



A Newsletter from the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development



“Building Better Neighborhoods... Block By Block”

# COMMON GROUND

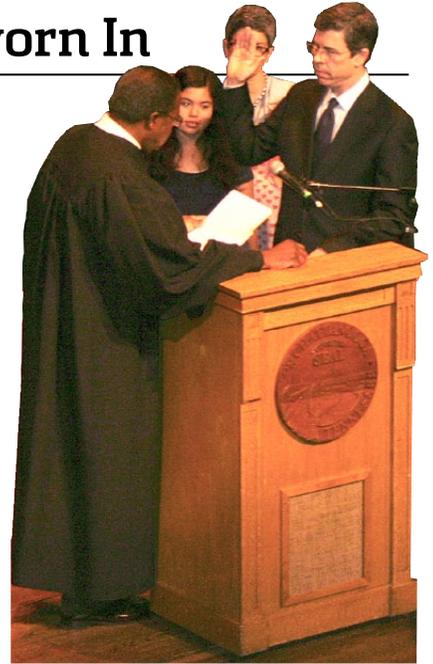


## Mayor Berke and Council Sworn In

On April 15, Mayor Andy Berke and City Council members were sworn in during the City of Chattanooga’s Inaugural Ceremony. Over 1,200 people attended the hour long event that was held at the Tivoli Theatre.

State Representative Joann Favors served as Mistress of Ceremonies, introducing Mayor Berke and each new council member as they were sworn in by a host of honorable judges. Following the administration of oaths, Mayor Berke made inaugural remarks that reflected on “where we’ve been as a community, where we are today, and what the next chapters of the Chattanooga story should be.”

During his remarks, Mayor Berke highlighted his commitment to public safety, youth development and economic and community development, stating, “if we are going to make gains on these three priorities, then we need a city government that delivers these services in the most effective and efficient way possible”.



*The Honorable John W. McClarty administers the oath of office to Mayor Andy Berke*



After the morning ceremony, Mayor Berke was met by a crowd of about 200 supporters and city employees as he made his first appearance as Chattanooga’s Mayor at the steps of City Hall. “There is tremendous momentum to make our streets safer, build opportunity in all areas of the community, and invest in our youth,” said Mayor Berke, as he climbed the steps to start his first day.

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### Neighborhood Services and Community Development

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

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# Meet Your New City Council Members

Neighborhood associations need to be familiar with their City Council representatives. Many of them are new, but there are a few familiar faces. Included are their current or previous professions and e-mail addresses.

## DISTRICT 1

**“Chip” Henderson (Vice Chairman)**  
Owner, Henderson Construction Company  
henderson\_chip@chattanooga.gov

## DISTRICT 2

**Jerry Mitchell**  
mitchell\_jerry@chattanooga.gov

## DISTRICT 3

**Ken Smith**  
Chief Information Officer, The Johnson Group  
smith\_ken@chattanooga.gov

## DISTRICT 4

**Larry Grohn**  
Retired Educator  
grohn\_l@chattanooga.gov

## DISTRICT 5

**Russell J. Gilbert, Sr.**  
Food Service Director, Parkridge Valley Hospital  
gilbert\_r@chattanooga.gov

## DISTRICT 6

**Carol B. Berz**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Private Dispute Resolution Services, LLC  
berz\_c@chattanooga.gov

## DISTRICT 7

**“Chris” Anderson**  
Director, Food and Beverage – Bluff View Art District  
anderson\_c@chattanooga.gov

## DISTRICT 8

**Moses Freeman**  
Developer, Retired City Administrator  
(Mr. Freeman was the first administrator of the  
Department of Neighborhood Services)  
freeman\_m@chattanooga.gov

## DISTRICT 9

**Yusuf A. Hakeem (Chairman)**  
Retired, General Electric Corporation  
hakeem\_y @chattanooga.gov



*State Representative JoAnne Favors introduces the new Mayor and City Council members. From L to R: Mayor Andy Berke; Yusuf Hakeem, District 9; Moses Freeman, District 8; Chris Anderson, District 7; Carol Berz, District 6; Russell Gilbert, District 5; Larry Grohn, District 4; Ken Smith District 3; Jerry Mitchell, District 2; Chip Henderson, District 1*

# Beverly Johnson Retires

by Vanessa A. Jackson, *Neighborhood Program Specialist*

Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator of Neighborhood Services and Community Development, retired on April 15, 2013 after 26 years of service to the City of Chattanooga. We will miss her leadership and her dreaded red pen. Below are excerpts from her last appearance on *Neighborhood Talk*, the department's weekly radio show on WNOO 1260 AM.

