



A Newsletter from the Office of Economic and Community Development



“Building Better Neighborhoods... Block By Block”

COMMON GROUND



Program Gains National Recognition

The City’s new Transportation Department and Economic and Community Development’s Outdoor Chattanooga division have gotten national attention from the League of American Bicyclists for their innovative multi-modal transportation education program, which was featured in the League’s January-February issue of *American Bicyclist Magazine*.

The multi-modal education is part of the City’s Driver Education program. Using the City’s Bike Chattanooga Bicycle Transit system, CARTA’s downtown electric shuttle and their own two feet, students in the program get firsthand experience traveling the streets without using a car.

“Incorporating multi-modal education teaches the kids how to experience moving through a public space through a variety of methods,” says Caroline Johnson, Driver Education Coordinator for the Transportation Department. “They learn the perspectives that other modes of travel provide, other than driving a car.”

In the article, Johnson expands on that by explaining how this unique program enhances the kids’ awareness and empathy for all road users, particularly those who are in vulnerable



situations. The program ties heavily into the League of American Bicyclist’s core mission, which is to make America a safer and friendlier place for all people to ride bicycles.

Blythe Bailey, Administrator for the City’s Transportation Department, has adopted the philosophy that transportation is more than just driving down the street. His department’s mission is to make Chattanooga’s streets safe and accessible for all road users, including pedestrians, transit users and bicyclists.

Part of Outdoor Chattanooga’s mission is to provide bicycle education as a part of promoting a healthy, active lifestyle for the community.

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Program Gains National Recognition

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“Public spaces are essential components of a healthy community,” says Johnson. “By teaching these new drivers how to move safely and confidently through their neighborhoods, we hope we can help strengthen their sense of the community at large.”

For more information on the City’s Driver Education program, email Caroline Johnson johnson_c@chattanooga.gov or call (423) 643-5963.

For more information about Outdoor Chattanooga’s bicycle education programs, email Terri Chapin, Recreation Programs Coordinator, at terri@outdoorchattanooga.com or (423) 643-6882.



Library Director Receives National Honor

Corinne Hill, executive director of Chattanooga Public Library, has been named the 2014 Library Journal Librarian of the Year, a Library Journal honor that recognizes an individual credited with transforming their library and community, and the profession.

Hill, named a Library Journal “Mover & Shaker” in 2004, was named executive director in 2012. Since her hiring, Hill has introduced many successful programs, including the Gig Library Project, offering one-gigabit-per-second fiber Internet service to all of its residents and businesses and provides downloads of ebooks and other materials, the news release stated.

She also oversaw the transformation of 14,000 square feet on the Chattanooga Public Library’s fourth floor that for years was used to store archives, decorative art, and extra furniture. The space now houses a laboratory and Maker space, full of cutting-edge equipment, including a high-resolution flatbed scanner and a 3D printer.

“In just over a year, Corinne Hill has turned her library into a vital hub of learning and experimentation,” said Rebecca T. Miller,

Library Journal’s editorial director, in the news release. “She did it first by connecting to Chattanooga as a place, and responding to the city’s ambitions as a tech center. And, she did it by pulling in great librarians, and then setting them free to make magic. In the meantime, Hill has created a model for other librarians to watch, delivering great traditional services as she and her team test the cutting edge of library service.”

Hill said she manages the library in the way “I had always wished I had been managed. Coming up in this field, you get so tired of hearing ‘No,’ or ‘Let me tell you why that is not going to work,’ or ‘We tried that years ago; it didn’t work,’” she said.

The award is celebrated in a cover story in the January issue of Library Journal and at a special reception during ALA Midwinter in Philadelphia.

Free Home Repair Applications Being Accepted

The City of Chattanooga's Department of Economic and Community Development's Neighborhood Services and Community Development divisions announce the commence of the application period for its 2014 Home Repair Program which provides free home repair assistance to qualifying Chattanooga homeowners. Applications are now available and are being accepted until Friday, March 21, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

For the past twelve years, the program has been administered by the City of Chattanooga in partnership with World Changers, a home repair ministry of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist and Lifeway Student Ministries. As a result of this partnership, 380 homes have been repair throughout the city of Chattanooga. World Changers will return to our city again this summer from July 12 - July 26, 2014 to provide volunteer construction labor.

To be eligible for assistance applicants must:

- 1) Be 62 years of age or older, or
- 2) Be disabled, and
- 3) Own and reside in the home that is to be repaired, and
- 4) Be low income according to Housing and Urban Development (HUD) guidelines, and
- 5) Have City and County property taxes paid through December 2013.



Interested individuals and prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to attend one of several technical assistance workshops designed to educate individuals on the application process.

Tuesday, February 11, 10:00 a.m.

