



A Newsletter from the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development



“Building Better Neighborhoods... Block By Block”

COMMON GROUND



Neighborhood Perceptions: Gang Activity

The Ochs Center researchers want critical community input on the extent of the gang problems in Chattanooga neighborhoods. They will be at a special Neighborhood Roundtable meeting to gather this information on May 9 at 1:00 p.m. in the Mayor’s conference room, 3rd floor, City Hall.

Leaders of neighborhood organizations will form focus groups. Participants will answer questions from the perspective of their neighborhood, not Chattanooga in general. Groups will meet for approximately one hour.

The questionnaire and format of the focus group provides all individuals with opportunities to participate. Some of the major themes to be discussed by the focus groups:

- What is the extent of the gang problem in your neighborhood? For example, are gangs emerging, entrenched, or non-existent?
- If you think gangs are prevalent in your neighborhood, what evidence do you have to substantiate this conclusion?
- How does gang activity in your neighborhood affect your quality of life?
- What programs, services, or actions are needed in your neighborhood to make a positive impact on young residents?

The information gathered from the focus



groups will be included in the Ochs Center study on gang activity.

Because of the interest this subject has generated among neighborhoods, attendance is expected to be larger than usual; therefore, **persons planning to attend are asked to call 425-3700 no later than Monday, May 7 (today) to ensure that you can be accommodated.**

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Neighborhood Services and Community Development

(423) 425-3700 • www.chattanooga.gov

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Sandra Gober, Manager, Community Development
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If you would like to receive *Common Ground* via e-mail send a message to brewer_d@chattanooga.gov

Graffiti Removal Program

The City of Chattanooga is implementing the Graffiti Removal Program again this summer. This program puts youth volunteers to work cleaning up these unattractive nuisances throughout the City.

You can help identify program worksites by calling and reporting unsightly graffiti. All you have to do is call 311. We will take care of the rest! The procedure is outlined as follows:

1. Call 3-1-1 to report graffiti.
2. If the graffiti is on city property, don't worry... the City will remove it.

3. If the graffiti is on private property, a Neighborhood Services representative will determine the owner of the property. The owner may choose to remove graffiti on his own. If the owner decides to allow the city to remove the graffiti, the owner will sign the appropriate release giving permission to the City and volunteers to access property and remove graffiti.
4. If the owner is unwilling to allow removal and refuses to remove graffiti him/herself, Neighborhood Services will issue a citation of violation.



Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator

Administrator's Letter

Gangs and graffiti are the topics for May. The May 9th Neighborhood Roundtable (page 1) will be of utmost importance in giving the newly appointed Gang Task Force information on what each of our neighborhoods is seeing from their own front porches. If you have information to share regarding gangs in your neighborhood and have not already reserved your seat, please call us today to be included. It should be an interesting forum, indeed.

We have already logged quite a few complaints about graffiti. This is an easy way for you to make a difference in our city. Just call 311 and provide the address. We will take care of the rest. There is no charge for property owners to have the Graffiti Removal Program clean it up... or they can choose to remove it themselves.

The City of Chattanooga's new website was launched last week. If you have not seen it yet, please take a minute and log on to www.chattanooga.gov. We are proud of the site's new look, and even happier with the improved navigation. Be sure to look at the Neighborhood Services and Community Development's section while you are

taking the tour. You can send us an email from the website and let us know what you think!

I hope you can get out and enjoy some of the outdoor events and great weather this time of year. There are two events listed on page 6 to get you started. Thanks for making Chattanooga a great place to live, work and play!

Foster Grandparents – Sharing Compassion, Time and Experience

When Foster Grandparents share their compassion, time and experience with a child in need, a bond is formed that helps set the child on the path toward a successful future. Foster Grandparents have been doing that in Chattanooga for thirty-two years. They serve as role models and mentors to children in Head Start Centers, schools, child care centers and youth shelters. They nurture and encourage children to achieve goals, often tutoring one-on-one and offering guidance at critical times in a child's life.

Recently, Foster Grandparent, Jeanne McDaniel, was recognized for her volunteer work at Children's Home Chambliss Shelter; she received the Volunteer of the Year Award in National Service at the United Way Volunteer Award and Recognition Banquet on April 17, 2012 at the Unum Atrium.

