



A Newsletter from the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development

“Building Better Neighborhoods... Block By Block”

# COMMON GROUND



## Free Home Repair Application Period Begins

We are barely into the new year but many Chattanooga residents are already in anticipation of the upcoming 2013 City of Chattanooga Home Repair Project. The word of mouth testimonials and other informal marketing efforts that originate from those individuals who have been served through the project help our department in promoting what has become a yearly home-repair initiative and event that assists qualifying citizens and disabled homeowners in Chattanooga. In fact, from the time we close the application period each year, the department begins a list of those individuals interested in making application for the next summer’s program which is generated from calls and inquiries.

The City of Chattanooga Home Repair Program is an initiative of the Department of Neighborhood Service and Community Development in partnership with World Changers, a ministry of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist and Lifeway Student Ministries. World Changers seeks to provide christian youth and adults with opportunities to serve a community physically through practical learning experience that teaches servanthood and personal commitment to missions. The movement, which is primarily youth driven, achieves its mission by providing free home repair to homeowners throughout the country. In 2012, World Changers coordinated over 17,000 participants in mission ministries across North America at 81 projects, one of which was Chattanooga,



Tennessee. During the two weeks of the local project, volunteers repaired 32 senior citizens or disabled owner occupied homes, free of charge, to qualifying homeowners. Since the beginning of our partnership in 2001, 353 local households have received repairs from World Changers.

Chattanooga’s 2013 project will take place July 8-July 20. The application period is January 14 through March 14.

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### Neighborhood Services and Community Development

**(423) 425-3700 • [www.chattanooga.gov](http://www.chattanooga.gov)**

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## Free Home Repair

- Not have received roofing repair in 2010, 2011 or 2012 program year.

Eligible repairs under this program include interior and exterior painting, carpentry, porch and deck repair and installations and various other forms of repair from minor to moderate level of difficulty. Gutter and roof repairs and /or replacement are not eligible under this program.

A number of technical assistance workshops will be held to prepare applicants for the application process. While it is not mandatory that applicants attend a workshop to be considered for eligibility, those who do attend fare better in the selection process than those who do not as they avoid many of the mistakes and pitfalls that render applications ineligible.

The dates and locations for two of the upcoming technical assistance workshops are as follows:

- Wednesday, January 30th, City Hall, Veranda Conference Room, Third Floor, 10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, February 5th, Avondale Recreation Center, 1305 Dodson Avenue, 10:00 a.m.

Additional workshops will be scheduled for the remainder of February 2013. For more information concerning the program, technical workshops or to receive an application, please contact Vanessa A. Jackson, Program Specialist at 425-3700. Stay tuned to the department's weekly radio show "Neighborhood Talk" for additional information about the program. The show airs each Tuesday morning from 9:00-9:30 a.m. Meanwhile, alert all your neighbors and friends that may qualify that the application process is now underway.

To be eligible for assistance applicant must:

- Be 62 years of age or older, or
- Be a disabled homeowner of any age (disabled occupant MUST be homeowner and provide Social Security Disability Award documentation), and
- Be low-income according to HUD guidelines, and
- Be a resident of Chattanooga, and
- Own and reside in the home that is to be repaired, and
- Have City and County property taxes paid through December 2012, and
- Not have received home repair assistance from World Changers or the Weatherization Program (City or Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise ) in the past three years (2010, 2011, 2012), and



*Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator*

## Administrator's Letter

A new year begins. It's a time when we reflect on the past and ponder what we can do this year to make it better - things we would change, things we would do the same. It seems each year we are all asked to do more with less, and most of the time we make it work. We look at our successes and our failures and chart a new path.

One initiative that has remained a success for 12 years now is the free Home Repair program with World Changers. As the new year begins, so does the application process for those in need of assistance with home repair. If you know someone that could benefit from this program, please have them contact us. Demand always exceeds the limits of time and funding for this project, but we do our best to accomplish as many projects as possible.

