



A Newsletter from the Office of Economic and Community Development



“Building Better Neighborhoods... Block By Block”

COMMON GROUND



The Land Development Office

by Gary Hilbert, Director, City of Chattanooga Land Development Office

This is the second in a series of articles to familiarize you with the different divisions that fall under the umbrella of the Office of Economic and Community Development. The Land Development Office is located in the Development Resource Center, 1250 Market Street, suite 1000.

The mission of the Land Development Office (LDO) is to ensure the public’s safety through the enforcement of the adopted building, electrical, plumbing, gas and mechanical codes, and zoning and water quality (storm water) ordinances. The codes enforced by the City of Chattanooga have been adopted by the City Council.

One of the LDO’s responsibilities is to issue licenses to all mechanical, electrical, gas and plumbing subcontractors and assure they are knowledgeable in their particular field of work. Mechanics in the various trades must pass a competency test in their related field before being issued a license.

Reviewing plans, issuing permits and performing inspections for new construction (including remodeling projects) is the responsibility of the building inspection team in the LDO. The zoning team issues permits and performs inspections of commercial signs and inspections related to zoning ordinances. Permits are generally required for all new construction, additions and intensive



remodels. To find out if you need a permit for your project, please call 643-5800.

Some citizens confuse the activities of the LDO building inspectors with the inspectors who enforce property maintenance and housing codes. While building inspectors perform inspections related to construction activities, property maintenance and housing code inspectors inspect existing houses and other structures, overgrowth, litter, dumping and inoperable vehicles.

The Land Development Office is integral in the development of Chattanooga’s communities. Property owners, architects, developers and contractors are welcome to meet the staff so they may assist you with any questions you may have about the zoning and permitting process.

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Economic and Community Development

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Veterans Bridge Flag Initiative

The City of Chattanooga Transportation Department announces the opportunity to honor an individual U.S. service man or woman is now available through the Veterans Bridge Flag Initiative.

Thirty American flags fly from May through November each year on Chattanooga's Veterans Bridge. Through the Veterans Bridge Flag Initiative, any group or individual wish to honor a service man or woman can do so by donating the cost of a flag. Each flag is \$75 and will fly on a numbered pole on the bridge from May 1 until after Veterans Day in November. Honorees will receive a certificate, signed by Mayor Andy Berke, recognizing their service to our country and proclaiming the pole number from which their flag flies.

There is no deadline, but there are a limited number of flagpoles available on the bridge to hang the flags. Once 30 are donated, any remaining will be on a waiting list. As flags are replaced throughout the year due to weather conditions and deterioration, flags on the waiting list will be placed. The Transportation Department will notify honorees which pole and certificates will be mailed to them.

For more information call 311 or contact Carolyn Johnson at johnson_c@chattanooga.gov or 643-5963.



Youth & Family Development Receives Awards

The Chattanooga Department of Youth and Family Development received 5 of the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association's highest award, the prestigious "4 Star Award", which recognizes the best overall programs, facilities and marketing in the state. They also received 2 individual awards in arts programming and excellence in lifeguarding.

TRPA 4 Star NEW Facility Award "Main Terrain Fitness and Art Park". Chattanooga Recreation staff was awarded for the efforts in helping design one of the City's newest parks just off Main Street titled Main Terrain.

TRPA 4 Star Aquatics Program Award "Veterans Kayak Program". The Therapeutic Recreation division was recognized for the creation of a free kayaking program to benefit wounded Veterans in the Chattanooga Area.

TRPA 4 Star Program Award "STARS of Chattanooga". STARS of Chattanooga challenged local youth and teens to write, record and produce their own song and submit a compilation CD. The STARS of Chattanooga CD was released in February 2013. The STARS were also awarded 3 performances at both Riverbend and the Bessie Smith Strut.

TRPA 4 Star Marketing Award "The Movie Choice". The video follows a 10 year old girl who joins an adult exercise class at Avondale YFD Center, after her attempts to join other local fitness classes with her mother had failed. She lost over 20lbs in 6 months, and received praise and confidence from her adult classmates.

TRPA 4 Star Print Media Award "Teen Marketing" Chattanooga Youth and Family was awarded for the creativity and talent shown in several posters that targeted teens from programs to texting and driving.

Longfellow Aquatics Award "Kevin Hayes". Longtime lifeguard Kevin Hayes was awarded the Longfellow award for outstanding accomplishments and programming.