Ms. McDaniel serves 20 to 30 hours a week at Children's Home Chambliss Shelter working in the Tumblers classroom (toddlers – two year olds). She is assigned to two special needs children and performs specific activities that address each child's area of need. She helps special-needs children with language skills by reading to them and playing learning games. She often goes the extra mile by baking goodies at home to share with the classroom for holiday celebrations and even bringing toys from home and other manipulatives that may help a child learn a concept. She states that her work with the children at Children's Home makes her feel twenty years younger and their smiles and hugs warm her heart.

Foster Grandparents must be at least 55 years of age and have a desire to share their experiences and compassion with the younger generation. In improving the lives of the children they serve, Foster Grandparents have found that doing something for others in their communities does a lot for them too. For more information about the Foster Grandparent Program, call 757-5509.



Jeanne McDaniel, Volunteer of the Year in National Service, in action at Children's Home Chambliss Shelter

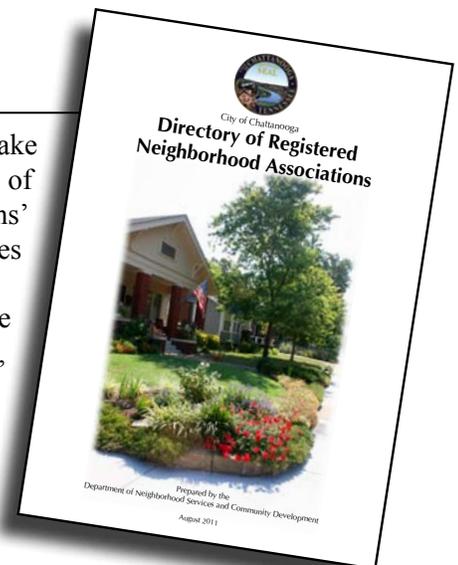
Neighborhood Association Registry

Do you want to stay informed? Does your neighborhood association want to take advantage of the numerous programs the City of Chattanooga offers? The Directory of Registered Neighborhood Associations helps to communicate information to associations' officers about upcoming events, programs and provides your city council representatives contact information for their districts.

If your association is already on the registry but has had recent elections, make sure the information is current. If your information is over a year old but is still accurate, drop your Neighborhood Relations Specialist a note to let us know it is still current.

If your neighborhood association is not registered with us, please visit our website and register or call your Neighborhood Relations Specialists Ty Armour, Karen Clay or Debbie Johnson at 425-3700 for assistance.

The registry can be found on our website at www.chattanooga.gov.



Neighborly News from...



Oak Hills new community marker

Southside Chattanooga Oak Hill Neighborhood Association

by Debbie Johnson, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

Another neighborhood has joined the ranks of organized and energized. Oak Hill residents were rallied by Terry McCullough, a 2011 Neighborhood Leadership Institute graduate, to form a neighborhood association. The Oak Hill community is located in Alton Park nestled next to the Forest Hills Cemetery and St. Elmo neighborhood.

According to an article by Sean Cavanagh written for the February 17, 1998 issue of the *Chattanooga Times*, Oak Hill was a suburb developed on farmland settled by brothers Charles and John James and the adjoining Kirkland farmland around 1885. "Along with the rest of Alton Park, it remained a separate town until its

residents voted to join Chattanooga in 1929." The article noted that a large number of the residents worked at the Chattanooga Southern Railroad, Chattanooga Glass and other like industries. Former Chattanooga Mayor Peter Rudolph "Rudy" Olgiati was a resident of Oak Hill. The name, Oak Hill, was derived from the James brothers who noted the "mighty oaks gracing the southern slope of the place, called it Oak Hill."

Oak Hill residents came together and worked on building a solid organizational foundation to preserve and protect their community and history. They worked with the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development (DNSCD) to create organizational bylaws and a strategic plan. Hence, the Southside Chattanooga Oak Hills Neighborhood Association (SCOHNA) was formed and ready for action. Already in just a few months of inception they have had numerous neighborhood cleanups, youth centered activities and fundraisers that included the sale of SCOHNA community tee shirts. The community now boasts sign toppers throughout its streets funded through the DNSCD's Neighborhood Partners Program. Most folks would be taking a well deserved breath from all this work, but not this group. Through the monies received from the fund raising efforts Oak Hill residents now have a beautiful community marker located on Grand Avenue. Please welcome the Southside Chattanooga Oak Hills Neighborhood Association and give them a big round of applause!