Another initiative that has been well received is the Neighborhood Roundtable meetings. The first meeting of this year will be held Wednesday, January 9. To all of those neighborhood representatives that attended last year, we look forward to seeing you again this year. If your neighborhood has not been represented at

these meetings, please try to join us. Topics vary, and open discussion is encouraged.

Thank you for all your support last year, and let's make 2013 even better!

## Looking Back... and Forward

by Debbie Johnson, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

Happy New Year! This bright and cheerful greeting is indicative of January as the symbol of new beginnings and fresh starts. With the advent of a new year the air is filled with individuals making resolutions-getting physically fit, new weight loss regimens, managing stress, saving money-the list goes on. Along with the resolutions being declared, traditions also permeate the air too. Eating black eyed peas or indulging in lentil soup is believed to be a most fortuitous beginning to a prosperous new year.

These are things we all discuss around the table or the office "water cooler". But how about applying the same resolutions to your neighborhood association? January was named for Janus, the mythical Roman god of gates, doors, beginnings and transitions. He had two faces-one to look back at the past and one to look forward.

Oft times neighborhood associations are so busy taking care of their community they forget to take a moment to reflect on what they have already accomplished. Membership recruitment is an ongoing process, but it just may be made a tad easier if you as an association looked back and documented your accomplishments. Perhaps look at your association as a business does with a year-end review of their marketing plan-what worked and what did not work then work collectively to market the successes that will bring recognition to your work and in turn, garner more participation in your community. Look at what you need to improve on, projects that you need to tackle and plan to address them and make them a reality.

As you reflect back to the previous year, talk about what has changed within your community and your association. Ask questions such as, "Who is missing and who have we lost touch with?" and "Who is responding to our call for participation, who is not, and why?" Then begin to work on a plan to address how to improve and increase participation. Answers to the questions you ask will provide you with valuable information as to what issues need to be placed on the association's project radar or moved up on the group's priority list.

You may find that you need to refine how you will document your work for the coming year.



The association's marketing plan should include documenting and measuring your work. There are many components to good plans, but I think the five overall ones from which to begin are:

- Vision: A statement that identifies what the association wants and why they want it;
- Mission: A statement that explains why the association is taking action and provides the foundation for future actions;
- Strategic Plan: It identifies the project that will address your goals and accomplish objectives;
- Goals: The action steps to achieve the objectives, and;
- Marketing: Sharing your documented success with the community via meetings, press releases and neighbor to neighbor.

By taking a strategic and organized approach to making those New Year's resolutions you will be amazed at all your association has already accomplished when you look back. Looking forward will provide a steady ongoing adrenaline rush to continue building on a good foundation and achieving more success. When it is time to ring in another new year, you will be in awe of the size and volume of the bell you created to ring in 2014!

***January was named for Janus,  
the mythical Roman god of gates,  
doors, beginnings and transitions***

### Neighborhood Talk

**WNOO 1260 AM**

A weekly radio show from the Department of  
Neighborhood Services and Community Development

**Tuesday Mornings 9:00-9:30 a.m.**

# Why Bother With Code Enforcement?

From *Leveraging Code Enforcement for Neighborhood Safety*

Code enforcement should be in your community development toolbox if the problems in your neighborhood include:

- unsightly properties covered with trash, weeds, graffiti, abandoned vehicles, etc.;
- poorly-maintained properties that may contain substandard or dangerous conditions like leaky roofs, broken plumbing, vermin, etc.;
- non-conforming or non-permitted nuisance businesses such as auto repair and junk yards;
- overcrowded properties;
- criminal activities of owners and tenants, such as drug dealing; or
- vacant or abandoned properties.

Once you have determined that you need code enforcement to help achieve your goals, the challenge is how to facilitate the coordination of code enforcement and law enforcement resources and then synchronize this enforcement partnership with community development projects and priorities. With dwindling budgets and fewer staff, many code enforcement agencies maintain a backlog of code enforcement complaints.

Convincing them to join a special task force or concentrate inspection staff in a particular neighborhood – let alone enlisting them as long-term partners with police and community developers – is not an easy task. So why bother?

