



*A Newsletter from the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development*



"Building Better Neighborhoods... Block By Block"

# COMMON GROUND



## Neighborhood Associations:

*by Debbie Johnson, Ty Armour and Karen D. Clay,  
Neighborhood Relations Specialists*

One of the major functions the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development provides is helping organize neighborhood associations. We thought we would answer some of the most frequently asked questions we get regarding the subject.

### What is a neighborhood association?

A neighborhood association is a volunteer group of residents who meet regularly to fellowship, assist each other in identifying common concerns, work together to resolve issues and conflicts, and enhance the appearance and protect the interests of the neighborhood.

### I don't have a neighborhood association in my community, so how do I start one?

Talk to your neighbors and gather a core group who want to begin a neighborhood association. Then, call the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development's Neighborhood Relations Division and let us know. There are three Neighborhood Relations Specialists (NRS) ready to assist with the essential building blocks for a firm organizational foundation: bylaws, membership recruitment and strategic planning that includes setting goals.

### What are bylaws and who provides them?

Bylaws provide the association the organizational stability in conducting meetings, making decisions, and ensuring a smooth transition of leadership. Bylaws are developed by the association. The NRS assists in setting a schedule and agenda for the organizational process and working with the group in the development of bylaws that reflect the needs and desires of the group. One size does not fit all.

### Who decides the boundaries?

The association decides their boundaries. The NRS will provide technical assistance in this activity and advise if the desired boundaries overlap another existing *continued on page 2*



*Martin Luther King Neighborhood Association members*

## The FAQs

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#### Neighborhood Services and Community Development

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

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## Neighborhood Associations: The FAQs

association. In the event this occurs, the NRS will then have the two associations discuss the overlap and work out the boundaries for each.

### What is the difference between a homeowners association and a neighborhood association?

Homeowners' associations (HOA) are typically private organizations that have almost exclusive policy control regarding the maintenance and operations of common property and facilities within their boundaries subject to any conditions, covenants, and restrictions attached to the property. When property is purchased within the boundaries of a homeowners association, the owners automatically become a member, which often results in additional costs to the property owner through homeowner association fees.

Neighborhood associations are comprised of residents and like stakeholders who volunteer to work together in the community. Membership is not mandatory and any membership dues are decided by the group.

### Does your department assist in setting up HOA's?

Homeowners' associations are private organizations with legal agreements and therefore do not come under the department's area of expertise. Although the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development does not organize HOA's, we do welcome them to place their



*Organizing a neighborhood association*

organization on our Neighborhood Registry.

### Does the Department of Neighborhood Services assist in Public Housing Facilities?

No, the majority of Public Housing Facilities have their own tenant associations and the concerns are geared more around particular issues within the facility.

### What is the Neighborhood Registry?

The Neighborhood Registry is a voluntary list of neighborhood related organizations who desire to receive information about upcoming DNSCD events and programs as well as providing city council representatives contact information for their districts.

The services of the Neighborhood Relations Specialist also include ongoing support to existing neighborhood associations. The NRS's role includes but is not limited to the coordination of interdepartmental efforts to address neighborhood problems, assist neighborhood organizations in addressing community priorities and needs, and promote involvement and foster leadership among concerned citizens through training and development.

Please visit our website at [www.chattanooga.gov](http://www.chattanooga.gov) or call a Neighborhood Relations Specialist at 425-3700 for more information. We stand ready to assist our neighborhoods in making Chattanooga the best it can be.



*Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator*

## Administrator's Letter

We had a terrific turnout and great input from the May Neighborhood Roundtable focus groups on *Neighborhood Perceptions: Gang Activity* (page 3). Thank you to all who participated and made it a successful meeting. We hope that with the collective knowledge of our neighborhood leaders, the Ochs Center and the Gang Task Force we will be able to come up with viable solutions to the gang problems in our community.

One of the best defenses your neighborhood can have to deter crime is a neighborhood association. Knowing your neighbors, contact information and communication is integral to identifying problems and taking steps to rectify issues. If your neighborhood does not have an association, consider starting one. If you need to find out if there is a neighborhood association in your area, call us at 425-3700 or check our Directory of Neighborhood Associations at [www.chattanooga.gov](http://www.chattanooga.gov).

