



A Newsletter from the Department of Economic and Community Development



“Building Better Neighborhoods... Block By Block”

COMMON GROUND



Patten Towers - A New Beginning

by Vanessa A. Jackson, Neighborhood Program Specialist

Most Chattanooga and others throughout the region are aware of the May 28, 2013 electrical fire that displaced the 241 residents of Patten Towers for one month. When built in 1908, the 105 year old structure was a luxurious, landmark skyscraper hotel that provided accommodations for numerous famous people including presidents, entertainment personalities and other notables. Since 1971, the structure has served as an apartment building for the elderly disabled and special populations. Over the years, the ownership has changed hands, however PK Management, a South Carolina based company now owns and operates Patten Towers under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Section 8 low-income program.

But what many may not be aware of is the tremendous professional, community support and leveraging of resources by government agencies, nonprofits, churches and individuals that have and are serving in the recovery and reparation in the aftermath of the event. In addition to first responders, such as the Chattanooga Fire Department and the American Red Cross of Southeast Tennessee, the Departments of Youth and Family Development and Economic and Community Development were two city departments to respond in the early hours after the crisis. CARTA was also there from beginning to end and



provided transportation for the residents from Patten Towers to shelter locations and various agency providers free of charge.

Anytime the Red Cross opens a shelter operation it is mandated that it provide food, beds, clothing shower facilities and other amenities as needed. Under the supervision of the local chapter of the Red Cross, Brainerd Recreation Center located on North Moore Road was transformed into an emergency shelter that provided sleeping, shower quarters and meals for the 140-200 displaced residents for seven days. Other residents were placed at East Brainerd Church of Christ. The first three days meals were *continued on page 2*

Inside This Issue:

Patten Towers.....	1
Improving Our Neighborhoods	3
In Memorium.....	4
District 9 Leads The Way.....	4
Neighborly News	5, 6
Announcements.....	7
Calendar of Events.....	8

Economic and Community Development

(423) 425-3700 • www.chattanooga.gov

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

Donna C. Williams, Administrator

Anthony O. Sammons, Deputy Administrator

Sandra Gober, Manager, Community Development

Dottie Brewer, Editor, *Common Ground*

If you would like to receive *Common Ground* via e-mail send a message to brewer_d@chattanooga.gov

Patten Towers - A New Beginning *continued from page 1*

provided by the local Salvation Army and after the fourth day the Salvation Army provided all meals. The Red Cross mobilized a total of 110 volunteers from the community to operate the 7 day, 24 hour shelter.

Ready to respond, Goodwill Industries stepped up and offered each displaced resident free vouchers for two complete sets of clothing. In order to accommodate the medical needs of elderly and disabled residents as well as those requiring special accommodations, the Red Cross provided an on-site mini-clinic that averaged 200 visits from residents every 24 hours. The medical services were augmented by medical equipment and supplies provided by Goodwill.

It is reported that more than \$80,000 was spent on beds, meals and security at these locations before residents were transferred to local hotels. "The Red Cross could not have responded to this crisis without others stepping up to assist," said Greg Waite, Executive Director. Thirty-one agencies stepped up to assist in meeting the needs of those affected by the crisis.

The Department of Economic and Community Development's Land Development Office, whose mission is to ensure the public's health, safety, and welfare through the enforcement of adopted building, electrical, plumbing, gas and mechanical codes and the Zoning Ordinances of the City of Chattanooga with representatives from the Chattanooga Fire Marshal's office and the Hamilton County Emergency Services Office conducted an inspection of the building on

Thursday, May 30. The Chief Electrical Inspector for the Land Development Office worked with the electrical contractor and owner's representatives. The Land Development Office issued a Conditional Certificate of Occupancy, noting that there were still some minor modifications that were required before a Certificate of Occupancy can be provided. With that approval from the fire Marshall, the residents were able to move back into the units on June 28.

So what's on the horizon for Patton Towers? PK Management has been very cooperative and pledged to spend up to \$1.15 million to improve the building. The plan and timeline for the completion of the work was provided to the City. All items on the list should be completed by the end of September. The residents are happy to be back at home and are optimistic about the improvements that they see on the premises.

In addition, the residents have started to work with the Office of Economic and Community Development's Neighborhood Relations Specialists to help form a resident's council so they are equipped to communicate and work more effectively with PK Management's on-site management team and staff. During the first meeting, residents expressed that they are looking forward to positive changes in the physical structure as well as their human capacity. The department made arrangements for the Mobile Market to stop at Patten Towers once a week, offering fresh fruits, vegetables and basic grocery items. So far, the truck has been a very welcomed addition to those with limited ability to travel to a grocery store.

