



A Newsletter from the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development



“Building Better Neighborhoods... Block By Block”

COMMON GROUND



Fire Prevention Week

by Dottie Brewer

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), each year more than 2,500 people die and 12,600 are injured in home fires in the United States, with direct property loss due to home fires estimated at \$7.3 billion annually. October 7-13 is Fire Prevention Week.

One of the primary causes of condemned housing in Chattanooga is fire. Once a property has become heavily damaged by fire, homeowners are reluctant to do anything with it, especially if they have no insurance. Code enforcement inspectors are constantly on the lookout for electrical problems, improperly stored rubbish or other conditions that may spark a fire in existing structures.

To protect yourself, it is important to understand the basic characteristics of fire. Fire spreads quickly; there is no time to gather valuables or make a phone call. In just two minutes, a fire can become life-threatening. In five minutes, a residence can be engulfed in flames. Here are some fire safety tips from FEMA:

Cooking

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave for a short period of time, turn off the stove.



- Do not cook if you are sleepy, have been drinking alcohol, or have taken medicine that makes you drowsy.
- Keep children away from cooking areas by enforcing a “kid-free zone” of 3 feet around the stove.
- Position barbecue grills at least 10 feet away from siding and deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.

Smoking

- Smoke outside. Most home fires caused by smoking materials start inside the home.
- Never toss hot cigarette butts or ashes in the trash can.
- Chairs and sofas catch on fire fast and burn fast. Don’t put ashtrays on them.
- Never smoke in a home where oxygen is used, even if it is turned off.
- Don’t smoke in bed! *continued on page 2*

Inside This Issue:

Fire Prevention Week	1
Administrator’s Letter	2
Welcome New Staff Members	3
Fall Preventive Home Maintenance..	4
Neighborhood News	5, 6
Announcements.....	7
Calendar of Events.....	8

Neighborhood Services and Community Development

(423) 425-3700 • www.chattanooga.gov

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

Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator
 Anthony Sammons, Deputy Administrator
 Sandra Gober, Manager, Community Development
 Dottie Brewer, Editor, *Common Ground*

If you would like to receive *Common Ground* via e-mail send a message to brewer_d@chattanooga.gov

Fire Prevention Week *continued from page 1*

If you are sleepy, have been drinking, or have taken medicine that makes you drowsy, put your cigarette out first.

Electrical and Appliance Safety

- Frayed wires can cause fires. Replace all worn, old or damaged appliance cords immediately and do not run cords under rugs or furniture.
- If an appliance has a three-prong plug, use it only in a three-slot outlet. Never force it to fit into a two-slot outlet or extension cord.
- Never overload extension cords or wall sockets.
- Immediately shut off, then replace, light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that flicker.

Portable Space Heaters

- Keep combustible objects at least three feet away from portable heating devices.
- Make sure the portable heater will switch off automatically if the heater falls over.
- Only use K-1 kerosene in kerosene heaters. Use the heater in a well-ventilated room.

Fireplaces and Woodstoves

- Inspect and clean woodstove pipes and chimneys annually for damage or obstructions.
- Never burn trash, paper, or green wood.
- Use a fireplace screen heavy enough to stop rolling logs and big enough to cover the entire opening of the fireplace to catch flying sparks.
- Make sure the fire is completely out before leaving the house or going to bed.
- Store cooled ashes in a tightly sealed metal container outside the home.

Children

- Store matches and lighters out of children's reach and sight, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave children unattended near operating stoves or burning candles, even for a short time.

More Prevention Tips

- Never use the range or oven to heat your home.
- Keep combustible and flammable liquids away from heat sources.
- Always refuel portable generators outdoors.



Administrator's Letter

We are pleased to introduce the department's newest staff members, Lauren Lowery and Kenneth Elwood (page 3). Many of you will have an opportunity to meet Lauren personally, either through the Neighborhood Leadership Institute or the Neighborhood Partners Program. Kenneth will be performing code inspections in districts 5, 6 and 8. We look forward to working with both of them.

Speaking of the Neighborhood Leadership Institute, we will be turning out another fine group of graduates this month. We can't wait to see how this group will impact their communities and make Chattanooga a better place to live, work and play.

Fall temperatures mean it's time to start making your homes ready and safe for winter weather. This issue of *Common Ground* offers tips on both. Before the leaves start falling, take time to prepare your homes and yards for the season ahead. Then, go out and enjoy Chattanooga's beautiful fall weather!



Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator

Welcome New Staff Members



Lauren A. Lowery

Lauren A. Lowery recently joined our staff as a Project Specialist. A native of Charleston, South Carolina, she will be managing the Neighborhood Partners Program (NPP), the Neighborhood Leadership Institute (NLI), and grant coordination. A graduate of both the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia, Lauren brings to the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development over 6 years of experience in neighborhood services, community development, and community engagement.

Over the years, she has worked for AmeriCorps, Habitat for Humanity of Charlotte, Georgia State University, and more recently, Historic District Development Corporation (HDDC). At HDDC, she coordinated grant writing initiatives, coordinated volunteers in community engagement activities and co-coordinated the branding initiative.

Join us in welcoming Lauren to the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development. We look forward to working with her.

Kenneth M. Elwood

Kenneth M. Elwood has joined the department as a Code Enforcement Inspector. Born in Jacksonville Florida, “Kenny” comes to us with a background in construction management. He attended Florida State College at Jacksonville for Aviation ground school, AAA Construction School along with continuing education for OSHA standards and Business Management. He holds licenses for Class A CDL, Private Pilot and Florida State Certified General Contractor.

Kenneth resides with his wife of 13 years, Samantha and two children, a son Colby M. Elwood (7 years) and a daughter Hunter D. Elwood (12 years). He and his family settled in the Chattanooga area almost two years ago. They attend Calvary Chapel Chattanooga and love to be involved in anything that involves family.

Kenny will be working with code enforcement team 2, which covers City council districts 5, 6 and 8. If you see him in your neighborhood, be sure to tell him hello and welcome!



8TH ANNUAL GO! FEST

at the CHATTANOOGA ZOO

OCTOBER 6, 2012
from 10AM - 3PM

FREE!

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS WILL BE PROVIDED.

Logos: WTIC10, WDEF.com, Goodwill Chattanooga, News 12, WDEF.com, Chattanooga, epb Fiber Optics, FIRST TENNESSEE. powering your dreams, xfinity, of Tennessee, VOLKERT, FAIRWAY OUTDOOR ADVERTISING.

Checklist: Fall Preventative Home Maintenance from www.servicemagic.com

Before the weather grows colder it's important to prepare for the winter months to prevent costly damage. Below are the fall preventative home maintenance steps that every homeowner should follow:

Gutters and Downspouts

- Clean gutters and downspouts frequently throughout fall to prevent build up of leaves and other debris. Neglected gutters can lead to wood rot problems and pest infestations, not to mention ruined gutters.
- Be sure water is not coming down behind gutters and that all support brackets are securely in place.
- Ensure that water drains properly and doesn't pool. Pooling can cause damage to foundations, driveways, and walkways.

Windows and Doors

- Change summer screens to cool weather storm windows and doors.
- Inspect and repair any loose or damaged window or door frames.
- Install weather stripping or caulking around windows and doors to prevent drafts and to lower heating bills.

Heating Systems

- Replace the filter in your furnace.
- Consider having a heating professional check your heating system to ensure optimal performance and discover minor problems before they turn into costly major repairs.
- Clean your ducts to better your heating system's efficiency as well as to reduce household dust and to provide relief to those with respiratory problems.

Plumbing

- To prevent pipes freezing and bursting, ensure that the pipes are well insulated.
- Know how to locate and turn off the water shut-off valve in case pipes do freeze.

Chimney and Fireplace

- Call a professional in to inspect and clean your chimney. Fireplaces that are regularly used should have an annual cleaning to prevent dangerous chimney fires.
- Test your fireplace flue for a tight seal when closed.

Attic Ventilation

- Be sure attic insulation doesn't cover vents in the eaves to prevent winter ice dams on the roof.
- Be sure ridge vents and vents at eaves are free of plants and debris.
- Check bird and rodent screens for attic vents to prevent any unwanted guests.

Landscape and Yardwork

- Although grass appears to stop growing in the fall, the roots are actually growing deeper to prepare for winter. Now is the best time to fertilize and reseed your lawn.
- Prune your trees and shrubs after the leaves turn to encourage healthy growth.
- Trim any tree limbs that are dangerously close to power lines or the roof of your house. Heavy snow and ice can cause damage in the winter.

DISTRICT 4 SWEET DIVERSITY

OCTOBER 11, 2012 - Heritage House, 1428 Jenkins Road

Participants are invited to bring a dessert and other food items representing their cultural heritage. Each Sweet Diversity event is **FREE** and **OPEN** to the public, so bringing a food item is not required for admission. Everyone is invited to sample the cultural desserts and food. In addition, each event features entertainment and crafts from within the district.