It's Riverbend time! Grab you lawn chairs and blankets and head on down to the Riverfront for some world class entertainment. It's a great time to live, work and play in Chattanooga!

## Neighborhood Roundtable - Gang Activity

The May Neighborhood Roundtable meeting was dedicated to the topic “Neighborhood Perceptions: Gang Activity.” Dr. Ken Chilton, CEO/President of the Ochs Center of Metropolitan Studies had requested the assistance of the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development with convening focus groups for the Gang Task Force Initiative.

The purpose of the meeting was to bring to the table leaders of neighborhood organizations, homeowners and concerned citizens so that they would have a “voice” in the assessment of gang activity in the Chattanooga area being conducted by The Ochs Center. The proposed outcome is to determine if there are specific problems with gangs in the city and if so, what should be done about the issue.

The participants were placed into five different focus groups with approximately 12 to 15 people in each group. Representatives from the Ochs Center and the City of Chattanooga’s Gang Task Force facilitated the meeting and asked specific questions related to the research.

Questions asked were:

- Do you think your neighborhood has a gang problem? If so, how is it impacting your neighborhood’s quality of life?
- Is gang activity increasing, decreasing, or remaining the same within your neighborhood?
- At what ages do you see people joining gangs?
- What are some characteristics of the people who join gangs?
- What kind of activities are gangs involved in (such as drugs, specific types of violence, etc.)?



*A focus group meets with Ochs Center representatives as Council Chair Pam Ladd looks on.*

- Are both males and females joining gangs?
- Is law enforcement effective in dealing with gangs in your community?
- What services exist to either keep people from joining or helping them get out of gangs?
- What keeps people from getting these services?
- What are the three most important things that should be done to address gangs in your community?

The information gathered from the focus group participants will be included in the Ochs Center study on the gang activity to be presented in August. This study will be submitted to the Gang Task Force to evaluate, providing them with a better sense of the citizens’ perception of gang activity within their neighborhoods and possible solutions.

The next Neighborhood Roundtable meeting is July 12, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. in the Mayor’s Conference Room, Third Floor, Chattanooga City Hall Building.



## Project Rain Barrel

“Project Rain Barrel” is rolling out in neighborhoods, schools, and centers across the city in 2012 beginning with a launch in Brainerd District 6 - educating the community on building rain barrels, collecting rain for gardens and other water purposes, and reducing storm water costs. Call the Department of Education, Arts & Culture at 425-7823 for more information or visit [www.chattanooga.gov](http://www.chattanooga.gov).

### How To Get Involved:

- **Sponsor a Rain Barrel** in a school or community center near you.
- **Purchase a Rain Barrel** - painted rain barrels will be available for purchase for only \$60, and proceeds help cover materials costs for the program in schools and community centers, and they can be delivered.

### City Sponsors:

Department of Education, Arts & Culture, Office of Sustainability, Water Quality Program

### Our Partners:

Arcadis • Chattanooga Area Food Bank  
 District 6 Councilwoman Carol Berz  
 District 8 County Commissioner Tim Boyd  
 Higher Ground Rainwater Systems  
 Master Gardeners of Hamilton County

## Ridgedale Community Association

by Debbie Johnson, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

We have all heard the terms, “food deserts,” “sustainability,” and “community gardens” but what do they really mean? If you have traveled the Main Street area recently and noticed some digging and planting going on at the corner of Main and Watkins Streets, then you are seeing the tangible meaning of these popular phrases.

Theresa Ivey, an officer of the Ridgedale Community Association told me of her meeting with Mr. Joel Tippens which resulted in a community garden in the Ridgedale community.

“Fair Share” is an Urban Garden Project of Salt of the Earth, Inc. a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Together with volunteers and donors, they enable low-income households to stretch their food budgets by growing their own food by developing community gardens and urban farms.

One of their current projects is an urban garden in the food desert that runs along Dodds Avenue. Initial funding came from the Hamilton County Health Department’s Step One Program. A Ridgedale area businessman allowed the use of the land. Donated recycled items such as old tires, used pallets, and plastic barrels get a new life as planters, fence posts, compost bins and rain barrels. Fundraisers (such as “Dinner and a Movie”) are regularly held at New City Fellowship Church.