The Southside Chattanooga Oak Hills Neighborhood Association meets the third Thursday of each month beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the South Chattanooga Recreation Center located at 1151 W. 40th Street.

Sources: Chattanooga Times, Feb 17 1998

Oak Hills new sign toppers purchased with funding assistance through the Neighborhood Partners Program



Shawnee Hills Neighborhood Association

by Ty Armour, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

The Shawnee Hills Neighborhood Association was started in April 2006, to address problems with disruptive teenagers, and the resultant fights and property damage. A heightened police presence and neighbors talking to neighbors resolved the issues.

Since their humble beginning, they have established traditions that unite the neighborhood such as their 5th annual yard sale and 4th annual Christmas brunch; developed lines of communication between the residents and teenagers; and are working on other short term goals that will help the community grow and thrive.

“Among our accomplishments was the refurbishing of our community marquee by the men in the neighborhood. We also bought meeting signs, which are posted throughout the community to remind neighbors of the association meeting date and time,” said Richard Atkerson, president of the Shawnee Hills Neighborhood Association.

Communication is an absolute necessity in trying to bring people together so the group utilizes email, texts, newsletters, and block leaders. The written word works when disseminating information to people, but their block leaders endeavor to give information and get concerns of neighbors with face to face meetings. The group feels that block leaders are the key to increasing the awareness and getting more active participation in the neighborhood association.

The Shawnee Hills Association was recently awarded funding through the Neighborhood Partners Program to create sign toppers to help identify their community and add to its beauty.

The Shawnee Hills Neighborhood Association meets from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the Brainerd Recreation Complex, 1010 North Moore Road.



Arbor Creek Neighborhood Association

by Karen D. Clay, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

Arbor Creek neighborhood is a small, close-knit community located off Highway 153 in the Hixson area of City Council District 3. The neighborhood is about 23 years old. The association sponsors a 4th of July parade, Halloween cook-out and the annual community picnic. The events are designed to bring the community together and allow all to participate. Food, drinks, games and other activities makes the event successful.

Arbor Creek is growing and changing with more young families moving into the community. The association continues to work to ensure that issues of concern are addressed and quality of life for all residents continues to flourish. Residents are so close that if a neighbor is unable to cut their grass due to personal problems or is out of town, neighbors will pitch

in and cut the grass. That is certainly taking pride in the neighborhood and watching out for each other!

Arbor Creek residents want to keep the lines of communication open and have included their neighborhood on Facebook. Currently they are updating their neighborhood directory so that they can disseminate information via e-mail. The association received funding from the Neighborhood Partners Program to do landscaping at the front entrance of

the subdivision. Residents have commented on the beautiful project that included planting Cryptomeria Yoshino, Laurel Otto-Luyken, Indian Hawthorn, Nandia Gulfstream, Laurel Schipkaensis, Little Bunny Grass and Juniper Blue Rug. Arbor Creek meets annually at Arbor Mist Trail Cul-de-sac at 4 p.m., date to be announced. Congratulations on the success of your beautiful project and keep up the great work!



A landscape company worker replanting the gateway entrance to Arbor Creek

Neighborly News from...

Hub Fest - Heritage Park

The sixth annual HubFest will be held on Saturday, May 12, at Heritage Park. Presented by the Friends of East Brainerd in association with Pepsi Beverage Company, Brewer Media, and many others, HubFest is free to the public and is family friendly.

It will be filled with music, dancing, activities for children & families and plenty of vendors and food. A wonderful FREE celebration of community, Mom and Apple Pie! There will be a special program recognizing veterans and their mothers.

Check out the more than 40 acts on this years schedule!

Come and join us ~ Rain or Shine!
Llueva o haga sol, ¡venga a compartir con nosotros!

Free! GRATIS **Free!** GRATIS **Free!** GRATIS **Free!** GRATIS

Health Screenings
Análisis de salud

Food!
¡Comida!

Entertainment
Entretención

Prizes!
¡Premios!

Music!
¡Musica!

