



A Newsletter from the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development



“Building Better Neighborhoods... Block By Block”

COMMON GROUND



Mayor Ron Littlefield

A Letter from the Mayor

During the last 20 years, our downtown and riverfront areas have enjoyed an amazing transformation to become a thriving district for dining, recreation and shopping. What was once a very desolate area after business hours has become a magnet for locals and tourists who visit in ever increasing numbers. Back in the days of Chattanooga Venture, we often talked of making our downtown “the signature of the community.” At last, it seems that we have accomplished that goal.

Every community which aspires to such success must also face the inevitable influx of those among us who are without means, or worse, simply taking advantage of the situation.

Of course, the problem is panhandling. The call from businesses and citizens alike to find a solution is growing louder. While we all feel a moral obligation to help *continued on page 2*

9th Annual Neighborhoods and Codes Conference

It takes many different people working together to make our neighborhoods better places to live. The connectivity and combined strength of community stakeholders coupled with the gifts and talents of individuals leads to effective community building and renewal. Residents, stakeholders, code inspectors, neighborhood leaders, non-profit groups, government, the business community and youth all are a unique patch in the “quilt” that represent our neighborhoods and our community at large. Understanding this premise of community building, the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development chose “Quilting the Fabric of our Neighborhoods” as the theme of the 9th Annual Neighborhoods and Codes Conference held October 17-19 at the Chattanooga Convention Center.

The conference proved to be not only an educational venue but a forum for networking, meeting new friends and colleagues and reconnecting with old friends and contacts. *continued on page 3*



Guest speaker Calvin Sneed

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Neighborhood Services and Community Development

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A Letter from the Mayor *(continued from page 1)*

those who are less fortunate, we are also annoyed by the frequent confrontations. And so, the need for a solution has required positive action.

Who are the panhandlers? It is very important to note that not all panhandlers are homeless and, certainly, not all homeless individuals are panhandlers. Local law enforcement tells us that there are “professional” panhandlers who will move around to the most lucrative areas, sometimes with stories of “bad luck” which they use repeatedly to much financial success. We also know

Putting a stop to panhandling will require a total community effort: citizens, law enforcement and government.

that many panhandlers are not, in fact, using the money for food - but instead for drugs and alcohol. In fact, there are plenty of services available in Chattanooga to aid those who are truly hungry.

Why don't the police just arrest them? Panhandling is prohibited by City Code only in certain areas of the downtown and riverfront areas. However, in order for police to cite a person to court, they must either see the offense or the citizen must wait for police to arrive and be willing to issue a complaint. That requires going to

court – time and an inconvenience that most of us are not willing to commit.

What is the solution? Putting a stop to panhandling will require a total community effort: citizens, law enforcement and government. The first and most important deterrent is for all citizens to pledge not to give money to panhandlers. Of course, we all feel compelled to help those in need but there is a better way. The City of Chattanooga is launching a program, “The Art of Change”, which will provide special “parking meters” throughout the downtown, riverfront and North Shore areas for each of us to place our spare change. If each citizen would give through The Art of Change, instead of directly to panhandlers, our collective efforts will have a greater impact. All of the money placed in the meters will be given to agencies that provide direct support to those who need our help.

Please join me in supporting this program as we continue our efforts to make Chattanooga the best that it can be.

Sincerely, Mayor Ron Littlefield



*An Art of Change meter
designed by artist Terry Cannon*

Census Challenge Results in Increase in Population Estimate

A successful challenge to the U.S. Census Bureau's population estimate for the City of Chattanooga resulted in an 8.4% increase, correcting an estimate that showed a declining population for Chattanooga. An increase of 13,103 residents now brings the estimated population of Chattanooga to 168,293. “This confirms what we have believed in our hearts: Chattanooga is a thriving and growing city. The investment in transforming our community is paying off,” said Mayor Littlefield.

Chattanooga's growth outpaces Nashville, Knoxville and Memphis. Nashville saw a 1.5% increase while Knoxville experienced a growth of 4.9% and Memphis 3.2%. The census data is used to distribute more than \$300 billion in federal funds for programs such as Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Highway Planning

and Construction, Head Start, Foster Care, School Breakfast Programs, Food Stamps and Special Education programs.

A challenge to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2006 population estimate was launched earlier this year after examining data that contradicted the bureau's low estimate. “It was obvious to us that we were seeing an increase in population, not decreasing as the Census Bureau estimates indicated” said Yuen Lee, Information & Research Director for the Chattanooga Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency.

