



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

This edition of *Common Ground* marks the beginning of a new era. In an effort to better communicate with the citizens of Chattanooga, you will now be receiving the *Common Ground* newsletter each month by mail. It is our intent to communicate with everyone as effectively as possible. From newly installed traffic cameras, to the re-opening of City Hall, to becoming involved in neighborhood associations, Chattanooga has a lot going on and we want you to be informed and participate.

Chattanooga's renovated City Hall was celebrated with a Grand Re-Opening Ceremony on Saturday, May 19. Originally constructed in 1908, the building recently underwent a two-year, \$12 million renovation. I would like to personally thank everyone who attended and offer a special thank you to all the volunteers, performers and artist as well as the sponsors of the event: WDEF News *continued on page 2*

Meet Your Neighborhood Teams



The Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development has many duties under our charge. Neighborhood Relations works with neighborhood associations, community organizations, and other concerned residents to address a broad spectrum of issues that Chattanooga neighborhoods face. We work with non-profit organizations to bring World Changers free home repair program to Chattanooga every year. The Neighborhood Leadership Institute is training new neighborhood leaders to be more effective in improving their communities. And, of course, we are responsible for the city's code enforcement. In order to effectively achieve all of our goals, our staff is divided into three Codes and Community Services teams - each responsible for covering three council districts.

Each team is comprised of a Chief Code Enforcement Inspector, three or four Code Enforcement Inspectors, a Neighborhood Relations Coordinator, and an Office Support staff person. The Chief Code Enforcement Inspectors directly manage the members of their respective teams, and report directly to Steve Hargis, Manager of Codes, Community Service and Neighborhood Relations. Each of the Code Enforcement Inspectors are in our neighborhoods, inspecting houses and properties. The Neighborhood Relations Coordinator acts as a liaison between our department and the residents of Chattanooga. They work closely with existing and *continued on page 3*

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

12, The Chattanooga Times Free Press, The Chattanooga Manufacturing Association, WGOW Radio and Miller Industries Towing Equipment, Inc. I would also like to acknowledge Friends of the Festival for helping produce a great event and Jamestown Properties/Warehouse Row for allowing the use of portions of their property. Thank you all for helping make this successful.

As was the original dedication ceremony, the re-opening was a historic event and served as a fitting celebration for another 100 years of service. Your City Hall is now open and available for tours. For those who have not had the opportunity to visit, we will be offering personal tours through the summer. Please call 425-7800 to arrange your tour.

I have always held a soft spot in my heart for our neighborhoods. When I ran for Mayor, I made a commitment to strengthen our city through improved neighborhoods and that is something that I do not take lightly. Neighborhoods are a vital component of the city and we are unique in that we have a multitude of strong neighborhood associations.

If you are not currently involved in your local neighborhood association or need help establishing one in your area, I urge you to learn more about volunteering and

organizing by calling the City of Chattanooga Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development at 425-3700 or visit www.chattanooga.gov and click on Neighborhood Services and Community Development.

Great neighborhoods are the bedrock of great cities. They are founded upon the strength and mobilization of active neighborhood organizations, effective community stakeholders, and strategic and effective code enforcement in partnership with a responsive government.

“Great neighborhoods are the bedrock of great cities.”

Mayor Ron Littlefield

Finally, we are breaking a record here in Chattanooga and, unfortunately, it is one in which we cannot take pride. Sadly, we have surpassed last year’s traffic fatality count to date. In an effort to make our streets safer and reduce the number of traffic violators, cameras have been installed in various locations around town. These traffic cameras are not an intrusion, rather they are intended to help save lives. Remember to drive safely.

As I have said many times, Chattanooga is the most transformed city in America. I look forward to continuing this revolution by showcasing our achievements, increasing participation in our neighborhood associations, and making Chattanooga a safer place to Live, Work and Play. Let’s keep working together to make our great city even greater.

A Letter from the Administrator

This month we are pleased to begin mail distribution of our *Common Ground* newsletter to every registered voter household in the city of Chattanooga. We are very proud of this publication, and believe it will be of benefit to all our citizens. There is information here from the Mayor, Neighborhood Services and Community Development, “Neighborly News” from other city departments as well as neighborhood associations and community organizations. We strive to provide you information you can use in your community to make it a better place to live, work and play. If your neighborhood has a story to share, let us know!