City Hall, Training Room - 3rd Floor

Tuesday, February, 18, 10:30 a.m.

Avondale Recreation Center, 1305 Dodson Avenue

Thursday, February, 20, 10:00 a.m.

Eastgate Seniors Center, Eastgate Town Center,
Suite C10-11

Wednesday, February 26, 10:00 a.m.

Bethlehem Center, 200 W. 38th Street

Please note that roof repair or replacement is not eligible with this program. For more information or to receive an application, please contact Vanessa A. Jackson, Program Specialist at (423) 425-3741.



Welcome Jonathan Butler

The Department of Economic and Community Development has a new addition to the staff. Jonathan Butler is a native of Atlanta, GA. He received a Bachelor's Degree from Emory University and a Law Degree from American University's Washington College of Law. He moved to Chattanooga to join the Department of Economic and Community Development as the new Affordable Housing Specialist. After practicing real estate law and serving as a private consultant, he welcomed the opportunity to work for the City of Chattanooga and its citizens because of his lifelong interest in public service.

Jonathan is also an accomplished writer and poet with experience as a professional writing and communications consultant. He is excited about helping the City build stronger neighborhoods with the new Affordable Housing Initiative and he is looking forward to learning more about the people and the neighborhoods that make up the fabric of the city.

Join us in welcoming Jonathan to the department and to Chattanooga. We know you'll love our city as much as we do!

Surviving the Winter Storm

by Dottie Brewer, Editor



Storms like the one that hit on January 28 are rare around here, but they do happen. Spring will soon be here, but we still have the possibility of another round of winter weather before that happens.

So what did we learn? What can we do to be better prepared for the next storm? Instead of casting blame on municipalities, there are steps we need to take ourselves. Here are a few observations of my own, and some advice from the [National Weather Service](#).

First, be aware of weather warnings issued. Check the Weather Channel, NOAA, or local news. You can also set up severe weather alerts to be sent to your phone from www.weather.com. Understand the terms below to make an informed decision on your risk and what actions you should be taking.

OUTLOOK: Winter storm conditions are possible in the next 2-5 days. Stay tuned to local media for updates.

WATCH: Winter storm conditions are possible within the next 36-48 hours. Prepare now!

WARNING: Life-threatening severe winter conditions have begun or will begin within 24 hours. Act now!

ADVISORY: Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. If you are cautious, these situations should not be life threatening.

Most of us were stuck in our vehicles for hours on January 28. Many cars had to be abandoned. Make sure you and your car are prepared for such an emergency. My first realization of a potential problem was I did not have a car charger for my phone. My smart phone was becoming

dumber by the minute. I have one now! Items for your vehicle winter storm survival kit include:

- Mobile phone, charger, batteries
- Blankets/sleeping bags
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First-aid kit
- Knife
- High-calorie, non-perishable food
- Extra clothing and boots to keep dry.
- Large empty can to use as emergency toilet. Tissues and paper towels for sanitary purposes
- Sack of sand or cat litter for traction
- Shovel
- Windshield scraper and brush
- Tool kit
- Tow rope
- Battery booster cables
- Water container

Keep your gas tank near full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines. Let someone know your timetable and primary and alternate routes.

At home, concerns are loss of heat, power and a shortage of supplies if storm conditions continue for more than a day.

If you use alternate heat from a fireplace, wood stove, space heater, etc., use fire safeguards and properly ventilate. Far too many homes catch fire from these heat sources in the winter. Have a fire extinguisher and smoke alarms. Keep plenty of fuel on hand. Fuel carriers may not reach you for days after a winter storm.

Have extra food and water. Besides your milk and bread (kidding), high energy food, such as dried fruit, nuts and granola bars, and food requiring no cooking or refrigeration in case your power goes out. Also stock extra medicine, baby items and pet food.

And last, but not least, kudos to all the emergency personnel, police, fire and public works employees that were out there taking care of us. And I am always inspired by the countless stories of citizens stepping up to help each other in these emergencies. You are all heroes, my friends. Thank you.

Neighborly News from...

Habitat for Humanity

Friends, supporters, volunteers and Habitat staff will gather to celebrate Habitat's work, gain inspiration and raise support for its homeownership program at the Raise the Roof Event on April 11.

Guest speaker this year will be Joshua DuBois, former Director of the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. DuBois is a leader, speaker, and author of the bestselling book, *The President's Devotional*. Raise the Roof will feature:

- Cocktails at 5:30 pm
- Dinner at 7 p.m.
- Mr. DuBois' presentation
- A live auction
- Music by Love, Peace and Happiness Band
- Dancing to close out the evening
- A silent auction will also be held



Online registration is available at habichatt.org. You may also make a reservation via mail to Habitat for Humanity of Greater Chattanooga Area, Inc. 1201 East Main Street, Chattanooga, TN 37408, or call (423) 756-0507.

