



A Newsletter from the Office of Economic and Community Development

Next City's Vanguard Conference Heads to Chattanooga in 2014

Alice H. Thatcher | Next City

Next City will host its fifth annual Vanguard Conference in Chattanooga this year from April 24-26 inviting 40 young leaders from around the country for a three-day series of presentations, workshops, tours and other activities. Applications will be accepted for the 2014 Vanguard Conference until February 14, 2014. The only requirement? Applicants must be under the age of 40.

Vanguard is an annual urban leadership forum that gathers of the best and brightest young leaders working to improve cities across sectors, including urban planning, community development, entrepreneurship, government, transportation, sustainability, design, art and media. This year will mark the first time a southern city has hosted the event. The changing location and increasing diversity of the Vanguard classes exemplify the many new collaborations, partnerships and innovative ideas that the conference generates.

Lisa Flint, program adviser for the Footprint Foundation and member of the 2014 Vanguard host committee, first suggested Chattanooga as a host city. "Chattanoogans have come together to recreate a city that



is now seen as a model for community revitalization, private-public partnerships, urban design, environmental stewardship and civic engagement," Flint says. "We are a community that believes in continuous improvement and innovation. The Vanguard conference epitomizes the forward thinking and leadership that was necessary in turning Chattanooga around."

Visit <http://nextcity.org/vanguard> to learn more about applying to become a 2014 Vanguard. Applications must be received by Friday, February 14, 2014. The 2014 Vanguard class will be publicly announced by the end of March.

"Building Better Neighborhoods... Block By Block"



COMMONGROUND



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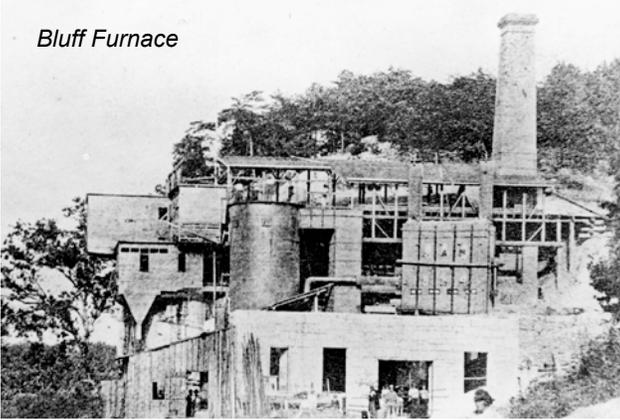
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Bluff Furnace



C-Span Features Chattanooga

C-SPAN has chosen Chattanooga as one of 20 U.S. communities to be visited on the 2013 Cities Tour. The national network spent a week in Chattanooga in December to record the city's history and literary life. The crew visited the Chattanooga History Center, Chickamauga Dam, the Chickamauga Battlefield, Bluff Furnace and nearby Cherokee history sites.

Programming recorded in Chattanooga will air on Book TV/C-SPAN2 and American History TV/C-SPAN3 on Jan. 18 and 19.

Code for America In Chattanooga

Starting this month, a team of developers will begin to build web apps intended to improve city services and community outreach in Chattanooga, one of 10 cities chosen for a Code for America fellowship. Code for America is a California-based nonprofit organization that pairs web developers with cities across the U.S. to develop tech solutions that "improve the relationships between citizens and government," according to the organization's website.

The 2014 fellowship in Chattanooga is currently in progress. In September, the City Council approved \$180,000 to be spent on the initiative. The Benwood and Lyndhurst foundations pitched in an additional \$250,000 for the project. Bob Sofman, co-executive director at Code for America, cited the city's commitment to innovation and forward-thinking staff as reasons why Chattanooga was chosen for the program.

Outstanding Runner Friendly Community Award



The Road Runners Club of America to announced the 2013 Runner Friendly Community designations, which include: Chattanooga, TN; Sarasota, FL; Kalamazoo, MI; and South Lake, FL.

These communities have shown that they meet the program's criteria, which includes community infrastructure, community support, and local government support for running. Each community has an infrastructure that can foster physical activity in a safe environment; a proven track record that organizations and businesses work together to promote running as a healthy exercise and sport; and there are positive relationships between the running community and local government.