Another big event this month, World Changers will be in the city July 21st through the 28th to provide free home repairs for those qualifying residents that applied for assistance earlier this year. Teams of primarily youth volunteer laborers will be painting, repairing porches and roofs, constructing handicap ramps and more. A total of 35 homes are being rehabbed this year for some of our most deserving residents. Neighborhood Services and Community

Development, along with Front Porch Alliance, provides funding support for the World Changer projects. We will definitely be sharing with you the results of their efforts in a future edition of *Common Ground*, so keep your eyes open.

Last but not least, congratulations to Code Enforcement Inspectors Anjenet Brown, Jason Chauncey and David Hood on attaining their ICC certification from the International Code Council. This accomplishment is an asset to our department.

Enjoy this issue of *Common Ground* - it is a stepping stone for us all to find a common ground!



Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator

Meet Your Neighborhood Teams

(continued from page 1) newly formed neighborhood groups, as well as other community organizations. The office support staff assigned to each team work together to send notification letters, and process all paperwork.

Team 1 - Council Districts 2, 4 and 7

The Chief Code Enforcement Inspector for Team 1 is Randy Ridge. Code Enforcement Inspectors include, Jason Chauncey, Marcia Greene, and Alphonso McClendon. Debbie Johnson is the Neighborhood Relations Coordinator, and Dianna Blackmon is the Office Support staff person.



Team 2: left to right back row: Tim McGinnis, Elluwead Love, Dennis Tate and Ed Graham. Front row: Nelsene Lowery and Alice Williams



Team 1: left to right back row: Alphonso McClendon, Debbie Johnson, Jason Chauncey, Randy Ridge. Front row: Dianna Blackmon and Marcia Greene.

Team 2 - Council Districts 5, 6 and 8

Ed Graham is the Chief Code Enforcement Inspector for Team 2. The Code Enforcement Inspectors under Mr. Graham's supervision are Nelsene Lowery, Tim McGinnis, and Alice Williams. The Neighborhood Relations Coordinator for Team 2 is Dennis Tate, and Elluwead Love is the Office Support staff person.

Team 3 - Council Districts 1, 3 and 9

Doris Cato-Parham is the Chief Code Enforcement Inspector for Team 3. Code Enforcement Inspectors for Team 3 include Anjenet Brown, Lamont Chapman, David Hood, and Charles Hughley. Karen Clay is the Neighborhood Relations Coordinator for Team 3, and Yolanda Young-Nance is the Office Support staff person.



Team 3: left to right back row: Doris Cato-Parham, Charles Hughley, Lamont Chapman, David Hood and Karen Clay. Front: Anjenet Brown and Yolanda Young-Nance.

Codes Inspectors Receive Certification



Code Inspectors recently awarded certification from the International Code Council from left to right: David Hood, Anjenet Brown and Jason Chauncey

Recently, a few of our newest Code Enforcement Inspectors received their ICC certification from the International Code Council. Anjenet Brown, Jason Chauncey, and David Hood passed a 1½ hour written exam that certifies them as Property Maintenance and Housing Inspectors.

These staff members prepared for the exam over six months. The certification exam covered many housing code topics including electrical, fire safety, plumbing, legal, and administration. The certification they received by passing the exam lasts for 3 years and requires 32 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) over that 3 year period to maintain the certification or it will expire.

As certified Property Maintenance and Housing Inspectors, Mrs. Brown, Mr. Chauncey, and Mr. Hood must abide by a code of ethics outlined on the back of their certificate. The code of ethics requires that they place public welfare above all other interests, demonstrate characteristics of integrity, honesty, and fairness, among many other professional standards.

The Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development congratulates Mrs. Brown, Mr. Chauncey, and Mr. Hood on their recent recognition. Maintaining a staff of certified and well-qualified Code Enforcement Inspectors, we strive to provide Chattanooga with the best in housing code enforcement and education. It is just one of the many ways we serve you.

Mayor Littlefield Honors Local Tax Preparation Volunteers

At a celebratory luncheon held on Monday, June 18, 2007, Mayor Ron Littlefield offered recognition to local citizens who participated in the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. These volunteers provided free income tax preparation services to residents of the Chattanooga area. During the 2007 income tax season, volunteers assisted 2,136 low and moderate income wage earners with receiving approximately \$2,464,602 in federal income tax refunds. The partnership of the City of Chattanooga, Urban League of Greater Chattanooga, IRS, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and numerous other local organizations provided support for this program by supplying training, certification, materials, and sites / office space. Tax filing clients were also very pleased with the services they received from VITA volunteers, with 99% of surveyed tax clients indicating that they intend to use the service again next year.