Each year the Census Bureau produces annual population estimates based on various data such as births, deaths, Federal tax returns, Medicare enrollment and immigration. States, counties and municipalities may challenge the population estimates under the provisions of Title 15, The Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), Part 90.

The 9th Annual Neighborhoods and Codes Conference *(continued from page 1)*

Over 100 codes professionals from across the southeast participated in the codes training and earned continuing education units from the State of Tennessee, and more than 250 individuals from Chattanooga communities attended the neighborhood training.

The conference opened Wednesday evening with a session entitled "Effective Leadership," featuring participants of the inaugural class of the Neighborhood Leadership Institute. Mack McCarter, Founder and Coordinator of the Shreveport Bossier Community Renewal of Shreveport, Louisiana and keynote speaker for the evening, spoke about the physical and spiritual renewal of communities. Wednesday evening culminated with a Neighborhood Fair and reception.

Two new workshops this year were attended by youth participants. Students from Chattanooga School for the Arts and Sciences and Baylor School participated in workshops giving an overview of city government, community planning and ways to incorporate their own ideas towards improving neighborhoods.



The Neighborhoods of Chattanooga quilt made by Chattanooga neighborhood associations and community organizations

A Letter from the Administrator

The holidays are upon us, and as everyone rushes around shopping, travels to be with family and celebrates the new year, I wish you all a safe and joyous time. Let's not forget our neighbors and those less fortunate than ourselves.

Our 9th Annual Neighborhoods and Codes Conference was a huge success this year, with great attendance by Chattanooga community leaders, future leaders and codes professionals alike. If you get the chance, stop by City Hall's second floor to see the beautiful quilt depicting neighborhood associations and community organizations across Chattanooga. Stitched together by the Quilters of the Northside Neighborhood House, it is a wonderful piece of art and speaks to the unity of our neighborhoods.

I also want to congratulate the graduates of the Neighborhood Leadership Institute. These are people from your neighborhoods working hard to learn how to make a

Thursday's luncheon highlighted news anchor personality, Calvin Sneed of WTCV, NewsChannel 9. Mr. Sneed provided an insight into his upbringing and how his life experiences led him to take up the cause of not only reporting the news, but assisting individuals faced with unfortunate situations involving consumer affairs.

Friday's luncheon featured the graduation ceremony for the Neighborhood Leadership Institute and included congratulatory remarks from Mayor Ron Littlefield and Dr. James Catanzaro, President of Chattanooga State Technical Community College.

The spirit and theme of this conference was beautifully captured in the form of an actual quilt. Fifty-two organizations contributed patches toward this project, which was intricately pieced together by the Quilters of the Northside Neighborhood House. The quilt was proudly displayed during the conference. It now hangs on the second floor of City Hall to memorialize the 2007 conference and our most valuable asset - Chattanooga's neighborhoods.



Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator

difference. What an enthusiastic group they are! Look for them at your neighborhood meetings applying their newfound knowledge to bring about positive change. This is yet another block we can utilize towards our goal of "Building better neighborhoods... block by block".

The year 2007 was one of many challenges and many successes. We look forward to a new year and new opportunities to work with all residents of Chattanooga to make our city the best it can be.

Neighborhood Leadership Institute Inaugural Class Graduation

After five months of classes, and the completion of a final project, 26 neighborhood leaders representing all nine city council districts graduated in October from the Neighborhood Leadership Institute. The culmination of the program and graduation ceremony coincided with the 9th Annual Neighborhoods and Codes Conference.

The Neighborhood Leadership Institute, a partnership between the City of Chattanooga, Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development, and Chattanooga State Technical Community College, was designed as a premiere training course for community members being groomed to step into leadership positions in our neighborhood groups. Participants attended eight class sessions covering a range of topics including Government and Neighborhoods, Effective Meetings, Team Building for Success, Keeping Neighborhoods Safe, Effective Communication and Conflict Resolution, Strategic Planning, Basic Funding Application and

Project Management, and Engaging Stakeholders and Coalition Building.

During the program, participants built relationships with leaders of other organizations, shared ideas on addressing common issues, and formed partnerships with neighboring groups to address broader community issues. When asked about the Neighborhood Leadership Institute, graduates agreed that the classes helped them learn about services the city provides, how to work more effectively with the volunteers in their neighborhoods, and how to solve problems they face within their organizations. Beyond the curriculum, graduates say they learned the most from other leaders in the class, by coming together and discussing real issues in the community.

Planning for next year's Institute has already begun, and this year's graduates are volunteering to help and giving us wonderful ideas for the next installment. Applications for the Neighborhood Leadership Institute 2008 will be available early next year.