Interested community members and other volunteers show up every Saturday from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. to help build the garden from the ground up.



Once the garden is prepped, interested residents along the Dodds Avenue Corridor can rent a raised garden bed for the season for a nominal fee.

If you are interested in renting a raised bed or in helping to build the garden, contact “Fair Share” soon as the season is already underway. You can reach Joel Tippens via email at [fairsharegarden@gmail.com](mailto:fairsharegarden@gmail.com) or Brenda Trigg at 786-202-3686.

What a wonderful way to provide healthy food sources in an area that has limited access to grocery/produce shops while reducing a family’s food budget expenditures and provide good old fashioned exercise with a splice of outdoor recreation. The garden provides a touch of green space in an otherwise urban setting, decreases storm water runoff, and reduces the heat factor of the surrounding pavements. Conserving resources such as recycling and reusing old materials to make an oasis in a “food desert” is what sustainability is all about! A working community garden also has other intangible benefits such as providing the opportunity for participants to connect with each other and further deepen fellowship within the community. Garden gloves off in salute to this forward thinking community!

Ridgedale Community Association meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the City of Chattanooga’s Parks and Recreation Building at 1102 South Watkins Street, in the upstairs meeting room.

## Glass Street Live Celebration

by Karen D. Clay, Neighborhood Relations Specialist and Teal Thibaud, Glasshouse Collective

At one time East Chattanooga's Glass Street was vibrant and full of various businesses. Now, many of the buildings stand vacant. There are dreamers who have a vision for Glass Street and believe they can make a difference with support from the community.

On Saturday, April 21, the Glass House Collective, a revitalization organization formed under the charitable nonprofit Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga, hosted a communitywide block party. *Glass Street Live* took place near the intersection of Glass Street and North Chamberlain Avenue. Bringing the street back to life through food, fun, and community happened just as the Collective had hoped. The beginning of a community and commercial revitalization effort for Glass Street and the surrounding area, activities for the day included:



- The "Touch-A-Truck" event at Hardy Elementary featuring our city's biggest trucks. Councilman Peter Murphy surprised attendees by landing a helicopter at the event
- A Civil War Walking Tour with Battery Heights Neighborhood Association President, Ron Gilbert
- Music from a local jazz band and DJ
- FREE historic train rides with the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum
- Screen print your own "Glass Street LIVE" t-shirt
- Childrens activities including sidewalk chalk, paint your own birdhouse, Lego building, clowns, "Fair Share's Chattaboogie" Truck Farm and inflatable bounce houses
- Youth basketball game with "Hope for the Inner City" and East Chattanooga Recreation Center

Several health and food vendors were also on hand at the celebration. Contributing to the success of the celebration were Stone Services, Memorial Health Care System, AREA203 Digital, East Chattanooga Improvement, Coca Cola, Kevin Bate and J. T. McDaniel.

Glass Farms Neighborhood Association distributed information about neighborhood meetings, which are held on the second Tuesday every month at 6 p.m. at Community of Christ Church. Etta Kanipes, president of Glass Farms Neighborhood Association, was excited by the new activity. "The Glass Street area was alive in the 1960s and '70s, with a post office, a Honda motorcycle shop,

drycleaners, grocery store, movie theater and a drug store. In recent decades there has been a decline, and I want to see more thriving businesses come back," said Kanipes.

"We are starting business planning courses at the end of May to encourage residents to start a business in some of the vacant buildings on Glass Street," said Teal Thibaud, one of the three Glass House Collective founders and Director of Outreach. Other founding members are Katherine Currin, Director, and designer Garth Brown, who designed the Glass House storefront. Construction began in May. Thibaud said, "the façade construction will be a physical sign for what we are working to accomplish on Glass Street and hopefully attract more artists to the community."

The Glass House Collective has sought partnerships and volunteers to help in the community. They have received grants through Causeway, Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise, Lyndhurst and Benwood Foundations, and the Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga.