City Hall extends a special thank you to all individuals and agencies that showed compassion and professionalism in providing relief to our neighbors from Patten Towers. It is amazing what we can do, even in the most trying times when we bring together our collective gifts, assets and resources.

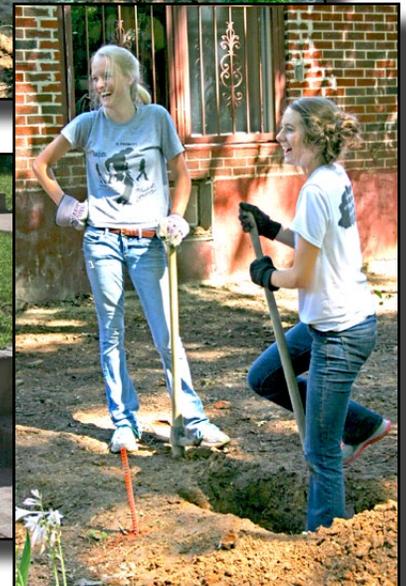


Residents enjoying the convenience of the Mobile Market now making weekly stops at Patten Towers



Improving Our Neighborhoods

A big "Thank You" to World Changers volunteers who came from across the country and provided free labor to improve homes for Chattanooga residents in need. These young people touched many hearts!



In Memorium



Debbie Faye Johnson

It is with much sadness we mourn the passing of Debbie Faye Johnson, on Sunday, August 18, 2013. Many of you knew Debbie, and knew her well. She began her career with the City of Chattanooga in 1997 as an executive secretary to Mayor Jon Kinsey after being part of his campaign team. Mayor Kinsey created the Neighborhood Services Department from the department formerly known as Equal Employment Opportunity and Fair Housing and appointed Moses Freeman as the administrator. Mr. Freeman says he promptly “stole” Debbie from the Mayor’s office “because she was a ball of fire, and she wanted to do something more meaningful than push papers.” So began her years as a Neighborhood Relations Coordinator.

Debbie worked tirelessly for her neighborhoods, helping them form new associations, bolstering existing ones, and being a liason between the neighborhoods and City government. Heidi Hefferlin, president of the Southside/Cowart Place Neighborhood Association, said “I was sad to read the news of Debbie’s death. She has been a friend and ally to our neighborhood.

She assisted us in setting up our association and in pursuing and obtaining grants. She always attended our meetings and became friends with us all. She will truly be missed.”

Neighborhoods across Chattanooga feel the same way. Representatives from many neighborhood associations attended Debbie’s funeral service to express their appreciation for her hard work and friendship. The Office of Economic and Community Development and the City of Chattanooga feel the void. Debbie worked closely with city departments, council members, administrators, and the Mayor’s office to make things happen for the neighborhoods. Most of all, we will miss her contagious happiness and smiling face.

Memorial contributions may be made online to Humane Educational Society of Chattanooga, Tennessee, or the Community Kitchen, 727 East 11th Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37403.

District 9 Leads the Way

by Karen D. Clay, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

On April 15, 2013, Councilman Yusuf Hakeem was sworn into office to represent City Council District 9 of the City of Chattanooga. As a representative of district 9, Councilman Hakeem vowed to stay in touch with the people, neighborhoods, businesses, community leaders and concerned citizens.

Keeping true to his word, on July 15, Councilman Hakeem held his first District 9 quarterly meeting— over 100 community residents were in attendance. The purpose of the meeting was to hear from the residents, neighborhood associations and businesses about on-going problems in the district and work toward creating viable solutions to address the pressing concerns. Participants were divided into groups to discuss and work towards solutions relevant to jobs, education, health, crime & safety. The facilitators of the working groups were Demetres Coonrod, Richard Dyar, Bill Race, Paula Cannon, Shane Morrow, Ron Gilbert and Alexis Willis.

This meeting was a great start for Councilman Hakeem’s engagement with the residents and representatives of District 9. Solutions developed from this meeting will be discussed in future meetings he plans to hold for his district.

Also in attendance at the meeting were several City officials: Mayor Andy Berke; Chief Bobby Dodd, Chattanooga Police Department; Donna Williams, Administrator, Department of Economic and Community Development; and Paul Smith, Public Safety Coordinator.