Neighborhood LEADERSHIP Institute



The proud graduates of the Neighborhood Leadership Institute with (front row) Dr. James Catanzaro, Guest Speaker; Jill Murphy, Neighborhood Development Planner; Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator, Neighborhood Services and Community Development and Mayor Ron Littlefield.

NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE GRADUATES

Brooke Bradley-King
Judith Cooper
Candy Corneliussen
Judith E. Crowe
Florenca Flippin
Aaliyah K. Hakeem
Tara L. Hewlett
Grace Kim
Pam Ladd

Isabella W. Lane
Linda Manning
Linda Matthews
Andrae R. McGary
Julia Morgan-Scott
Marvene Noel
Scott Noll
Mary E. Powell

Tiffany A. Rankins
Jason Delmar Reed
Sonia Salva-Sasse
Mae Sanders
Daisy B. Scott
Briston Smith
Amanda Stofan
Ann Weeks
Lucille Wright

Neighborly News from...

Parks and Recreation

Holiday Celebrations

Glenwood Recreation Center, 2610 East 3rd Street, is offering a jewelry making class for teens on Tuesday, December 11th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$2.00 per person. Call Jacquie or Toni at 697-1284.

Eastdale Community Bible Class Annual Christmas Party, Wednesday, December 12th 6:00 p.m. at Eastdale Recreation Center, 1312 Moss Drive. Call 697-1289.

Therapeutic Recreation Division 2007 Holiday Ball at Brainerd Recreation Center, 1010 N. Moore Road, Friday December 14th 6:30-8:30 pm. Games, refreshments, prizes, music, and more. Cost: \$5.00 per person. Call Elaine Adams or Lizzy Hockinson at 697-1345.

Shepherd Community Pride & Awards Christmas Party, Sunday, December 16th 2:00 p.m. at Shepherd Recreation Center, 2124 Shepherd Road. Call Ivy at 855-2697.

Tyner/East Brainerd Recreation Center, 6900 Ty-Hi Drive, Christmas Season Basketball Tournament for children ages 7-9 and their families. Call Al at 855-2664.

Winter Break Activities

The Winter Break for Hamilton County Schools is December 18th-January 6th. All city neighborhood recreation centers will be open during the winter break. There will be sports, games, arts & crafts, computer time, fitness fun, seasonal celebrations and community service projects.



New Computers Coming in January!

The South Chattanooga Recreation Center, at 1151 West 40th Street, is the first of nine City recreation centers to get new computer labs with updated high speed internet access and connections to Hamilton County School's curriculum. The new labs are scheduled to open by the first of the year at: Avondale, Brainerd, Carver, East Chattanooga, Eastdale, Glenwood, Shepherd, and Washington Hills. To find the recreation center closest to you, call 425-6311 or 643-6079.

The 2008 Winter/Spring Activities Guide

This FREE publication from Parks and Recreation will be available in January, featuring recreation and leisure activities, programs, and events offered throughout the city for all ages, interests, and abilities.



Chattanooga Human Services Childcare Center

Center Awarded State's Highest Quality Rating

The Chattanooga Human Services childcare center was recently awarded by the State of Tennessee a "Three Star" rating. The Star rating system is designed to evaluate the quality of services provided by all childcare programs across the state in several areas, including professional development, compliance history, parent/family involvement, ratio and group size, program curriculum and assessment.

It is the philosophy of Chattanooga Human Services Child Care Program that children are given the necessary tools to develop to their fullest potential and that young children flourish through play, exploration and the positive examples set by the staff. We also believe that quality early childhood education sets the stage for each child's contribution to the family and community in future years. The program has a rich history of providing quality childcare services to children ages ranging 1-12 years of age, and has been Nationally Accredited by the National Association of the Education of Young Children since April 1, 1993.

Congratulations, CHSCC!

Neighborly News from...

Department of Education, Arts & Culture

Straight Up – Girlz Talk/Boyz Talk Premieres

September 20th saw the premiere of a sixty minute monthly program called “Straight Up-Girlz Talk/Boyz Talk” on Power 94 WJTT. The program, developed in partnership with Education, Arts & Culture and the Chattanooga Police Department, focuses on anti-drug messages that youth create for their peers.

Chattanooga Police Department Officers Todd Royval and Jacques Weary provided “straight up” information on the penalties if you’re caught using drugs as well as alternatives to drug use. CADAS representatives provided the audience with medical facts, how drugs harm the body, and counseling resources.

Straight Up – Girlz Talk/Boyz Talk airs on the third Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. on Power 94.