How Can You Take Part in this Great Event? There are several options:

1. Volunteer on the Sweet Diversity planning committee in the district(s) of your choice;
2. Make a reservation to set up a table display promoting your neighborhood association, organization or business;
3. On event day, bring a dessert or other food item representing your culture for sharing;
4. On the day of the event, dress in traditional clothing that will showcase your cultural heritage.

For additional information, table display reservations or to make a reasonable accommodation request, call the Office of Multicultural Affairs at 643-6706.



Neighborly News from...



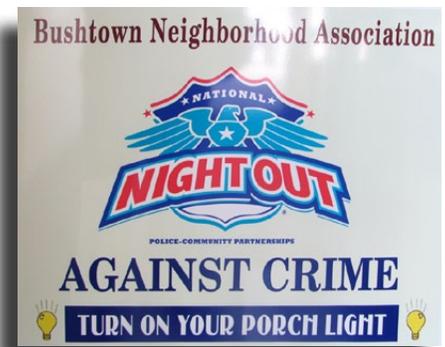
Bushtown Neighborhood Association

Karen D. Clay, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

Formed in August of 1997, Bushtown Neighborhood Association's (BNA) mission is to improve the quality of life of the Bushtown resident through restoration, revitalization and renewal.

For the last five summers, the Bushtown Neighborhood Association has placed special emphasis on activities and opportunities for youth and young adults within the community. The association sponsors youth to attend the Summer Kidz Camp, provided by City of Chattanooga Parks and Recreation Department at Carver Recreation Center, and reaches out to encourage other community stakeholders to do the same. County Commissioner Warren Mackey shares BNA's passion for supporting youth and is very instrumental in sponsoring many of Bushtown's activities. The president of the association strives to keep the members informed on various meetings, workshops and city-wide activities.

The pride that Bushtown residents take in their community is evidenced by their display of house banners, sign toppers and community markers. In addition, the association participates in several community events such as National Night Out, neighborhood clean-ups and other events. The association applied for and received funding from Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development's Neighborhood Partners Program to purchase meeting signs that will be strategically placed within the association boundaries to continually promote their neighborhood meetings. They also purchased signs and a banner to be displayed for National Night Out. Bushtown Neighborhood Association extends an open invitation to the residents, businesses, youth and friends to attend their meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of every other month at Carver Recreation Center at 6 p.m. Good job Bushtown!



Woodmore Manor Neighborhood Association

by Ty Armour, Neighborhood Relations Specialist

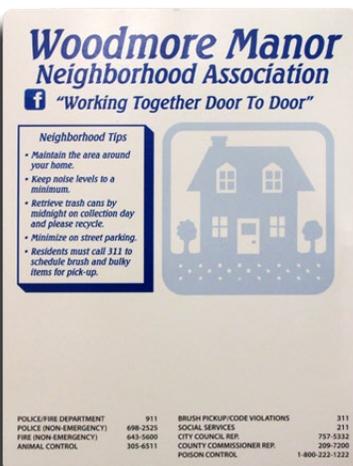
The Woodmore Manor subdivision, just off of North Moore Road, was developed by Rev. Clifford V. Bridges, pastor of the Missionary Ridge Church of God in 1962. This area was once known as farm land owned by Mr. and Mrs. J. Ronald Byles but was purchased by the church to be part of a major 33-acre development plan. The land was to be sub-divided as follows: 15 acres would be used to develop the area now known as the Woodmore Manor subdivision; 10.5 acres would be used by the church to construct a new church building, educational building, parsonage and recreational area in the community; and the remaining 7.5 acres would be set aside for future development. This area was opposite of the Brainerd High School to the west of North Moore Road and north of Belle Vista Avenue.

At that time, the subdivision lots sold between \$2,570 and \$3,750 with restrictions placing the value of the houses at \$14,500 to \$22,500. The houses must be at least 75% brick construction on the exterior. That restriction still stands today for the construction of the house's exterior.

The Woodmore Manor Neighborhood Association started in 2000-2001 but became inactive until it was reactivated July 31, 2008. In January, 2009 Ms. Janet Moore-Larkins was elected the new president. Ms. Moore-Larkins states, "Woodmore Manor is a diverse community made up of single and multi-family dwellings. Our goal is to work together as good neighbors by embracing our diversity and strategically focusing on our future."

The organization was recently awarded funding through the Neighborhood Partners Program to create memo boards that were distributed to all residents in the Woodmore Manor neighborhood area to help increase membership.

The Woodmore Manor Neighborhood Association meets the last Thursday of the month, in the Salvation Army gymnasium from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.



Neighborly News from...



