarting the neighborhood association. After several meetings with Ms. Conrood, she along with other members of the neighborhood decided to join ranks to re-start the Eastdale Neighborhood Association.

As times change with regard to jobs, family life and aging, the residents knew they needed to become involved and take back their neighborhood. An initial meeting was held to discuss re-starting the association and electing officers. The residents got the ball rolling by recruiting volunteers to take lead and accept the role of officers. They have also begun working on their by-laws.

August 26, 2013 was the beginning of the renewed Eastdale Neighborhood Association. The meeting started at 6 p.m. with good attendance, participation and lots of questions. As the Neighborhood Relation Specialist, I gave an overview of what the Neighborhood Services division does and how complaints and code violations are handled. The group participated in the Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis offered by Neighborhood Services. This exercise is designed to help members identify their top priorities in the neighborhood to develop solutions. They also celebrated National Night Out on October 1. The group is so enthusiastic about the work and is committed to make Eastdale a better place to live and play. Congratulations to Eastdale on a fresh start!

Eastdale Neighborhood meets the fourth Monday of every month at 6 p.m. at Eastdale Recreation Center and is located in Council District 9.



Meet the new officers for Eastdale Neighborhood Association: (L to R) Joe Ramsey, treasurer; Demetres Conrood, president; Greg Walton, secretary and Marina Robards, vice president



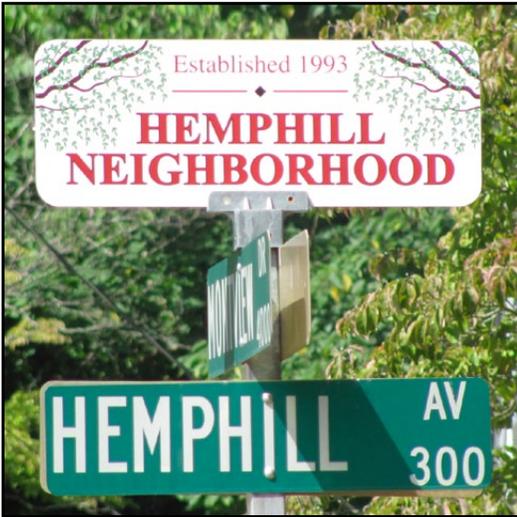
Above: Eastdale residents work on identifying their Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) at a recent meeting.

Right: Interest has been high at the well attended initial meetings of Eastdale Neighborhood Association



# Neighborly News from...

## Hemphill Neighborhood Association



by Ty Armour, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

The Hemphill Neighborhood began to put down roots in the early 1920's and currently consists of 105 homes. The neighborhood is a mix of young families and long time residents in this pleasant little neighborhood where family and community togetherness are priorities for all. With the constant growth of the Brainerd area, many in the neighborhood felt a need to establish a structured neighborhood association. In 1993 they formed the Hemphill Neighborhood Association in order to better represent the long and short term goals of the neighborhood.

Over the years the Hemphill Neighborhood Association has successfully applied for funding through the Neighborhood Partners Program. Projects included neighborhood entrance enhancements and toppers for all of the neighborhood street signs. A greater sense of neighborhood pride has been generated from the efforts of the residents.

The Hemphill Neighborhood is a great place for summer Sunday night ice cream socials and an even better place to raise a family. The

association meets from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the second Monday, bimonthly at the triangle.

### Haunted Canoe Rides

Guided, Spooky Family Adventures  
To Benefit the North Chickamauga Creek Conservancy

**Saturday, October 19, 2013**  
**Hourly 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.**

Greenway Farm, Hixson, Tennessee

Cost: \$15 Adults/\$10 Kids 10 and Under  
Advanced Registration Recommended  
[www.EdgeReg.com](http://www.EdgeReg.com) (Haunted Canoe)

Walk Ups First Come, First Served  
Walk-Ups Cash and Check Only  
All equipment provided.

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

### Fireside at Greenway Farm

*Music, Stories, Friendship and Campfire Fun*

**Thursdays, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**  
Greenway Farm, Hixson, at the Log Cabin  
**FREE**  
Bring the kids, blankets, camp chairs & marshmallows.

**2013 Schedule**

**September 26**  
Folk School of Chattanooga Old Time Music Jam  
*Bring your instrument and join the fun!*

**October 3**  
Randy Steele and Friends Bluegrass  
*Ain't no slim pickin'*

**October 10**  
The VonWamps  
*Lou, Lynn and Daniel strut their family grass style*

**October 17**  
Girls Preparatory School String Quartets  
*Tango and Middle School 's sublime talents*

**October 24**  
Vincent Ivan Phipps' Spooky-Nooga Storytelling  
*Original, family friendly stories with local flair*

**Canoe North Chickamauga Creek**  
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.  
\$10 (Cash and Check Only) / All Equipment Provided  
[OutdoorChattanooga.com](http://OutdoorChattanooga.com) (423) 643-6888

## Announcements

### **PUBLIC NOTICE HOMEAGAIN RENTAL HOUSING PROGRAM**

The City of Chattanooga is making available HOME Investment Partnership Act (HOME) grant funds under its HOMEAgain Program for the development of rental housing units for individuals and families, including those who are experiencing homelessness or facing challenges that would likely result in homelessness.

The grant funds may be used to acquire, construct, rehab or convert units into housing, within the city limits of Chattanooga. The City will fund up to 50% of total development costs, with a maximum investment of \$50,000 per project. Proof of financing match is required. Individuals, area nonprofits or for-profit organizations may apply as single applicants or in partnership with other entities. Applicants must have verifiable experience in developing and managing federally funded affordable rental projects.

The Request for Proposal document is available at:

<http://www.chattanooga.gov/homeagain>

No paper copies will be available.

Prospective applicants are required to attend the HOMEAGAIN Overview and Technical Assistance Workshop to review new requirements and changes to the program.

The workshop will be held:

**Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 3:00 P.M.**

**City of Chattanooga, 101 East 11th Street, Third Floor Multi-Purpose Room, Chattanooga, TN 37402**

For more information, contact Countess Jenkins at 423-425-3735 or email to: [jenkins\\_co@chattanooga.gov](mailto:jenkins_co@chattanooga.gov)

**Proposals are due by 2:00 P.M. on Friday, November 15, 2013.**

### **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. On November 1, 2013 applications will be 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.

# October Calendar of Events

**Tuesday October 1**

6pm - 7pm	Bushtown Neighborhood Association
6pm - 7pm	Shawnee Hills Neighborhood Association

**Wednesday October 2**

10am - 11am	Board of Zoning Appeals
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**Thursday October 3**

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

**Sunday October 6**

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

**Monday October 7**

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 October 8**

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 October 9**

11am - 12pm	East Lake Senior Citizens
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**Thursday October 10**

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

**Thursday October 10**

7pm - 8pm	Fort Wood Neighborhood Association
7pm - 8pm	Martin Luther King Neighborhood Association

**Monday October 14**

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

**Tuesday October 15**

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

**Thursday October 17**

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 October 21**

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

**Thursday October 24**

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

**Monday October 28**

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

**Thursday October 31**

9am - 10am	Environmental Court
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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