(L to R) Tamara Foster; Jaime Jackson; Kason Dorsey; Foulematou Sylla; Wayne Baker

Tivoli Theatre and Memorial Auditorium

Jim Brickman Holiday Concert - Tivoli Theatre
Wednesday, December 12 at 7:30 p.m.

CSO Pops: Home for the Holidays - Tivoli Theatre
Saturday, December 15 at 8:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 16 at 2:00 p.m.

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels - Memorial Auditorium
Tuesday, January 15 at 8:00 p.m.

CSO Orchestra - Tivoli Theatre
Thursday & Friday, January 17 & 18 at 8:00 p.m.

Sesame Street Live - Memorial Auditorium
Friday, January 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 19 at 1:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, January 20 at 2:00 p.m.

CSO Opera: Hansel and Gretel - Tivoli Theatre
Thursday, January 31 at 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 2 at 8:00 p.m.



Teen Scene

In partnership with The Chattanooga Courier, EAC has begun a new monthly publication - Chattanooga Teen Scene. A newspaper written by teens for teens, it is distributed to every middle and high school student in the county’s public school system.

EAC Administrator, Missy Crutchfield, adds, “The heartbeat of EAC is an initiative called Remember Your Dream, which is about connecting social issues and the arts. In our magazine, teens can focus on their dreams—and be empowered by them. Self esteem is realized, and positive lifestyle choices are made. This publication is a vehicle for these visions to be realized!”

If you know of an aspiring teen writer, contact editor Melissa Turner at chattanoogateenscene@gmail.com.

Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Committee (CNAC)

CNAC would like to congratulate the recent graduates of the Neighborhood Leadership Institute and encourage them to join the organization as representatives from their districts.

Several executive committee members participated in the 9th Annual Neighborhoods and Codes Conference, serving as session monitors and assisting workshop facilitators. CNAC also had a booth on display at the conference.

CNAC recently applied for Neighborhood Partners Program funding for 2008 to purchase a kiosk. CNAC

believes that having a kiosk will enhance its visible presence in the Chattanooga community with a display at meetings and events.

For the next few months, CNAC’s executive committee and its members will work on bylaws and membership recruitment for 2008 and elect new officers.

CNAC meets the 4th Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Foundation at 1270 Market Street. We encourage all neighborhood associations to join us! Call 423-899-1748 for more information.

COMMONGROUND

December/January Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Division	Description
December 2007			
3 Mon	6:00P	■	East Lake Neighborhood Association Meeting
	7:00P	■	Community Association of Historic St. Elmo Meeting
6 Thu	10:00A	■	Environmental Court (Neighborhood Services)
	6:00P	■	Missionary Ridge N'hood Assn Meeting
	6:00P	■	Glenwood Neighborhood Watch Meeting
	7:00P	■	Lookout Valley N'hood Assn Meeting
8 Sat	2:00P	■	Churchville Neighborhood Association Meeting
10 Mon	1:00P	■	Regional Planning Agency Meeting
	6:00P	■	Hamilton Acres Neighborhood Association
	6:00P	■	Sector 2 Community Policing Interactive Committee (CPIC)
11 Tue	6:00P	■	Glass Farms Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00P	■	Bushtown Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00P	■	Foxwood Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00P	■	Lupton City Neighborhood Association Meeting
12 Wed	10:00A	■	Board of Zoning Appeal Meeting
	11:00A	■	East Lake Senior Citizens Meeting
13 Thu	10:00A	■	Environmental Court (Neighborhood Services)
	6:00P	■	Clifton Hills Neighborhood Improvement Committee Meeting
	7:00P	■	Cedar Hill Improvement League Meeting
14 Fri	6P	■	Washington Hills Neighborhood Association Annual Christmas Dinner
17 Mon	6:00P	■	Avondale Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00P	■	North Brainerd Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00P	■	South Chattanooga Association of Neighbors
	6:00P	■	Washington Hills Neighborhood Association Meeting
18 Tue	6:00P	■	Orchard Knob Neighborhood Watch Meeting
	6:00P	■	Orchard Knob Neighborhood Association Meeting
20 Thu	10:00A	■	Environmental Court (Neighborhood Services)
	6:00P - 7:00P	■	Glenwood neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00P	■	Merlo Park Neighborhood Association Meeting
	7:00P	■	East Lake Community Council Meeting
24 Mon	6:00P	■	Highland Park Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00P	■	Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council (CNAC)
25 Tue	4:00P	■	Christmas
26 Wed	10:00A	■	Demolition Hearings
	11:30A	■	Court Watch Partners
27 Thu	10:00A	■	Environmental Court (Neighborhood Services)
	5:30P	■	South Broad Redevelopment Group, Inc. Meeting
	6:00P - 7:00P	■	Glenwood Neighborhood Association Meeting
31 Mon	7:00P	■	Ridgedale Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:30P	■	Sylvan Drive Neighborhood Association