## Public Works Department

Spring is here and summer is just around the corner. This means the flowers are blooming filling our eyes with color and the air with fragrance. However, spring also means the trees and shrubs have begun spreading their limbs far and wide. Let us take some of the weight off with Chattanooga Public Works residential brush pickup service.

Requesting residential brush collection service is as easy as dialing 311 (or 425-6311). Just specify if you need brush, bagged yard waste, or both collected. You can also request these great services online at [chattanooga.gov](http://chattanooga.gov). However, there are also some guidelines to follow:

- Wood waste may not be larger than 8-feet in length and 24-inches in diameter.
- Brush piles must not have garbage or other refuse stacked on top or intermixed.
- Brush collection crews will not collect items other than yard waste.
- Small amounts of brush, bagged leaves, and bagged grass clippings may be placed inside your garbage container for weekly collection.
- Brush must be assembled at only one location adjacent to or on the property where it was generated.

- Keep loose leaves, bagged leaves, and brush separated.
- Place brush separate from other items and at least 3-feet away from all other objects.
- Brush shall also be placed as near as practicable to a public street in front of the residence without blocking the roadway, any sidewalk, drainage ditch or catch basin in an appropriate place for ease of collection.

This service is limited to Chattanooga city residences and is not offered to contractors nor businesses. Licensed contractors who cut or trim trees or bushes for hire must provide for lawful disposal of the debris within 24 hours. It is unlawful for any contractor, business, or non-residential property to place debris out for residential collection service.

If you do not qualify for curbside services, or simply prefer to transport your own wood waste, you can take advantage of the Wood Recycle Center located at 3925 North Hawthorne Street. Hours are Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The scales close daily from 12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. By working together we can all help keep "The Scenic City" beautiful!



## Job Training Program

Applications will be available soon for Chattanooga residents who are interested in becoming Environmental Technicians. A new job training program has been established to prepare residents for environmental and other industry careers.

Training will be free to participants. Upon completion, graduates will receive federal and state certifications in industry related courses, including OSHA training, heavy equipment operation, emergency response and safety, green construction, environmental clean up and restoration, as well as some receiving Commercial Drivers License training. Job preparation and placement assistance also will be provided.

To apply, you must be unemployed, underemployed or a dislocated worker. You must have a high school diploma or GED/high school equivalency diploma; be at least 18 years of age, a Chattanooga resident; and successfully complete all other criteria for selection, including basic education tests, medical and drug screenings, interviews, and background checks. Eligibility and admittance to the program will be on a case-by-case basis and supported by an applicant's likelihood for course completion and employment.

Applications will be available after June 15 at the Tennessee Career Center at Chattanooga, located in the Eastgate Town Center, 5600 Brainerd Road, Suite A5, phone 894-5354. Enrollment is limited, and eligible applicants will receive transportation assistance.

The Environmental Technician job training program was developed through a 2011 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant, awarded to The Enterprise Center, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit economic development agency that promotes technology development, advanced transportation, alternative energy, community revitalization and job creation.



## Announcements

CNE

## NeighborGood Week

Over the first full week of June, Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise (CNE) will be celebrating NeighborGood Week. NeighborGood Week is an opportunity for neighbors to be engaged in their communities by volunteering, beautifying, and celebrating their neighborhoods. CNE is sponsoring an event each day that Chattanooga neighbors can participate in to celebrate our city's great neighborhoods.

For more details, visit [www.cneinc.org](http://www.cneinc.org) or call 756-6201

**CNE's NeighborGood Week Schedule**

**Monday June 4 - 11a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Client Appreciation Luau: CNE Parking Lot

**Tuesday June 5 - 11a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Glass Street Clean-Up: 2523 Glass Street

**Wednesday June 6 - 6:30p.m. - 9 p.m.**

NeighborGood Mixer Fundraiser: Downtown

**Thursday June 7 - 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

Sweet Diversity: Chattanooga Zoo

**Friday June 8 - 11 p.m. - 2 p.m.**

Fresh on Fridays: Miller Plaza

**Saturday June 9 - 6 p.m. - 8p.m.**

Riverbend: Outside Gates

CNE strives to build and sustain livable neighborhoods by promoting and preserving homeownership, making affordable loans, working in partnership with like-missioned organizations and encouraging neighborhood engagement and revitalization.