## What was it like as department Administrator?

It was hard and sometimes lonely at first due to a few obstacles, but overall the past eight years was a wonderful opportunity made easier due to the outstanding department staff.

## Before joining Neighborhood Services and Community Development as the Administrator, you were Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Works - a predominately male department. What was that experience like?

It was tough. I started as the first female deputy commissioner. I was placed in charge of what was known as the Building Department (now Land Development Office) and the Better Housing Department (Neighborhood Services). Most of the staff was not interested in a black female telling them what to do. Lucky for me Mayor Littlefield, who at the time was Commissioner of Public Works, made the work atmosphere a lot easier for me.

## The addition of an annual report as a department publication came under your tenure. What prompted you to make this a department priority and why is it important to the citizens and the department?

I believe it is important to document what you do and give yourself credit when it is due. The coverage the department receives through radio, television or newspaper is great, but can be subjective and fragmented. The seven annual reports that the department staff completed since 2007 chronicles our work. Sometimes people have the misconception that government employees do not work. This is far from the truth. Our department staff is always on duty. People approach us in the grocery store, during leisure activities and even at our respective places of worship to ask a question or seek information on matters relating to the department and city government. It is important for citizens to know what we do. It is equally important that staff can sit down and read about their accomplishments. I felt that it was especially important that this year's report highlight the staff. A small team coordinates the compilation and publication of the report, but everyone in the department contributes to the effort.

## What are some of the department's highlights over the last eight years?

The entire staff is more responsible and responsive.



Beverly P. Johnson

The members of the City Council have confidence in our staff and know who to call when the need arises. The department's Neighborhood Relations Specialists know the communities that they serve and

have a great rapport with neighborhood leadership. In addition to its normal programmatic activities, Community Development successfully administered Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds (NSP) to construct 21 homes and renovate 13 single family homes within the urban core of our city.

## Do you have any regrets?

Within the last several months the department began research and strategic planning on a vacant properties initiative for our city. I regret that we did not start this work earlier. Also, since funding is critical to the execution and fulfillment of programs and activities to meet department and community goals, I wish that we had pursued more grant programs. And I wish I had an opportunity to attend more neighborhood meetings.

## What advice would you give girls and women who aspire to be leaders?

Look for opportunities. Create opportunities for yourself. Find resources- people who can help you for a particular time, a particular reason or circumstance. I am a former Girl Scout so I live by the motto of being proactive, being productive and always being prepared!

## What is your forecast for the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development?

I think that the department has a bright future. The staff has the support of neighborhood leaders who are ready to work with them in the areas of code enforcement, neighborhood relations and take community development initiatives to higher heights. With that, the staff should be prepared to express, to Mayor Berke, their ideas and strategies to move our neighborhood revitalization efforts forward. I am confident that the department staff is smart, capable and ready to meet the challenge!

## Certificate of Appreciation

On March 28, Suzanne Wright, Operations Analyst, and Edward Ellis, Knoxville Office Director from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) made a surprise visit to the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development to present Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator, an award for dedicated service.

The award reads "Thank you for years of outstanding service, dedication, and commitment to the citizens of Chattanooga, Tennessee. You have served as a valuable partner to HUD and have made significant contributions in providing decent, safe, and affordable housing, with essential community development improvements throughout the City. Through your work, creativity, dedication, and leadership, you have made a difference in the quality of life of some of the most vulnerable populations, in particular low income and homeless persons.

Congratulations, Ms. Johnson, for a job well done!



*Edward Ellis, Knoxville Office Director for HUD, presents the Certificate of Appreciation to Beverly P. Johnson, surrounded by staff members L to R: Michelle Crumley, Regina Partap, Christian Haigler, Tony Sammons, Paula Coleman, Vanessa Jackson, Debbie Johnson and Rod Morton*

## Fair Housing Workshops A Success

On April 4, the 8th Annual Fair Housing Workshop and Luncheon, sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, drew it's largest crowd to date. Attendees learned about buying a home from Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise, fair housing for people with disabilities from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and case studies of fair housing complaints from the Tennessee Human Rights Commission.