Date	Time	Division	Description
January 2008			
3 Thu	10:00A	■	Environmental Court (Neighborhood Services)
	6:00P	■	Missionary Ridge N'hood Assn Meeting
	6:00P	■	Glenwood Neighborhood Watch Meeting
7 Mon	7:00P	■	Lookout Valley N'hood Assn Meeting
	6:00P	■	East Lake Neighborhood Association Meeting
8 Tue	7:00P	■	Community Association of Historic St. Elmo Meeting
	6:00P	■	Sector 2 Community Policing Interactive Committee (CPIC)
	6:00P	■	Glass Farms Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00P	■	Bushtown Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00P	■	Foxwood Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting
9 Wed	6:00P	■	Lupton City Neighborhood Association Meeting
	7:00P	■	Lake Hills N'hood Assn Meeting
	10:00A	■	Board of Zoning Appeal Meeting
10 Thu	11:00A	■	East Lake Senior Citizens Meeting
	10:00A	■	Environmental Court (Neighborhood Services)
	6:00P	■	Clifton Hills Neighborhood Improvement Committee Meeting
12 Sat	7:00P	■	Cedar Hill Improvement League Meeting
	2:00P	■	Churchville Neighborhood Association Meeting
14 Mon	1:00P	■	Regional Planning Agency Meeting
	6:00P	■	Hamilton Acres Neighborhood Association
15 Tue	6:00P	■	Orchard Knob Neighborhood Watch Meeting
	6:00P	■	Orchard Knob Neighborhood Association Meeting
17 Thu	10:00A	■	Environmental Court (Neighborhood Services)
	6:00P	■	Merlo Park Neighborhood Association Meeting
	7:00P	■	East Lake Community Council Meeting
	7:00P	■	Highland Park Neighborhood Association Meeting
21 Mon	6:00P	■	Avondale Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00P	■	North Brainerd Neighborhood Association Meeting
	6:00P	■	South Chattanooga Association of Neighbors
22 Tue	6:00P	■	Washington Hills Neighborhood Association Meeting
	4:00P	■	Community Anti-Drug Coalition Across Hamilton County
23 Wed	10:00A	■	Demolition Hearings
	11:30A	■	Court Watch Partners
24 Thu	10:00A	■	Environmental Court (Neighborhood Services)
	5:30P	■	South Broad Redevelopment Group, Inc. Meeting
	6:00P - 7:00P	■	Glenwood Neighborhood Association Meeting
28 Mon	7:00P	■	Ridgedale Neighborhood Association Meeting
		■	Night Court
31 Mon	6:00P	■	Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council (CNAC)
	6:30P	■	Sylvan Drive Neighborhood Association

- Neighborhood Relations
- Code Enforcement
- Neighborhood Association
- Other

To post your neighborhood events on our calendar
 E-mail to: Dottie Swasey, Editor swasey_d@mail.chattanooga.gov
 or mail to: 101 East 11th Street, Suite 200
 Chattanooga, TN 37402

Visit our Calendar of Events at <http://www.chattanooga.gov>



It's Here! The New Quick Reference Directory

The Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development has created a Chattanooga Area Quick Reference Directory. Printed on an erasable board with magnets and a marker, one side is in English and the other side is in Spanish. Listings include quick dial numbers (such as 311 for City of Chattanooga Services), utilities, transportation, business and development resources, city, county, state and federal government numbers as well as crisis hotlines.

The directories will be available for pick up at our City Hall office, 101 East 11th Street, Suite 200, at the Mayor's neighborhood district meetings, the mayor's office, and will be distributed to neighborhood associations through our Neighborhood Relations Coordinators. You can also print a copy by going to the Neighborhood Services link at www.chattanooga.gov.

Mayor's Neighborhood Meeting

District 9

January 31, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

Councilwoman Debbie Gaines

Parkridge Hospital Community Room
2333 McCallie Avenue

Awards Ceremony

Thursday, December 13, 2007
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Warehouse Row Third Floor Atrium
1110 Market Street
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402

RSVP Required by December 3rd 425-3730

City of Chattanooga
Neighborhood Services and
Community Development
101 East 11th Street, Suite 200
Chattanooga, TN 37402