Taking a cue from Councilman Hakeem, do not be alarmed or even surprised when you are called upon to participate in your district and become involved in the process. Chattanooga is working together for solutions and you need to be a part of it.



Participants listen closely in the District 9 meeting

Participants include Demetres Coonrod, Richard Dyar, Bill Race, Paula Cannon, Shane Morrow, Ron Gilbert and Alexis Willis.

Neighborly News from...

Cedar Hill Improvement League

by Debbie Johnson, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

Cedar Hill Improvement League (CHIL) is an enduring neighborhood association that can boast of 20 plus years of existence. Members have come and gone through various life transitions but the CHIL has maintained their commitment to the community.

Cedar Hill Improvement League made 2013 the year of renewal and outreach to residents, new and existing. The CHIL kicked off this renewal by going door to door notifying residents of the association and getting input on what residents desired in their community. Neighbors began renewing old relationships, developing new relationships and came together to participate.

Over the course of several meetings, the CHIL worked on documenting the needs, desires, and issues in the community. From this they are building a strategic plan to address the issues and continue to improve the neighborhood.

In May, Ruby Green, president of CHIL, retired from the position she has held for over 15 years. She said she was retiring from office, but she is not retiring from her community, "I will always work in Cedar Hills - it is my home and I love this neighborhood." Ms. Green was presented a Certificate of Appreciation from Chattanooga City Councilman Chris Anderson and the Department of Economic and Community Development for her many years of work in the community.

The newly elected officers are: John Arnold, president; Greg Davis, vice president; Tabitha Carroll,



John Arnold, president (left) and Councilman Chris Anderson (right) presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Ruby Green for her long term service to Cedar Hill Improvement League

secretary; and Zelma Lansford, treasurer. President John Arnold and his team have hit the ground running. Mr. Arnold said, "Everyone is a stakeholder and it does not matter if you are an owner, occupant or a renter in Cedar Hill. This is everyone's neighborhood and we are all invested in not only improving our environment but most importantly our relationships as neighbors."

The Cedar Hill Improvement League meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month in the Cedar Hill Precinct Building, 4501 13th Avenue.

Murray Hills Neighborhood Association

by Dottie Brewer, Editor

In July, we ran an article called *13 Ways To Make Your Neighborhood Better*. One of the ways listed was to create a Little Free Library in the neighborhood. Tisa Houck of Murray Hills responded with this:



Belinda Wilson, Garden Club president, Skip and Lisa Houck with the new Little Free Library

I was thrilled to see an article in the July "Common Ground" about the Little Free Library, and I thought you might like to know that Murray Hills now has a Little Free Library in Sterchi Park, the park that is maintained by our Garden Club. I have joined the Little Free Library organization and registered our library, which has an official sign and is number 7221. I have sent in photos and a description to the organization, and we will be on the map of libraries located all over the country.

I am a retired Chattanooga State librarian, and when I learned about the project last year, I hoped we'd be able to have a Little Library in our neighborhood. In April my husband built the library, and I stocked it with books, and the Garden Club welcomed it as a community project for our park. We installed it earlier this month and posted a Facebook message on our neighborhood's page, as well as put an article in our July neighborhood newsletter.

Congratulations, Murray Hills, on being ahead of the curve!

Neighborly News from...

Brainerd Hills Neighborhood Association

by Ty Armour, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

Brainerd Hills is a subdivision of approximately 225 homes built in the late 1930's and 1940's. Many young families moved to this pleasant neighborhood where activities for children became an emphasis.

Growth of the area brought the formation of a civic club – The Brainerd Hills Club – organized in 1942, and for many years was a center for meetings and parties. The club members built a swimming pool and sponsored a swim team which competed in the Chattanooga area swim league.

A strong sense of community has always existed within the neighborhood. Further growth of the Brainerd area brought the realization that in order for neighborhood goals to be achieved, a more organized structure was needed. Thus, the Brainerd Hills Neighborhood Association was formed in 2002. The officers selected were Joyce Merritt, president; Debi Lane, secretary; and Becky Newman volunteered to serve as treasurer. Those officers still serve today.

The Brainerd Hills Neighborhood Association has successfully applied for and received funding from the department's Neighborhood Partners Program for several projects. The association used the funds for projects such as enhancements at the entrances to the subdivision, a newsletter, a neighborhood directory, street signs and new benches and roses at the Point, a small park in the subdivision.