Free! GRATIS **Free!** GRATIS **Free!** GRATIS **Free!** GRATIS

Fourth Annual
East Lake Celebration
Celebración en East Lake

East Lake Recreation Center
(Centro de recreación East Lake)
3601 Dodds Ave.
(en la esquina de "Dodds Avenue" y la "37 Street")
Chattanooga, TN 37407

May 17, 2012
2:00pm~6:00pm



(For more information / Para más información)

Raquel (423) 697-3806 or Ketre (423) 209-8071

Opening Ceremony-Outdoor Stage

- 11:30am U. S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps-Chattanooga Division
(presenting and posting the colors)
11:35am Star Spangled Banner (Nicholas E. Hickman)
11:38am Opening Prayer
(Pastor Bill Mason, Morris Hill Baptist Church)
11:40am "Amen" (Nicholas Hickman)
Master of Ceremony - Mr. David Karnes, Channel 3, WRCB
11:45am Mayor Ron Littlefield
and other City and County Dignitaries
11:55am "Let There be Peace on Earth and Let it Begin with Me"
(Faithful Friends)
"Bring Back the Cross" (Wayne Turner)
12:00pm Speaker- Admiral Vance Fry
12:10pm "Love in any Language" (Ellen Flemmons)
12:15pm Closing Prayer (Rev. David Sternberg, Bridge Church)
12:18pm Parade beings!

Heritage House Entertainment, Inside Stage

- 12:30-12:40pm Scenic City Dance Studio
12:40-12:50pm T-Ran Gilbert
12:50-1:15pm Fletcher Bright & The Dismembered Tennesseans
1:15-2:25pm "Placing Students & Teachers in the Spotlight"
CMTA & other piano teachers
2:25-2:40pm CSOYO "John Burton w/special guest Josh Coleman"
2:40-2:50pm Jim Pfitzer "Storyteller"
2:50-3:00pm Robin Burk Pan-Hand
3:00-3:15pm Scenic City Chorus "Sky Hopes"
3:15-3:30pm "Retro Fashion Show"
presented by Collective Clothing
3:30-3:45pm The Opera Singers
3:45-4:00pm Shane Morrow-Gospel & Jazz

Outdoor Stage Schedule

- 12:30-12:40pm River City Red Hot's Brass Band "Dixieland style"
12:40-12:50pm Zumba Dance Demonstration
12:50-1:00pm Square Dance Club
1:00-1:10pm Mary Katherine Shields-Country
1:10-1:20pm Justin Yates-Country
1:20-1:40pm Rick Rushing & the Blues Strangers
1:40-1:45pm Jim Pfitzer "Storyteller"
1:45-1:55pm Abigail Blake-Country
1:55-2:25pm Timbre Fox
2:25-2:40pm Scenic City Chorus "Sky Hopes"
2:40-3:10pm Fletcher Bright & The Dismembered Tennesseans
3:10-3:20pm Leslie Marshall-Southern Rock
3:20-3:30pm Azure Marshall
3:30-3:40pm Steven Underwood-Country
3:40-3:50pm Alice Wilhoit-Pop
3:50-4:00pm Hany Ubanks- Country

Announcements

PUBLIC NOTICE

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUNDING
FY 2012-2013**

The City of Chattanooga, as a HUD Entitlement Community, has the following funds available: CDBG-\$1,625,052; HOME-\$737,382; Program Income-\$650,017; and THDA- \$84,000, for a total of \$3,096,451.

All funds are contingent upon final approval by HUD and the Tennessee Housing Development Agency.

The following projects were approved for funding by the City Council on February 28, 2012, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012 thru June 30, 2013:

28th District CDC	\$203,540
Chattanooga Community Housing Development Organization (CCHDO).....	\$110,000
Chattanooga Community Housing Development Organization (CCHDO).....	\$250,000
Chattanooga Homeless Coalition	\$25,000
Chattanooga Homeless Coalition	\$34,000
Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise, Inc. (CNE).....	\$25,000
Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise, Inc. (CNE).....	\$40,000
Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise, Inc. (CNE).....	\$250,000
Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development	
Administration	\$494,324
Debt Service—Loan Repayment	\$468,000
Code Enforcement	\$75,000
Rental Housing Rehabilitation.....	\$50,000
Home Repairs	\$30,000
Department of Parks and Recreation.....	\$310,000
Department of Public Works	\$317,587
Girls Inc. of Chattanooga	\$20,000
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Chattanooga	\$270,000
Interfaith Homeless Network.....	\$25,000
YMCA—YCAP	\$15,000