Chattanooga has also been designated the 2013 Outstanding Runner Friendly Community. The RRCA will honor Chattanooga with a commemorative award at the upcoming 56th Annual RRCA National Convention, which will be held May 1-4, 2014 in Spokane, WA.

"Running and fitness have long been an integral part of the renaissance of Chattanooga," said Senator Bob Corker. "While serving as Mayor, Chattanooga initiated a citizen-based planning process four outdoor recreation. This planning led to the creation of Outdoor Chattanooga, an initiative that encourages runners and other outdoor enthusiasts to take advantage of all our city has to offer in terms of scenery and amenities."

Office of Community Development

by Regina Partap
Community Development Specialist

This is the third 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 Office of Community Development is located in City Hall, Suite 200.

During my nearly seven years working for the Office of Community Development in the newly renamed Office of Economic and Community Development, I have come to realize that Community Development is indeed many things. We are servants to the community, neighborhood developers and business developers.

We are the stewards of the City's federal allocations from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, some of which the City has received since the mid-1970's. We provide operating funds as well as program funds to agencies like Community Kitchen, Room in the Inn and Partnership for Families, Children and Adults to assist the homeless and distressed residents of our city. We also partner with agencies to provide rent and utility assistance to help shelter homeless individuals.

We develop our neighborhoods by enabling partners like Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise (CNE) to provide homeownership assistance. Many new homes in the inner-city were constructed by CNE, the Chattanooga Community Housing Development Organization, Habitat and others, using these funds. Our office offers a rental rehabilitation program which returns vacant, sub-standard rental units back into the rental market. The HOMEAgain Program provides safe and decent affordable rental

Orange Grove Center, one of many recipients of Community Development funds



housing. We have contributed to some of the parks your children play in as well as sidewalks you walk on, making many handicapped accessible.

We also have a hand in economic development. Through our Section 108 Revolving Loan Fund, Brightbridge has issued loans which have enabled local businesses to start up or expand. In turn, they hire low income citizens to staff newly created positions.

The Office of Community Development has been impactful in many ways in improving the lives of low-income citizens and building and sustaining our community.



City's Bond Rating Upgraded

Chattanooga's credit rating for its existing general obligation bonds was upgraded from a AA+ credit rating to AAA, the highest possible rating assigned to bonds.

The Standard & Poor's Ratings Services upgraded the Scenic City's credit rating, which means the city will get lower interest rates on their loans.

"This rating increase is the result of the efforts of so many employees who work tirelessly to provide excellent service at the lowest cost to Chattanooga," said Mayor Andy Berke in a prepared statement. "This rating demonstrates our commitment to being responsible with every dollar to make the biggest impact for the city."

In addition, Standard & Poor's raised its long-term rating on Chattanooga's appropriation debt from AA to a AA+ credit rate. In their summary, Standard & Poor's cited Chattanooga's strong economy and that the fiscal 2014 budget is balanced.

Show Your Bills Who's Boss

excerpts from Houselogic.com

Caulk and seal air leaks. Buy a few cans of Great Stuff and knock yourself out over a weekend, sealing penetrations into your home from:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Plumbing lines | Windows |
| Electricity wires | Crawlspaces |
| Recessed lighting | Attics |

Savings: Up to \$220/year, per U.S. EPA

Hire an HVAC contractor to take a hard look at all your ductwork. Are there any ducts leaking that need to be resealed? — and give you an HVAC tune-up.

Savings: Up to \$330/year, for duct sealing and tune up, per DOE

Program your thermostat. Surveys show that 40% of consumers admit to not programming their thermostat to energy-saving settings. If you don't have a programmable thermostat, now is the time to install one.

Savings: Up to \$180/year, per EPA

Replace all your light bulbs with LEDs or CFLs. LEDs have fewer issues than CFLs (namely, no mercury), and although expensive are coming down in price.

Savings: \$75/year by replacing your five most frequently-used bulbs with Energy Star-rated models, says EPA.