Fair Housing Workshop

by Paula Coleman, Community Development Specialist

In observance of the 44th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration, the City of Chattanooga Office of Economic and Community Development, Office of Multicultural Affairs, and the Unity Group sponsored a Fair Housing Forum on Monday, January 13, 2014. The theme for the event was "The True State of the Dream," and the guest speakers for the event were Richard Gadzekpo, Housing Coordinator for the Tennessee Human Rights Commission and Emily O'Donnell, Attorney at Law for Legal Aid of East Tennessee.



Neighborly News from...



Highland Park Neighborhood Association

excerpts from www.highlandparktn.com

Highland Park was developed in the late 1800's after the great floods and was named because it sits on a slightly higher elevation than downtown Chattanooga. It was a lovely family neighborhood which thrived until the 1950's when many families moved to the suburbs. The neighborhood slowly fell into decay and abandonment with many of the glorious homes falling victim to the slumlords who carved up homes into apartments. Even during these years there were residents who didn't give up, who stayed in their homes determined to return the neighborhood to its long-ago splendor.

In August of 1990 Ginnie Tatum went door to door with a handmade flyer inviting concerned citizens to meet and discuss the situation in the neighborhood. The Highland Park Neighborhood Watch Association was born. One Saturday a month the group would walk through the neighborhood to let the criminal element know they were here to stay and reassuring the neighborhood residents that they were there to help them. A large lot was leased to be a passive park and has now been developed into Tatum Park, named in honor of Ginny Tatum.

Highland Park is experiencing a renewal as part of a plan to return the neighborhood to a place where all residents can enjoy a healthy, active, and productive life.



Missionary Ridge Neighborhood Association

excerpts from www.missionaryridge.org

Missionary Ridge was so named for the early missionaries who made their way along paths climbing the ridge on their way to Brainerd Village to the settlement of the Cherokee. It was also referred to as "Mission Ridge" in the early years. The Battle of Missionary Ridge, a battle in the American Civil War, fought on November 25, 1863. Union forces under Maj. Gens. Ulysses S. Grant, William T. Sherman, and George H. Thomas routed Confederate forces under General Braxton Bragg and lifted the siege of the city. The "Ridge Cut," is a 1/4 mile blast through the ridge allows I-24 to pass. You will see two small blue bridges high above the Interstate when you pass through the Ridge Cut on I-24.

The Missionary Ridge community is one of the most unique residential areas in the State of Tennessee due to its location on the crest of a prominent ridge, significance to local architecture, commerce, community planning and its earlier association with the Civil War. The Ridge is a one of a kind living history museum, if you are visiting our area or are a passing tourist, we invite you to visit our community and spend the day in our many parks to learn more about our unique history and the role our area played in the Civil War.

Announcements

Become One of Chattanooga's Best & Brightest

The Chattanooga Police Department is actively seeking qualified applicants to join our ranks. If you have integrity, strong character, strong communication skills and a commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of our citizens, we're looking for you.



- We offer...
- A Challenging Career
 - Paid Training
 - Competitive Pay
 - Advancement Opportunities
 - Tuition Reimbursement

Apply Online Today!
www.chattanooga.gov

City of Chattanooga Human Resources Department

(423) 757-5200

NOTICE!

The Office of Economic & Community Development HAS A NEW PHONE NUMBER

The main phone number for this department is

(423) 643-7300

Notice of Neighborhood Code Inspections

Inspections are scheduled for the following neighborhoods:

February 14

Hixson, Valleybrook Townhomes, Avondale, East Lake

February 21

Lookout Valley, Oak Grove, North Chattanooga

February 28

Sylvan Drive, Eastdale, Ridgedale, East Lake

"Reading is important for all ages!"

-Fredrick Douglass-Brainerd YFD Center Lexia Reading Program.

-Elizabeth Kobel-Washington Hills Youth & Family Development's Free Lexia Reading Program.



423-643-6096

chattanoogayouthandfamily.com



Learning Doesn't Stop When the Bell Rings!

Homework Help Leadership
Reading Recreation Winter Sports
Fitness Classes for Parents!



YOUTH & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Catch "PEP Talk" with
Lurone "Coach" Jennings
Mondays 7-8pm on



February Calendar of Events

Sunday February 2

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

Monday February 3

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 February 4

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

Wednesday February 5

10am - 11am	Board of Zoning Appeals
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Thursday February 6

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

Monday February 10

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

Tuesday February 11

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 February 12

11am - 12pm	East Lake Senior Citizens
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Thursday February 13

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 February 17

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 February 18

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

Thursday February 20

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 February 24

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

Thursday February 27

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

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