Richard Gadzekpo, Housing Coordinator with the Tennessee Human Rights Commission, presented at the luncheon, saying "People don't think tenant discrimination and retaliation takes place anymore, but it does. When it happens, they need to know we are here to help."



*Participants were able to obtain information from many organizations present with displays, such as the one above from the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development*

*Workshops were presented to a full house of attendees*



## Neighborly News from...

### Great American Cleanup

Jeanette Eigelsbach, Director of the Scenic Cities Beautiful Commission (SCBC) has put out the call for neighborhoods to participate in the nation's largest cleanup program - the Great American Cleanup. SCBC is the local leader of the Great American Cleanup. Beginning in March through June, communities across the country are scheduling cleanups in their neighborhoods. Scenic Cities Beautiful Commission is facilitating cleanups all throughout the year, but the Great American Cleanup is the pinnacle of their efforts.

Neighborhood associations will find participation in this annual event provides tangible benefits such as a healthy and clean environment and intangible benefits such as community pride. Neighborhood associations may use this event to get out and meet the residents in the community, renew relationships, recruit new members, obtain input from residents as to what they want to see happen in their community. This is the perfect opportunity to build trust and community confidence in your neighborhood.

Scenic Cities Beautiful Commission's focus is to educate the public on the issues that affect us all: litter prevention, waste reduction and beautification.

Ms. Eigelsbach states, "no goal is more important, more urgent, and more worthy of our time, energy, creativity and money." Neighborhoods who would like to participate in the Great American Cleanup may contact Ms. Jeanette Eigelsbach at 757-0061.



### National Walking Day

On April 3, Foster Grandparents laced up their sneakers and participated in the American Heart Association's annual National Walking Day. The Foster Grandparents at the Department of Youth and Family Services Child Care Center were joined by the classroom children and teachers, seizing the opportunity to serve as role models in battling the national problem of physical inactivity. The Foster Grandparents shared a brisk morning walk that left both generations feeling energized and refreshed. These were simple steps that lead to a healthier life. 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.



*L to R: Carolyn Jones, Dr. Everlena M. Holmes and State Representative JoAnne Favors*

### Dr. Holmes Honored

Dr. Everlena M. Holmes, a resident of Glenwood, was one of six Black Pioneer Women of Excellence recognized by the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Chattanooga Chapter on April 20. Dr. Holmes was recognized in the category of Volunteerism/Community Service. She is the founding Coordinator of the 42 Glenwood Block Leaders who are the "life blood" of Glenwood, according to Dr. Holmes. She believes that strong communities, working together, create a strong foundation for a thriving city like Chattanooga and urges others to volunteer their services, especially the youth. "There are numerous ways to give back when you have been blessed with so much to give," says Dr. Holmes.

Congratulations Dr. Holmes!

## Neighborly News from...

### Glass Farm Neighborhood Association

by Karen D. Clay, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

Located in the heart of East Chattanooga, Glass Farm Neighborhood Association has been in existence for over 20 years and is still going strong, recruiting new members and focusing on neighborhood safety while embracing youth interaction. The association participates in National Night Out and during the holiday season, partners with Community of Christ Church to sponsor holiday events.

In January 2002 Glass Farm successfully petitioned the city to get a traffic light at the corner of Glass and Campbell streets, which once was a place of frequent accidents. The association was instrumental in getting more code enforcement in the area, playing a key role in the abatement of abandoned vehicles parked in yards and unkempt properties. They were successful in getting sidewalks installed

from the 3100 block of Campbell Street near the Battery Heights Apartments entrance, to Stewart Street. They were also able to obtain funding to purchase a neighborhood welcome sign.

The association continues to work to ensure that issues and concerns are addressed. Determined to find ways neighbors can become better acquainted, the association decided to develop a neighborhood book. Funding through the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development's Neighborhood Partners Program made the project a reality. Residents and members of the association worked long hours to compile information, pictures and history about the Glass Farm Community. The association plans to distribute the books at their monthly neighborhood meetings, membership drives and other neighborhood events.

Glass Farm meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at Community of Christ Church located at 2508 Glass Street. The president welcomes one and all to become a part of an ongoing movement to energize and stimulate all residents and stakeholders.