Reduce the temperature on your water heater. Set your tank heater to 120 degrees — not the 140 degrees most are set to out of the box. Dropping 20 degrees could save 6% to 10% on your annual water heating costs, which are 14% to 18% of your utility bills. Also wrap an older water heater and the hot water pipes in insulating material to save on heat loss.

Savings: \$18 to \$39/year



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Foster Grandparent Recognition

On December 10th, Chattanooga Department of Youth & Family Development (YFD) Foster Grandparent Program recognized 104 seniors who volunteered at over 2 dozen schools and hospitals. The 33rd annual Foster Grandparent Recognition Banquet included City officials and 2013 Miss Tennessee, Shelby Thompson. Miss Tennessee was this year's keynote speaker and highlighted her volunteer experience and discussed character trait education, a key component of the Foster Grandparent Program's "BEE of Good Character" lesson plan.

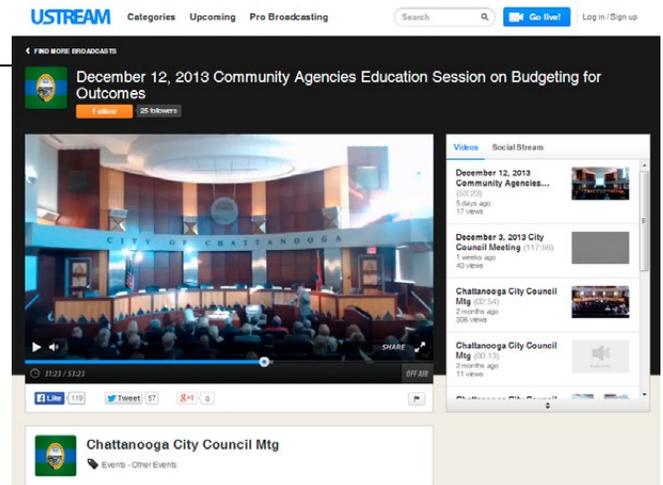
Since 1980, the Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) has provided valuable resources to the community. Foster Grandparents serve as mentors, tutors, and caregivers for children and youth with special needs. They give their time at community non-profit agencies, such as schools, daycares, Head Start centers, hospitals, and shelters, meeting vital needs and solving critical problems in education, public safety, health, and human needs. Foster Grandparents also profoundly enrich their own lives. They find that doing something for others in their community does a lot for them, too.



Community Agency Funding

The Berke Administration is implementing Budgeting for Outcomes (BFO) citywide for the upcoming fiscal year budget, including agency support. Budgeting for Outcomes is an innovative, performance-based approach to allocating funds. Through a full implementation of BFO, the City will realign dollars more closely with strategic, community priorities and reinforce a culture of performance and results.

An educational session to learn more about performance-based budgeting was held on December 12. The session was recorded and available to view online at <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/chattanooga-council-meeting>.



BFO offer (proposal) instructions will be available to agencies January 10. Offers (proposals) are due February 21.



Youth & Family Development

Chattanooga Ambassadors Program (CAP) featured over a dozen teens who sorted, and passed out books along with Read20 during two parades, the MainX24 parade and Starlight parade. By providing books to children, each young man learned the value of reading, and volunteering. CAP is designed to encourage 25 young men, believe in them, give them a second chance, and create leaders in an effort to build a stronger community. Each young man continues to receive training, mentoring, employment and volunteer service weekly during the 48 week program. Twenty-five young ladies will enter the program this winter.

The New ChattanoogaOnStage.com!

The City of Chattanooga is pleased to announce the new ChattanoogaOnStage.com! This beautiful website, built by our partners at Etix.com and Rockhouse Partners, provides you with a customer-friendly platform for keeping up with the latest show announcements and buying tickets.

The website makes it easier than ever to find shows you'll want to see at any of the City's three historic venues: Soldiers and Sailors Auditorium, The Tivoli, or the Robert Kirk Walker Community Theatre. Visit us today at www.chattanoogaonstage.com.



Neighborly News from...



Washington Hills Neighborhood Association

by Ty Armour, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

Development of the Washington Hills neighborhood began in 1924 after the completion of Booker T. Washington School, one of the first schools in Hamilton County built for blacks. Several prominent black community leaders relocated their families to the area to be in close proximity to the new school and the Washington Hills Neighborhood Association was established.