Parks and Recreation

The City of Chattanooga Parks and Recreation Department strives to provide the best service to our customers and welcomes comments from citizens that help us achieve this goal and improve our services. Please assist us in evaluating and improving our parks, facilities, and fields by "Take the Survey" to tell us what you like about Chattanooga's City Parks and Recreational Facilities and what you would like to see in the future. Your input will help guide the decision making and shape the future of our community as the Master Plan for 2020 is created.

As an incentive and thank you for participating in the Places for People SURVEY, the Chattanooga Parks and Recreation Department is offering all survey participants an opportunity to win prizes! You can take the survey online at <http://www.chattanooga.gov/parks-and-recreation/take-the-survey> or if you need a paper survey stop by your local Community Center or call 757-5216.

Human Services

On September 11, 2012, national leaders urged Americans to commemorate the day as a national day of remembrance and service. One Foster Grandparent took the opportunity to express her appreciation for the firefighters in her community. Pictured is Foster Grandparent, Freddie Thornton, and the men and women of Fire Station Number 13. A simple act – a homemade dessert and a card of appreciation – lets the men and women in uniform know their community values their service. Thanks for all you do, Freddie.



Commodity Distribution Program

Starting October 1, the Chattanooga Human Services Department's Social Services/Emergency Services Division will be accepting applications for the FY2013 Commodity Distribution Program.

Commodity Card Sign up:

October 1 - October 31 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Monday - Friday
 Chattanooga Human Services Social Services/Emergency Services (lower level)
 501 West 12th Street, Chattanooga, TN 37402

To Complete the application process, documentation of the following must be included:

- Verification of Income eligibility.
If you currently receive food stamps or SSI you are automatically eligible for the Commodity Program.
If currently employed, you must provide proof of Household Income for the past 30 days (bi weekly=2 check stubs, weekly= 4 check stubs, monthly=1 check stub, or benefit letter)
- Verification of residency. Commodity recipients must reside in Hamilton County.

Proof of income and proof of residency are required in order to determine eligibility for the program

If you have any questions, please contact Calandra Smith at 757-5286

Announcements

Neighborhood
LEADERSHIP
Institute

Graduation Ceremony

Tuesday, October 9, 2012
5:00 – 5:30 p.m.

City Council Assembly Room
1000 Lindsay Street



**APPLICATIONS
DUE**

Wednesday
October 24, 2012
at 4:00 p.m.



October 2, 2012
www.nationaltownwatch.org

FREE WOOD CHIPS

The City of Chattanooga's Wood Recycling and Compost Center will be offering free wood chips until December 11, 2012.

The offer is extended to all City and non-city residents, contractors, businesses, and persons-for-hire. Employees at the Wood Recycling Center will load wood chips and leaf compost onto any size truck or trailer.

All loads must be covered by a tarp prior to leaving the facility.

The Wood Recycling Center is located at 3925 N. Hawthorne Street and is open Monday-Friday 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM and Saturday 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

ALLOCATIONS WORKSHOP

The City of Chattanooga's
Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development

invites you to attend

**the FY 2013-2014 Allocations Workshops
for CDBG and HOME Investment Act**

The workshops will provide information on the application process and procedures, deadline dates for submission of project proposals, and level of funds available under each Grant.

The Allocations Workshops will be conducted November 8, 2012

at the following times:

HOME Investment Act.....3:00-4:30 p.m. CDBG.....4:30-6:00 p.m.

City Hall, Third Floor Multipurpose Room • 101 East 11th Street, Chattanooga, TN 37402

APPLICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE WORKSHOPS

If you have questions or other concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development Staff at City Hall, Second Floor, or by telephone at 757-5133.

October Calendar of Events

Monday October 1

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

Tuesday October 2

5:00pm – 9:00pm	National Night Out
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Bushtown Neighborhood Association
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Shawnee Hills Neighborhood Association
7:00pm – 8:00pm	Forest Plaza Neighborhood Association

Wednesday October 3

10:00am – 11:00am	Board of Zoning Appeals
-------------------	-------------------------

Thursday October 4

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

Sunday October 7

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

Monday October 8

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

Tuesday October 9

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

Wednesday October 10

11:00am – 12:00pm	East Lake Senior Citizens
-------------------	---------------------------

Thursday October 11

9:00am – 10:00am	Environmental Court
6:00pm – 7:00pm	Southside/Cowart Place Neighborhood Association

Thursday October 11

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

Saturday October 13

10:00am – 3:00pm	Bark In The Park
------------------	------------------

Monday October 15

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

Tuesday October 16

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

Thursday October 18

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

Monday October 22

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

Thursday October 25

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

Monday October 29

6:00pm – 8:00pm	Chattanooga Organized for Action
-----------------	----------------------------------

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