Depending on local priorities and resources, engaging code enforcement in existing police-community collaborations generates a host of benefits for all partners, including the elected officials representing the targeted neighborhoods. The police gain access to the special nuisance abatement powers of the building official or zoning administrator. Code enforcers can leverage the investigative expertise and databases of police to track down recalcitrant landlords. Community development organizations gain legal tools to tackle signs of dilapidation and neglect and possibly facilitate the transfer of property to more responsible owners. This transformation of persistent neighborhood liabilities

into positive assets is perhaps the most powerful outcome of integrating code enforcement, law enforcement and community development activities. In terms of organizational success, partnerships with code enforcement create three major assets: improved communication, new tools and better follow-through.

## Improved Communications.

In most communities, fire, housing and other code inspectors all operate separately from each other and from the police, creating a series of gaps for the most negligent property owners to slip through. Bringing these groups together, even informally, allows for an exchange of information that will make it easier to target repeat offenders and may allow for escalation of enforcement actions and penalties. From the perspective of community developers, bringing both code and law enforcement to the table at the same time allows

the community to clearly communicate its priorities to both agencies at the same time. This, in turn, makes it easier for community members to participate. By streamlining the process through which neighbors can report criminal activity,

code violations and other nuisances, three-way partnerships reduce or eliminate bureaucratic hurdles to sharing information.

## New Tools.

Each membership of the police-code-community partnership brings its own approach to a problem. In the business world, these are known as comparative advantages – the special capacity, resources and skills inherent to each organization. From the perspective of community developers who have never worked with code enforcement agencies, they may seem to have the same comparative advantages as the police, but there are important distinctions between the police and code enforcement officers that make them particularly valuable for communities seeking to build their way out of crime. As a community police officer from Tacoma, WA, put it, “the electrical inspector has shut down more drug houses than any cop.”

***Elected officials appreciate the results and positive press that stem from these successes, and existing residents and new investors alike feel better about safer and more attractive neighborhoods.***



## Neighborly News from...

### Cherokee Woods Community Association

by Ty Armour, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

During the mid-1960's; 1965 to be more specific, a development began to extend the already existing area just off Lightfoot Mill Road and Bonny Oaks Drive. This development came to be known as Cherokee Woods. This area comprises approximately 155 homes. Several changes have come and gone to this nestled community but it continues to strive for quietness, comfort, and beauty.

The Cherokee Woods Community Association has experienced peaks and valleys in its existence since the birth of the community. The current association renewal has been in effect for approximately ten years. The association's board of directors recognizes that maintaining membership is a challenge, however, they take it upon themselves to keep the residents abreast of community and city-wide current events. The association's board meets quarterly and efforts are made for the community-at-large to meet just as often.

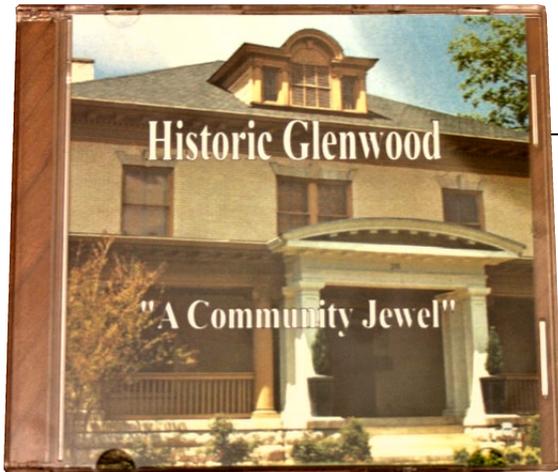
Communication is maintained in various ways: board meetings; neighborhood flyers; communications



with Neighborhood Services and Community Development and the neighborhood newsletter, which is published three to four times a year. The newsletter is the heartbeat of the association's communication efforts.

Through the efforts of the Neighborhood Partners Program, funding was awarded for the association to design and install street sign toppers. This helps to identify the Cherokee Woods community and adds to its beauty.

Cherokee Woods Community Association meeting is held the 1st Tuesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at Oakwood Baptist Church.