THDA—EMERGENCY SOLUTION GRANT

Chattanooga Church Ministries, Inc.—Community Kitchen	\$15,000
Chattanooga Room In The Inn.....	\$10,500
Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development	\$4,000
Interfaith Homeless Network.....	\$11,500
Partnership for Family, Children & Adults.....	\$20,000
Partnership for Family, Children & Adults.....	\$23,000
Grand Total	\$3,096,451

The Action Plan, which provides complete details on funding and activities for FY 2012-2013, is available for review and comments April 9, 2012 through May, 9, 2012. Citizens wishing to comment regarding these projects or Action Plan may do so in writing to: Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development, City Hall, Suite 200, 101 E. 11th Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402.

To request a copy of the Action Plan or Executive Summary and to make comments, citizens should contact the office at 757-5133, Monday-Friday 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. A nominal fee will be charged for the cost of duplication.

Written comments must be received by May 8, 2012.

COMMONGROUND

May Calendar of Events

Tuesday May 1		Sat May 12	
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Shawnee Hills Neighborhood Association	11:00am – 4:00pm	HUB Fest sponsored by the Friends of East Brainerd
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Forest Plaza Neighborhood Association	Monday May 14	
Wednesday May 2		7:00pm – 8:00pm	Jefferson Heights Neighborhood Association
10:00am – 11:00am	Board of Zoning Appeals	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Fairfax-Bagwell Neighborhood Association
Thursday May 3		Tuesday May 15	
9:00am – 10:00am	Environmental Court	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Orchard Knob Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Glenwood Neighborhood Watch	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Hickory Creek Townhome Association
Sunday May 6		7:00pm – 8:00pm	Cloverale Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Hemphill Neighborhood Association	Thursday May 17	
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Shepherd Community Council	9:00am – 10:00am	Environmental Court
Monday May 7		2:00pm – 6:00pm	East Lake Celebration
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Spring Valley Charitable Corporation	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Brainerd Park North Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Northside/Cherokee Community Association	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Missionary Ridge Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Battery Heights Neighborhood Association	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Southside Chattanooga Oak Hills Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Wheeler Avenue Neighborhood Association	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Menlo Neighborhood Association
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Hill City Neighborhood Association	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Lake Chickamauga Association
6:30pm – 7:30pm	East Lake Neighborhood Association	6:30pm – 7:30pm	Olde Town Brainerd Neighborhood Association
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Murray Hills Neighborhood Association	6:30pm – 7:30pm	Highland Park Neighborhood Association
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Community Association of Historic St. Elmo	Monday May 21	
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Lookout Valley Neighborhood Association	5:30pm – 6:30pm	Villages at Alton Park Neighborhood Watch
Tuesday May 8		6:00pm – 7:00pm	Washington Hills Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Foxwood Neighborhood Association	6:00pm – 7:00pm	North Brainerd Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Indian Hills Neighborhood Association	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Avondale Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Sector 2 Community Policing Interactive Committee (CPIC)	7:00pm – 8:00pm	East Lake Community Council
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Glass Farms Neighborhood Association	Wednesday May 23	
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Alton Park Piney Woods Neighborhood Association	10:00am – 11:00am	Demolition Hearing
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Biltmore Neighborhood Association	Thursday May 24	
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Narrows Homeowners Association	9:00am – 10:00am	Environmental Court
Wednesday May 9		4:30pm – 5:30pm	South Broad Redevelopment Group
11:00am – 12:00pm	East Lake Senior Citizens	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Woodmore Manor Neighborhood Association
Thursday May 10		6:00pm – 7:00pm	Glenwood Neighborhood Association
9:00am – 10:00am	Environmental Court	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Ridgedale Community Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Chattanooga Organized for Action	Monday May 28	
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Churchville Neighborhood Association	7:00pm – 8:00pm	Oak Grove Neighborhood Association
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Clifton Hills Improvement Committee	Thursday May 31	
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Belvoir Neighborhood Association	9:00am – 10:00am	Environmental Court
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Sector 3 Community Policing Interactive Committee (CPIC)	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	
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Fort Wood Neighborhood Association		
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Martin Luther King Neighborhood Association		
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Cedar Hill Improvement League		

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 May 11, 2012 Dayton Boulevard/Elmwood District 1

Week of May 25, 2012 Park City District 8