Congratulations to the Brainerd Hills Neighborhood Association for all the hard work they do to make their community a great place to live.

The Brainerd Hills Neighborhood Association holds quarterly meetings at the Brown Acres Golf Clubhouse, 406 Brown Road. Contact the president for scheduled meetings.



Foster Grandparents Returning to School

by Susan Kroll, City of Chattanooga Department of Youth and Family Development

Students and teachers aren't the only ones returning to the classrooms this fall. Foster Grandparent volunteers serving as mentors and tutors in Hamilton County Schools are packing their lunches and gathering their bags as they prepare for their first day of school. Foster Grandparents mentor students at Hardy Elementary, Hillcrest Elementary, Red Bank Elementary and Woodmore Elementary Schools. They have the time and patience to work one-on-one with students that need extra help. They build relationships over the school year and are often "rewarded" by witnessing successes and achievements in the classroom.



Foster Grandparents pictured L to R: Lillie Broadnax, Doris Ray, Mary Myers, and Diane Allen.

Foster Grandparents must be at least 55 years of age and have a desire to share their experiences and compassion with the younger generation. While improving the lives of the children they serve, Foster Grandparents have added more life and fulfillment to their senior years by staying active and connected to their communities.

For more information about the City of Chattanooga Foster Grandparent Program, located in the Department of Youth and Family Development, call (423) 757-5509.

Announcements

Nickajack Cave Family Canoe Adventures

Explore the mysteries of Nickajack Cave with
your entire family.

Share the wonder of thousands of
endangered gray bats flying at dusk.

Trips on Aug. 16, Sept. 6 & 13, 2013



**Outdoor
Chattanooga**
COME OUT AND PLAY!
City of Chattanooga

Photo by Diane Blankenbaker

Cost: \$10 per person
Includes all gear and guides
(423) 643-6888 / info@outdoorchattanooga.com
OutdoorChattanooga.com

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

The City of Chattanooga Department of Economic and Community Development will conduct a public meeting in the multipurpose room of the Chattanooga Housing Authority, 801 N. Holtzclaw Avenue, on Thursday, September 19, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information and receive comments on the City's 2012-2013 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) prior to its submission of the report to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The CAPER is an overall review of housing and community development activities undertaken in 2012-2013 by the City using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and other federal funds. The CAPER delineates the amount of federal funding that is distributed through the program, where that money is spent, and it assesses how that spending addresses the housing and community development goals that the City has set forth in its Consolidated Plan.

Beginning September 5, 2013 a copy of 2012- 2013 CAPER Report will be available in the Department of Economic and Community Development located at 101 East 11th Street, Suite 200. The deadline for the consideration of written comments and/or suggestions is Thursday, September 26, 2013.

Comments may be addressed to Sandra Gober at the above address, or faxed to (423) 425-6447, prior to the public hearing. Interested citizens may also offer oral comments at the meeting on Thursday, September 19, 2013. Non-English speaking residents and citizens with speech, sight, or hearing impairments who wish to review the documents or comment at the public hearing should contact the ECD Department at (423) 757-5133. Each request will be considered individually according to the type of assistance required, the availability of resources, and the ability of the City to provide accommodation.

Fireside at Greenway Farm

Music, Stories, Friendship and Campfire Fun

Thursdays, Sept. 26 - Oct. 24
7:00 p.m.

Greenway Farm, Hixson, at the Log Cabin
FREE

You bring kids, blankets, camp chairs & marshmallows.
We'll warm up the campfire & entertainment.

Visit OutdoorChattanooga.com for a detailed schedule.

Canoe North Chickamauga Creek before Fireside
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
\$10 / All Equipment Provided



September Calendar of Events

Sunday September 1

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

Monday September 2

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 September 3

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

Wednesday September 4

10am - 11am	Board of Zoning Appeals
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Thursday September 5

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

Monday September 9

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

Tuesday September 10

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 September 11

11am - 12pm	East Lake Senior Citizens
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Thursday September 12

9am - 10am	Environmental Court
6pm - 7pm	Churchville Neighborhood Association
6pm - 8pm	North Hixson Neighborhood Association

Thursday September 12

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 September 16

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 September 17

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

Thursday September 19

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 September 23

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

Thursday September 26

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 September 30

6pm - 8pm	Chattanooga Organized for Action
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For more information on these events and all registered neighborhood association meeting dates go to Neighborhood Services at <http://www.chattanooga.gov> and check our Calendar of Events