### Olde Town Brainerd Neighborhood Association

by Ty Armour, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

The Olde Town Brainerd Neighborhood is nestled at the foot of historical Missionary Ridge at the Brainerd Tunnels. The residents love their ideal location; only minutes from I-24 and I-75. Their community boundary begins at the 3200 block of Brainerd Road at North Seminole Drive, east to Tunnel Boulevard, south to Rosemont Drive and north to Pinewood Avenue.

The Olde Town Brainerd Neighborhood is an established neighborhood that is working to become a favorite with potential homebuyers. They currently have more vacant homes than usual, however Olde Town Brainerd is working with realtors and potential home owners to secure a positive and family oriented future for the neighborhood.

Some Olde Town Brainerd homes date back to 1901 and sit on lush, spacious, yards spanned by towering century-oaks. It's the type of community where neighbors wave from rocking chaired front porches as families stroll down the quiet streets.

The neighborhood encompasses a revitalized business district with places to eat, shop and enjoy art. The association works to help support and encourage the unique businesses located there.

The Olde Town Brainerd Neighborhood Association was awarded funding through the 2011-2012 Neighborhood Partners Program from the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development to purchase house banners to help identify the community, add to its beauty and encourage more participation from residents.



Announcements

**This Month's  
Neighborhood Roundtable**

will be a technical assistance workshop for the



Wednesday, May 8, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.  
in the Mayor's Conference Room,  
101 E. 11th Street, Suite 300

All other workshops will be held at City Hall in the 3rd floor training room. Organizations interested in submitting proposals must attend a technical assistance workshop to be eligible for program funds.

- Thursday, May 9, 2013                    5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 14, 2013                10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 14, 2013                5:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, August 8, 2013            5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Pre-registration is not required.  
For more information call 425-3700

**City of Chattanooga  
Curbside Recycle Containers Available**

The Department of Public Works now offers 96-gallon roll-out recycle containers for curbside recycle collection customers. The containers are the same size and structure as existing garbage containers. Customers may receive up to two recycle containers for a one-time cost of \$50 each.

Customers who have more than one garbage container at their property may exchange one for a recycle container at no charge. Customers can still participate in curbside recycle collection without maintaining a city issued recycle container by placing recyclable materials on the curb in blue bags or clearly marked containers.

To request a container call 311 or 423-425-6311.



**PUBLIC NOTICE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
Emergency Solutions Grant Fund  
Proposals Being Accepted**

The City of Chattanooga will accept proposals for Emergency Solutions Grant funds from governmental entities and private non-profit organizations that have a proven record, a 501(c)3 designation status, and have been in operations for at least one year.

Technical Assistance Workshop  
Wednesday, May 15th 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
City Hall, 101 East 11th Street  
Multi-Purpose Room, Third Floor  
Chattanooga, TN 37402

**The deadline for submitting applications is  
May 30, 2013.**

**Proposal/applications may be obtained  
after May 2, 2013 by calling the  
Community Development Office at 757-5133 or  
online at [www.chattanooga.gov](http://www.chattanooga.gov).**



**4:30p** Women are invited to meet at Miller Plaza, 850 Market St., to ride the short course of the US Pro Cycling Road Race, at a conversational pace.

**6p** Dinner with professional female cyclists at Community Pie

*Ladies' Leisure Ride*  
Sunday, May 26  
Free • Guided • No Drop



Organized by Green Trips, which is funded in part by the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program.

# May Calendar of Events

**Wednesday May 1, 2013**

10am	Board of Zoning Appeals
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**Thursday May 2, 2013**

9am	Environmental Court
6pm	Alton Park Development Corporation
6pm	Glenwood Neighborhood Watch
7pm	Lookout Valley Neighborhood Association

**Sunday May 5, 2013**

6pm	Hemphill Neighborhood Association
7pm	Shepherd Community Council

**Monday May 6, 2013**

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

**Tuesday May 7, 2013**

6pm	Shawnee Hills Neighborhood Association
7pm	Forest Plaza Neighborhood Association

**Wednesday May 8, 2013**

11am	East Lake Senior Citizens
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**Thursday May 9, 2013**

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

**Monday May 13, 2013**

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

**Tuesday May 14, 2013**

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

**Thursday May 16, 2013**

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

**Monday May 20, 2013**

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

**Tuesday May 21, 2013**

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

**Thursday May 23, 2013**

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

**Monday May 27, 2013**

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

**Thursday May 30, 2013**

9am	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