**PUBLIC NOTICE****HOMEAGAIN PROGRAM**

The City of Chattanooga is making available HOME Investment Partnership Act (HOME) grant funds under its HomeAgain Program for the development of rental housing units for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or experiencing challenges that would likely result in homelessness.

The grant funds may be used to acquire, construct, rehab or convert units into housing, within the city limits of Chattanooga. A minimum 25% cash match is required.

Individuals, area nonprofits or for-profit organizations may apply as single applicants or in partnership with other entities. Partnerships are encouraged, but not required for this program.

The Request for Proposal document is available at:

[www.chattanooga.gov](http://www.chattanooga.gov)

Requests for Proposals may also be obtained on site at the address below Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M.

Prospective applicants are required to attend a HOMEAGAIN overview workshop to review program features and requirements.

The workshop will be held:

Thursday, June 14, 2012 at 3:00 P.M.

at

City of Chattanooga

Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development

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

For more information, contact Countess Jenkins at 423-425-3735 or email: [jenkins\\_co@chattanooga.gov](mailto:jenkins_co@chattanooga.gov)

Proposals are due by 3:00 P.M. Friday, June 29, 2012.

**Driver Education Fall 2012****TDOT Traffic Management Center**

7500 Volkswagen Drive

4 consecutive Saturdays 9:00 - 4:45 each day  
September 8, 15, 22 & 29 2012

**The Public Library Downtown**

1001 Broad Street

Monday through Thursday 9:00 - 4:45 each day  
October 8-11, 2012 (HCDE Fall Break)

**Hixson Community Center**

5400 School Drive

4 consecutive Saturdays 9:00 - 4:45 each day  
October 27, November 3, 10 & 17, 2012

Call 643-7011 or 311 for more information

**Patriotic Organ Concert****Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Auditorium**

Tuesday, June 26 at 7:00 p.m.

The Chattanooga Music Club sponsors this 6<sup>th</sup> annual Patriotic Organ Concert. Tom Trenney, a leader among the younger generation of American organists, will be the featured artist as he plays the Auditorium's 1924 Austin Pipe Organ. He will accompany two silent films - **One Week** starring Buster Keaton, and **Big Business** starring Laurel & Hardy. Mr. Trenney will be joined by trumpeter Zachery Schmidt and drummer DeJuan Hogans. Greg Glover of WRCB-TV3 will serve as Master of Ceremonies.

Admission is **FREE**. Donations are welcome.

# COMMONGROUND

## June Calendar of Events

### Sunday June 3

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

### Monday June 4

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
6:30pm – 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 June 5

6:00pm – 7:00pm	Bushtown Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Shawnee Hills Neighborhood Association

### Wednesday June 6

10:00am – 11:00am	Board of Zoning Appeals
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### Thursday June 7

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

### Monday June 11

7:00pm – 8:00pm	Jefferson Heights Neighborhood Association
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Fairfax-Bagwell Neighborhood Association

### Tuesday June 12

6:00pm – 7:00pm	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

### Wednesday June 13

11:00am – 12:00pm	East Lake Senior Citizens
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### Thursday June 14

9:00am – 10:00am	Environmental Court
6:00pm – 8:00pm	Chattanooga Organized for Action
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 Meeting
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 June 18

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
7:00pm – 8:00pm	East Lake Community Council

### Tuesday June 19

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

### Thursday June 21

9:00am – 10:00am	Environmental Court
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Brainerd Park North Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Southside Chattanooga Oak Hills Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Menlo Neighborhood Association
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Olde Town Brainerd Neighborhood Association

### Monday June 25

7:00pm – 8:00pm	Oak Grove Neighborhood Association
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### Thursday June 28

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

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

## Systematic Codes Inspections

Code enforcement inspectors will be inspecting each parcel in the following neighborhoods for City Code violations including litter, overgrowth, abandoned vehicles and housing code violations:

**Week of June 4, 2012.....Radmoor/North Concord ..... District 4**

**Week of June 18, 2012.....Avondale - Wheeler Avenue ..... District 3**