### Glenwood Neighborhood Association

by Karen D. Clay, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

Once again Glenwood Neighborhood Association has captured some life long memories of their community. Often times activities, parties, social events and other activities occur and groups never get to relive those precious moments. Glenwood has always been a neighborhood association that takes pride in its community and strives to keep residents abreast of what happens in the neighborhood.

The association is known for its strong leadership and involvement throughout the community. One of the leadership roles/activities are block leaders who are responsible for facilitating, promoting and maintaining a safe, clean and attractive environment along their block.

The association sponsors the annual Glenwood Jazz Festival held in October of each year, which features local and out of town music artists. It's a fun filled day for young and old to come out and enjoy the fellowship, good food, music and entertainment. Glenwood also sponsors the "Senior Fling" and other community activities.

Glenwood has a long history, and Glenwood Neighborhood Association has worked hard to preserve that history. They have a beautiful new website [www.historicglenwood.com](http://www.historicglenwood.com). In the past, with the help of funding from the Neighborhood Partners Program, they created a coffee table book called *Historic Homes of Glenwood*. This year the association received funding from Neighborhood Services and Community Development to create a history DVD. Many hours were spent pulling information together, gathering data, interviewing residents and adding pictures to be included on the DVD. Glenwood residents have a right to be proud of their accomplishment and making the DVD a part of their historic archive.

Glenwood Neighborhood Association meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Glenwood Recreation Center. Hats off to Glenwood for a job well done!

## Neighborly News from...

### Chattanooga Public Library



#### Downtown, Northgate Lego Clubs

The Library has launched LEGO Clubs at the Downtown and Northgate libraries. These free programs are a fun way to create, play and meet new friends. No sign-up is required and LEGOs are provided.

The Downtown Library offers a weekly program for children ages 5 to 11. The Downtown LEGO Club meets every Monday from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., in the Children's Department.

The Northgate LEGO Club meets the first Saturday of every month, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. This club is designed for children ages 3 and up. Duplos will be offered for younger children.

At LEGO Club, children will have access to a multitude of colorful bricks. They can make individual projects or work with a team. For more information, please call 757-5314.

### Education Arts & Culture

#### Chattanooga's Season for Nonviolence

Mahatma Gandhi led India to independence through nonviolence. Inspired by the philosophy of Gandhi, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led America's Civil Rights Movement.

Following the "Gandhi Visits Chattanooga" events in September 2012, the City of Chattanooga Department of Education, Arts & Culture invites you and your organization to participate in Chattanooga's "Season

for Nonviolence" marking the time between the assassinations of Gandhi (January 30, 1948) and Dr. King (April 4, 1968) with awareness and events across the city.

See the full schedule on Facebook at [ChattanoogaEAC](#), and submit your ideas and events at [www.allourideas/ChattanoogaSeasonforNonviolence](#). Get involved! Add your event! Call 425-7823 or visit "Education, Arts & Culture" on [www.chattanooga.gov](#).



## Announcements

### Department Inspectors Earn Certifications



Donna Thomas, Chief Neighborhood Code Enforcement Inspector, and Kenneth Elwood, Code Inspector 1, each received certification through the International Code Council (ICC) as Property Maintenance and Housing Inspectors by successfully completing the ICC examination. The certification test included legal questions related to code inspections and enforcement, fire safety, light, ventilation, occupancy, electrical, plumbing, HVAC and general housing safety requirements. The purpose of certification is to ensure the inspector is knowledgeable of the codes, has the necessary skills to perform an inspection with the focus on safety for residents and understands legal requirements and restrictions. Congratulations to both of them!



#### Join us at the next **Neighborhood Roundtable**

January 9, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

Mayor's Conference Room  
City Hall • 3rd Floor  
101 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street

#### **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

#### **CHATTANOOGA POLICE DEPARTMENT'S CITIZENS' POLICE ACADEMY**

Have you ever wanted to learn more about how the Chattanooga Police Department works? Learn more about what the men and women, who patrol and protect our city, do on a daily basis? If so, now's your chance.