S.E.A.M. Arts Award "Christina Clark". Christina Clark, recreation specialist for Brainerd Complex, was awarded the Arts Award for the creation of a summer pre-school arts program that focused on reading, arts, and the environment.

Congratulations to the City of Chattanooga Department of Youth and Family Development on being recognized for the quality programs they provide.

The Hazards of Putting Fats, Oils and Grease Down Your Drain

Excerpts from utilities@fcgov.com

When fats, oils and grease (FOG) are poured down the drain, they are not broken down by garbage disposals. They enter the sewer system where they cool and eventually congeal into a solid ball of grease. These grease balls cause blockages in the sewer system, posing dangerous health and environmental risks and increasing costs for you, the customer.

The holiday season elicits visions of buttery meals, turkey fryers, rich foods and lots of baking. FOG in the sewer system is one of the primary causes of residential sewer backups this time of year.

What happens when I put grease down the drain?

Grease forms balls which can cause raw sewage to back up into your home or your neighbors' homes. Blockages also can cause raw sewage to overflow from the sewer pipes and spill into creeks, rivers, and streams, causing significant environmental damage. Never pour fats, oils or grease in sink drains or toilets.

What should I stop putting down the drain?

Fats, oils and grease are found in common food ingredients like: meats, dairy products, cooking agents (lard, shortening, butter, cooking oil), and certain condiments like mayonnaise, gravy, salad dressing, sauces, or icing. Used grease from turkey fryers is a major contributor, especially during the holiday season. Food scraps can also pose a problem. You can help prevent blockages from harming our wastewater system by disposing of your greasy food scraps responsibly. Avoid using your garbage disposal for greasy food waste, putting it in the trash instead.

Instead of the drain, how should I dispose of greasy food waste?

- Pour larger amounts of cooled food grease (like bacon grease or oil from your deep fat fryer) into a covered, disposable container and put it in the trash or take to your local oil recycling center.
- Soak up any small amounts food grease with paper towels and discard in the trash.
- Before you wash your dishes, scrape food grease into your trash, not down the garage disposal.



Properly dispose of oil from your turkey fryer this holiday season: Pour the cooled oil into a container, seal it and drop it off at your local collection center.

How should I dispose of turkey fryer oil?

Put used, cooled oil in a sealed container and take to one of the City's disposal sites. The City of Chattanooga currently has five cooking oil collection tanks, one at each recycle convenience center (Access, Battery Place, Brainerd, Patten and Warner Park). Hours are Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Attendants are on-site should a resident need instructions or further guidelines.

The City contracts with Griffin Industries for the collection of spent cooking oil at the recycling centers. The oil is recycled for use in consumer and industrial products like soaps, cosmetics, rubber and plastics, etc.

Cleaning up FOG-related messes is expensive. It can increase the amount customers pay for sewer service. A sewer backup or overflow can also result in expensive repairs, environmental/health hazards and pest problems. Make sure your holiday cleanup isn't more than you bargained for!

An Open Letter from the Forgotten Child Fund

from Kelly Simmons, Captain, Chattanooga Fire Department

Many of you have heard of the Forgotten Child Fund, and probably assume it's a worthwhile charity, but you really don't know what it does. I wanted to take this opportunity to explain to you just what it is all about.

It was started in 1965, when two Chattanooga Police Officers went on a call, to find that the children at the house were not going to get any presents Christmas morning. The officers collected some money and were able to find some toys to help make sure that those children would not be "Forgotten" Christmas morning. From that experience, a few more Chattanooga police officers, firefighters, and members of the School Patrol formed the "Forgotten Child Fund."

Since that humble beginning, we have grown to include not just Chattanooga fire and police, but also Hamilton County EMS, Hamilton County Sheriffs Officers, and area rescue teams. We are proud that we were able to provide toys to 7,452 children in 2012. We are also proud that we are volunteers, but we could use some help!

Here are five ways that you can help, and I hope you will read them and possibly assist us with this worthy cause:

1. The Forgotten Child Fund is open Monday through Friday, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We are always in need of volunteers to work in the "Application Center," assisting people when they come in to fill out the application for assistance. We are also in need of volunteers to assist in the "Toy Store." The

"Toy Store" is in need of people to sort collected toys and restock the toy shelves.

2. We have "Toy Boxes" located at all of the Chattanooga Fire Stations, and all of the Hamilton County EMS Stations. We need volunteers to pick up the toy boxes and bring them to the "Toy Store."