Mayor Ron Littlefield presents certificates of appreciation to the volunteers that provided free tax service to Chattanooga residents. From left to right, they are: Mona Geer, June Puett, Ron Moore, Beverly Williams, Rosemary Thrailkill, and Glenda Hill

Neighborly News from...

Department of Education, Arts & Culture

North River Civic Center Host Volunteer Reception

The North River Civic Center has over 70 wonderful volunteers who give their time and talent to ensure that the facility is a thriving institution for the residents of the Hixson and North Hamilton County communities. To show its appreciation, the North River Civic Center recently held a volunteer reception prior to its June Sunset Concert Series. North River Civic Center Director Linda Rugina says, "I want to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation for all the hours the volunteers have dedicated to the civic center. I'm honored to have the opportunity to work with such a vivacious group of community leaders who have dedicated a tremendous amount of time from their daily lives to make the center a success." EAC Administrator Missy Crutchfield, NRCC Board Member Everett Fairchild and Linda presented the volunteers with certificates of appreciation.



North River Civic Center volunteers enjoy a catered reception.

Numerous local businesses provided gifts for the volunteers and the crowd

feasted on Italian cuisine catered by Chef Giuseppe Iannuzzi – the Italian Gourmet.



North River Civic Center Director, Linda Rugina and flowers donated by Highland Florist

The Pottery Studio at Warner Park is now closed and will relocate the week of July 2nd to the John A. Patten Recreation Center in Lookout Valley. After summer camps at Patten Recreation Center, August 3rd, two rooms will be completely renovated to accommodate the new studio. Classes will resume after Labor Day. For more information contact Michelle Adkins at 425-7826.

Renewal Community

Changes in Federal Tax Law Add Savings to Local Businesses

A new law impacting Work Opportunity Tax Credits could yield additional federal tax savings for local employers. Employers can now claim Work Opportunity Tax Credits (WOTCs) by hiring Renewal Community residents up to age 39. Though the new law impacts employers of Renewal Community (RC) residents, businesses do not have to reside in the RC to take advantage of the tax savings.

On May 25, President Bush signed the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007. One provision of this law (Public Law 110-28) expanded the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, effective immediately, for employers who hire persons from specific groups, including eligible Renewal Community residents. The new law allows employers to begin taking this credit, worth up to \$2,400 per employee, for hiring Renewal Community residents who are at least 18 years old but not yet 40. This is a substantial expansion of this credit, previously available for employing 18 to 24 year-old RC residents.

Chattanooga's Renewal Community includes some, but not all communities within zip codes 37402, 37403, 37404, 37405, 37406, 37407, 37408, 37409 and 37410. To verify if an employee lives in the Renewal Community, visit the national Address Locator at http://egis.hud.gov/egis/cpd/rcezec/ezec_open.htm. To learn more about the new tax law, consult your tax advisor or local IRS office.

Neighborly News from...

Parks and Recreation Department



Camp Director Kim Battle and Chris Neyman of Flamingo Skateshop

Summer Camp Adds Skate Boarding To Its Activities Thanks to Local Business's Donation

Chris Neyman, a local teen who transformed his passion for skating and skate boarding into a full-time business, is sharing the sport, and equipment, with children from the city's Parks and Recreation summer camp.

According to Camp Director Kim Battle, "Our kids are being introduced to a new activity that gets them outside and develops balance and coordination skills. By donating 10 boards, helmets, and gear from his Flamingo Skateshop, Chris has helped make this activity possible."

For many of the camp participants these visits to the city's "Chattown" Skate Park are their first experiences with skate boarding. "Newcomers as well as skate park regulars are enjoying the professional family oriented way the new management has operated the skate park." adds Ms. Battle.

Check out the Skate Park, located at 1801 Carter Street.

Free Playground Program to Children at Eastside Elementary School

Free supervised playground activities for children 6 to 12 at Eastside Elementary School will run through July 27th. Hours are Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to Noon and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Recreation Department staff will coordinate games, sports activities, and enrichment resources.

Director of Recreation Bob Saylor explains, "In addition to the popular things like softball, kickball, badminton and the kinds of summer activities everyone might expect on a playground, we want to introduce kids to new things. We plan to bring some 'non traditional' kinds of sports and items for the children to experience such as lacrosse, Frisbee golf, archery, Native American artifacts...educational, yet fun things that they don't normally get involved in". Mr. Saylor adds, "Education and Recreation go together. We have a great opportunity to teach kids how to learn a new sport or skill. And we want them to get active and get fit!" For more information call Hugh Reese at 309-2787 or Bob Saylor at 643-6086.