The Chattanooga Police Department's Office of Community Outreach is once again holding its Citizens' Police Academy beginning March 14, 2013. This is an eight week course that gives citizens a glimpse into how our Police Department does its job. Instructors from the Police Department teach each class one night a week, covering a variety of topics including narcotics, homicide investigation, patrol, and the SWAT team. In addition to learning about your Police Department, it's a great chance to meet people from all the communities that make up Chattanooga.

If you would like to sign up for the Chattanooga Police Department's Citizens' Police Academy, contact Officer Wayne Jefferson at 643-5090  
[jefferson\\_wa@chattanooga.gov](mailto:jefferson_wa@chattanooga.gov)

**40 SEATS AVAILABLE FOR NEXT CLASS**

**All applications must be returned to the Office of Community Outreach no later than March 4, 2013**



**FREE**

#### **Home Repair**

**World Changers Applications  
will be available January 14**

call 425-3700 or come by City Hall  
101 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200

# January Calendar of Events

**Tuesday January 1, 2013**  
Happy New Year! City Hall Closed

## Wednesday January 2, 2013

10:00am – 11:00am	Board of Zoning Appeals
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## Thursday January 3, 2013

9:00am – 10:00am	Environmental Court
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Alton Park Development Corporation
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Glenwood Neighborhood Watch
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Lookout Valley Neighborhood Association

## Sunday January 6, 2013

6:00pm – 7:00pm	Hemphill Neighborhood Association Meeting
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Shepherd Community Council Meeting

## Monday January 7, 2013

6:00pm – 7:00pm	Spring Valley Charitable Corporation
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Northside/Cherokee Community Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Battery Heights Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Wheeler Avenue Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 8:00pm	Chattanooga Organized for Action
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Hill City Neighborhood Association
6:30pm – 7:30pm	East Lake Neighborhood Association
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Murray Hills Neighborhood Association
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Community Association of Historic St. Elmo

## Tuesday January 8, 2013

5:00pm – 6:00pm	Foxwood Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Indian Hills Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Sector 2 CPIC Meeting
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Glass Farms Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Alton Park Piney Woods Neighborhood Association
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Biltmore Neighborhood Association
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Lake Hills Neighborhood Association

## Wednesday January 9, 2013

11:00am – 12:00pm	East Lake Senior Citizens
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## Thursday January 9, 2013

9:00am – 10:00am	Environmental Court
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Churchville Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 8:00pm	North Hixson Neighborhood Association
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Clifton Hills Improvement Committee
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Belvoir Neighborhood Association
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Sector 3 CPIC
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Fort Wood Neighborhood Association
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Cedar Hill Improvement League
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Martin Luther King Neighborhood Association

## Monday January 14, 2013

6:00pm – 8:00pm	Chattanooga Organized for Action
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Jefferson Heights Neighborhood Association
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Fairfax-Bagwell Neighborhood Association

## Tuesday January 15, 2013

6:00pm – 7:00pm	Orchard Knob Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Hickory Creek Townhome Association
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Cloverdale Neighborhood Association

## Thursday January 17, 2013

9:00am – 10:00am	Environmental Court
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Dogwood Village Homeowner's Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Brainerd Park North Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Missionary Ridge Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Southside Chattanooga Oak Hills Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Menlo Park Neighborhood Association
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Olde Town Brainerd Neighborhood Association
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Highland Park Neighborhood Association
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Lake Chickamauga Association

## Monday January 21, 2013

5:30pm – 6:30pm	Villages at Alton Park Neighborhood Watch
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Washington Hills Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	North Brainerd Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Avondale Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 8:00pm	Chattanooga Organized for Action

## Wednesday January 23, 2013

10:00am – 11:00am	Demolition Hearing
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## Thursday January 24, 2013

9:00am – 10:00am	Environmental Court
4:30pm – 5:30pm	South Broad Redevelopment Group
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Woodmore Manor Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Glenwood Neighborhood Association
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Ridgedale Community Association

## Monday January 28, 2013

6:00pm – 8:00pm	Chattanooga Organized for Action
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Oak Grove Neighborhood Association

## Thursday January 31, 2013

9:00am – 10:00am	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