3. You can volunteer to pack toys. Each child will get 5 to 6 toys that are correct for them. Over the years, whole families and groups that support the Forgotten Child Fund have made it a Christmas tradition to spend an evening packing for the families that have requested help.

4. I understand how busy you are, and how much you do for the community every day, so there is another way you can help that takes very little time. Contact your church and other organizations you belong to, or even your homeowners association. See if they can plan a day where everyone brings a new, unused toy to be donated to the Forgotten Child Fund. The need is endless, but our supplies are limited. We can always use more toys!

5. And this is the most important! If you know of someone who needs our help, please have them come to us. Help us make sure no child is forgotten this year! Have them come by the "Application Center" at 1715 E. Main Street (at Main and Hawthorne), or call us at 697-0031. If you have any questions, please call me, Kelly Simmons, at 593-7153.

Thanks for your continued support!



Ride the Santa Train

The Santa Train departs the Santa Train staging area, 3200 Amnicola Highway in Chattanooga at sunset Christmas annual mission of kindness. Staging begins at 4:00 p.m. There are red and blue lights flashing, sirens wailing, horns tooting, and Christmas carols being played over the loud speakers, while Santa waves at people on the street. Four Carta buses carry guests.

Ten or twelve of the neediest families have been selected to receive a personal delivery of toys from Santa Claus via the Santa Train. As the train stops in front of a preselected house, there is always much gaiety and excitement as neighbors come outside to cheer and mingle with Santa and Santa Train passengers. Although the parents have been foretold and prepared, their surprised children stand in amazement, bright smiles and eyes full of wonder as Santa Claus enters the scene. He is followed by policemen and firemen carrying boxes of toys for play... and food for a wholesome Christmas Day dinner.

Our only regret is that our resources are limited and there are so many other needy children we are unable to help. Please make plans to attend this event in order to help many children across our area in hopes for some toys for Christmas. For more information, call 697-0031.

Neighborly News from...

Helping Hands In Lookout Valley

By Donna Casteel, Chief Code Enforcement Inspector

With the holiday season upon us, it is heart-warming to hear stories of neighbor helping neighbor and strangers helping those less fortunate. Lookout Valley is that kind of community.

When WWII veteran Frank Cordell was unable to repair his house in Lookout Valley, neighbors and even strangers pitched in to help by volunteering labor and money. Mr. Cordell, age 92, desperately needed his roof replaced but didn't have the money for repairs after spending his savings caring for his wife in the last years of her life. The roof needed to be replaced years ago and had allowed water to leak inside the house causing further damage. His Lookout Valley neighbors were concerned about his well being. The City's code enforcement inspectors told him repairs were needed, or the house would have to be condemned.

A team of volunteers stepped in, led by City Councilman Chip Henderson. With the assistance of County Councilman Joe Graham, Senator Todd Gardenhire, members of the Lookout Valley Neighborhood Association, roofing contractors and others, they replaced Mr. Cordell's roof and rotten wood and put up a fence in the



City Councilman Chip Henderson and County Councilman Joe Graham install a fencepost while volunteer roofers replace the roof



backyard for his dogs. Congressman Chuck Fleishmann donated water and Hamilton County Criminal Court Clerk Gwen Tidwell donated lunch on Saturday.

Mr. Cordell fought on the front lines in Normandy. Volunteers have shown their gratitude for his service through their time and donations. Mr. Cordell is thankful he can enjoy a cozy and dry holiday season inside his newly repaired home. A big thank you to all the volunteers that made this happen!

Chattanooga Police Offer Prescription Drop Box

The Chattanooga Police Department is now able to accept expired, unused or unneeded prescription medications from the general public. There is a large Drop Box for disposal in the lobby of the Property Division, located at 3204 Amnicola Highway.

The Property Room Technicians will assist with the disposal process. Anyone can take in old prescriptions,

seven days a week, during normal business hours (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.).

The program aims to keep dangerous substances out of our landfills and drinking water. Proper disposal of old medications is one way to help reach this goal.

If anyone has questions about the program, please call Property Division at 643-5153.

Neighborly News from...

21st Century Neighborhood Association

by Ty Armour, *Neighborhood Relations Specialist*

Driving through the 21st Century Neighborhood Association area in Brainerd, bounded by Brainerd Road, Talley Road, Montview Drive and Sequoia Drive, you're surrounded by a park-like atmosphere of beautiful old oaks, hickories, pines, elms and the occasional black gum. Many of the houses are older, too, with some dating back to the early 1900s, and each having its own individual character.