Chattanooga Raquetees

The Chattanooga Racquetees Tennis Association (CRTA) was awarded Neighborhood Partners Program funding in 2007 to provide a summer camp for local youth. This camp, scheduled to last throughout the remainder of the summer offers children the exposure to tennis fundamentals while instilling the positive benefits of an active lifestyle and abstaining from drug use and abuse. Instruction is offered by local volunteer coaches and members of the CRTA.



Chattanooga Racquetees Tennis Association conducting summer tennis camp partially funded by Neighborhood Partners Program

Neighborhood Partners Program

applications will be available August 16th
Neighborhood Associations - now is the time to
prepare your project ideas for
Development • Safety • Beautification

July Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 3:00PM Environmental Court 6:00PM East Lake Neighborhood Association Meeting 7:00PM Community Association of Historic St. Elmo Meeting	3	4	5 10:00AM Environmental Court 6:00PM Glenwood Nhood Watch Meeting 6:00PM Missionary Ridge Nhood Assn Meeting 7:00PM Lookout Valley Nhood Assn Meeting	6	7
8	9 1:00PM Regional Planning Agency Meeting 3:00PM Environmental Court 6:30PM - 8:00PM Neighborhood Leadership Institute: Session 4 6:30PM Hill City Nhood Assn Meeting	10 6:00PM Sector 2 Community Policing Interactive Committee (CPIC) 6:00PM Glass Farms Nhood Assn Meeting 6:00PM Lupton City Nhood Assn Meeting 6:00PM Rushtown Nhood Assn Meeting 6:00PM Foxwood Heights Nhood Assn Meeting	11 10:00AM Board of Zoning Appeal Meeting 11:00AM East Lake Senior Citizens Meeting	12 10:00AM Environmental Court 6:00PM Clifton Hills Nhood Improvement Committee Meeting 7:00PM Cedar Hill Improvement League Meeting	13	14 2:00PM Churchville Nhood Assn Meeting
15	16 3:00PM Environmental Court 6:00PM Avondale Nhood Assn Meeting 6:00PM North Brainerd Nhood Assn Meeting	17 6:00PM Orchard Knob Nhood Watch Meeting 6:00PM Orchard Knob Nhood Assn Meeting	18	19 10:00AM Environmental Court 6:00PM Menlo Park Nhood Assn Meeting 7:00PM Highland Park Nhood Assn Meeting	20	21 World Changers
22	23 3:00PM Environmental Court 6:00PM Night Court 6:00PM Chattanooga Nhood Assn Council (CNAC) Meeting	24	25 10:00AM Demolition Hearings 11:30AM Court Watch Partners	26 10:00AM Environmental Court 6:30PM South Broad Redevelopment Group, Inc. Meeting 6:00PM - 7:00PM Glenwood Nhood Assn Meeting 7:00PM Ridgedale Nhood Assn Meeting	27	28
29	30 3:00PM Environmental Court 6:30PM - 8:00PM Neighborhood Leadership Institute: Session 5 6:00PM Night Court 6:30PM Sylvan Drive Nhood Assn	31				

- Neighborhood Relations
- Code Enforcement
- Neighborhood Association
- Other

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

Do you have an article or information to publish in *Common Ground*? We'd love to hear from you! Please forward your information to Dottie Swasey by the 20th of each month. Because of limited space, we reserve the right to edit articles, and unfortunately we can not publish every activity. We encourage you to use *Common Ground* as a way to share your neighborhood news.

Be sure to include pictures with your stories!

E-mail it to: [Dottie Swasey, Editor at swasey_d@mail.chattanooga.gov](mailto:swasey_d@mail.chattanooga.gov)

Become a part of the unified voice for
Chattanooga neighborhoods!

Chattanooga Neighborhood
Association Council
Meeting

July 23, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.
Community Foundation
1270 Market Street

Neighborhood Services and Community Development
is proud to head the campaign for



for the City of Chattanooga • Beginning this month!
Watch for information coming your way soon...

Save the Date
The 9th Annual
Neighborhoods and Codes
Conference



October 17-19, 2007

presented by

City of Chattanooga

Department of Neighborhood Services
and Community Development

City of Chattanooga
Neighborhood Services and
Community Development
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