The Washington Hills Neighborhood Association is located just north of Highway 58. Today, the association consists of 540 households built on 29 streets.

Mrs. Louise Murphy, along with several other women, established the Washington Hills Neighborhood Association in 1960. The association adopted its recognizable oak leaf symbol from the beautiful oak trees in the area. Mrs. Garder Smith and Mrs. Rosetta Hawkins, two of the founding members, continue to be active members and regular participants today.

The Washington Hills Neighborhood Association welcomes all neighbors to join and work to make the community a clean and safe place to live. The association meets the third Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Washington Hills Recreation Center 4628 Oakwood Drive.

Councilman Hakeem and Isabella Lane



Foxwood Heights Neighborhood Association

by Karen D. Clay, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

Foxwood Heights Neighborhood Association held their annual Christmas Party December 10th at Eastdale Family and Youth Center. City Councilman Yusuf Hakeem and County Commissioner Greg Beck attended the event catered by "Cake Man Catering."

Foxwood residents have a close bond in their community. When there is a crisis or a neighbor is in need, the residents come together and send fruit baskets, and cards to show the association's concern. The association has worked hard to keep residents abreast of activities taking place in the neighborhood. Sometimes getting the word out can be a challenge, but Mrs. Isabella Lane, President of the association, and others are not strangers to distributing flyers or making telephone calls to ensure the word gets out.

Foxwood Heights has applied for funding to do an array of neighborhood projects to show community pride. Foxwood has continued to recruit new members, focus on neighborhood safety, and youth and senior involvement. Foxwood Heights may be small in numbers but their love for the community is large. Foxwood meets the second Tuesday of the month at Eastdale Family and Youth Center at 5 p.m.

Announcements

Notice of Neighborhood Code Inspections

Systematics neighborhood inspections are carried out on a routine basis by teams of code enforcement inspectors checking every property in designated neighborhoods to maintain healthy and safe conditions for residents throughout the city. Properties are inspected for City code violations including litter, overgrowth, abandoned vehicles and housing code violations. and in each council district on a rotating basis.

Inspections are scheduled for the following neighborhoods:

January 3

East Brainerd, Highway 58, Avondale

January 10

St. Elmo, Foxwood Heights, Tunnel Blvd.,
Brainerd Park

January 17

Brainerd, Lupton City, Dayton Blvd., Elmwood

January 24

Hixson/Moody Sawyer, Alton Park, Brainerd

January 31

Glenwood, Eastlake

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
will have a**

New Phone Number

Later in January, 2014

**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!

The City of Chattanooga Office of Economic and Community Development, Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Unity Group sponsor the

FAIR HOUSING FORUM

**Monday, January 13, 2013 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
at the Resource Development Center**

In observance of the 44th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration the discussion will be centered around the theme of the Unity Group's celebration
"Focus 2020, The True State of the Dream."

Special guests:

Richard M. Gadzekpo, Housing Coordinator, Tennessee Human Rights Commission
Emily A. O'Donnell, Attorney at Law, Legal Aid of East Tennessee

For more information and/or to confirm attendance contact Paula Coleman in the Office of Economic and Community Development (423) 425-6443 or coleman_p@chattanooga.gov

January Calendar of Events

Wednesday January 1

New Years Day - City Hall Closed

Thursday January 2

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

Sunday January 5

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

Monday January 6

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 January 7

6pm - 7pm	Shawnee Hills Neighborhood Association
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Wednesday January 8

11am - 12pm	East Lake Senior Citizens
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Thursday January 9

9am - 10am	Environmental Court
6pm - 7pm	Churchville Neighborhood Association
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 January 13

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

Tuesday January 14

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

Thursday January 16

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 January 20

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 January 21

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

Thursday January 23

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 January 27

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

Thursday January 30

9am - 10am	Environmental Court
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For more information on these events and all registered neighborhood association meeting dates go to Neighborhood Services at <http://www.chattanooga.gov> and check our Calendar of Events