Other distinguishing features are the Talley Land Island, a small greenspace deeded to the city circa 1960 with the proviso that it not be developed, and the Clarence T. Jones Observatory, built in the 1930s and now owned by UTC, offering stargazing and lectures in spring and fall.

The 21st Century Neighborhood Association was founded in 1999 with the aim of bringing neighbors together to fight crime, litter and allowing people to get to know each other. Through quarterly meetings and a quarterly newsletter, the Association reaches many residents. They stay updated on group yard sales, Sparkle Days and association sponsored get-togethers, as well as area events such as the Brainerd Farmers Market and the Library Book Sale. The Association also maintains a neighborhood phone tree, created to alert residents about suspicious activities or emergencies. Fortunately this is rarely used, but it has functioned very effectively when it has been.

Low dues of \$10 a year (optional), a newsletter and support of Parker's Service Station on Brainerd Road have enabled the association to financially support civic requests such as bike racks for the Chattanooga police and art in the Brainerd Art Park. The association's greatest asset, however, is the people behind it - a diverse group that included Chattanooga's biggest booster, Bob Elmore, until his passing in 2010. People talk to each other in this neighborhood, know many (if not all) names, creating a great sense of community. The 21st Century Neighborhood Association meets quarterly on the second Thursday of the month from 6:30pm until 7:30pm.



Bushtown Neighborhood Association

by Karen D. Clay, *Neighborhood Relations Specialist*

Bushtown Neighborhood Association was established August 19, 1997 with neighborhood protection, preservation and revitalization as primary goals. The association is located in City council district 9. Bushtown strives to keep residents informed of various upcoming neighborhood activities, brush and trash pick-up, break-ins and other pertinent information. They are known for their participation in National Night Out, Neighborhood Partners Program, Neighborhood Leadership Institute, Great American Clean-up and other community activities.

The neighborhood has certainly evolved in the past few years. The revitalization and building of new homes on Holly

Street have boosted awareness of the Bushtown Community.

Bushtown has been working on new ways to increase their membership and resident participation. The association meets the second Tuesday of January, April & October at 6 p.m. at Carver Youth and Family Development Center, 600 N. Orchard Knob Avenue. Peggy Kilpatrick, president of the association welcomes one and all to their meetings as well as fresh ideas to continue to make Bushtown a better and safer community.



Announcements

Notice of Neighborhood Code Inspections

The Office of Economic and Community Development announces systematic neighborhood inspections are being conducted by the Code Enforcement division. Systematics inspections are carried out on a routine basis by teams of code enforcement inspectors checking every property in designated neighborhoods. Properties will be inspected for City code violations including litter, overgrowth, abandoned vehicles and housing code violations. The inspections are performed to prevent the accumulation of violations and to maintain healthy and safe conditions for residents in neighborhoods throughout the city and in each council district on a rotating basis.

Homeowners receive a notice advising them of any specific violations and given an opportunity to bring the property into compliance within a specified time period. If the property owner fails to achieve compliance within this period, they may be cited to court.

December 6

areas of following neighborhoods will be inspected:
Highland Park
Cedar Hills

Signs will be posted in the neighborhood in advance to advise residents that the code inspectors will be present.

NOTICE!

The Office of Economic & Community Development is getting a New Phone Number

Beginning December 23, 2013 the Office of Economic and Community Development will be changing to a new phone system.

The main phone number for this department will be

(423) 643-7300

Please make a note of our new number!

LEARNING DOESN'T STOP WHEN THE BELL RINGS.



**HOMESCHOOL HELP
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YOUTH & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT



423-643-6096
chattanoogayouthandfamily.com

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



December Calendar of Events

Sunday December 1

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

Monday December 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 December 3

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

Wednesday December 4

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

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

Monday December 9

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

Tuesday December 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

Wednesday December 11

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

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

Monday December 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 December 17

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

Thursday December 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	Southside Chattanooga Oak Hills Neighborhood Association
6:30pm - 7:30pm	Olde Town Brainerd Neighborhood Association

Monday December 23

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

Wednesday December 25

Christmas Day - City Hall Closed

Monday December 30

6pm - 8pm	Chattanooga Organized for Action
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Wednesday January 1

New Years Day - City Hall Closed

Happy Holidays