



*A Newsletter from the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development*



Celebrating Chattanooga Neighborhoods

# COMMON GROUND



## World Changers Coming to Chattanooga

At a time when most students look forward to using their summer break to relax, work a summer job, or have fun, you can find some youth that use a portion of that time engaged in the selfless act of serving others.

These students are volunteers with World Changers, a ministry of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist. Since 1990, World Changers' mission has been to provide Christian youth and adults with opportunities to meet the physical needs of others through practical learning experiences by teaching servanthood and personal commitment to missions. Last year the program reached 86 cities, and Puerto Rico and Ontario, and worked on over 1600 project sites, 35 of which were in Chattanooga.

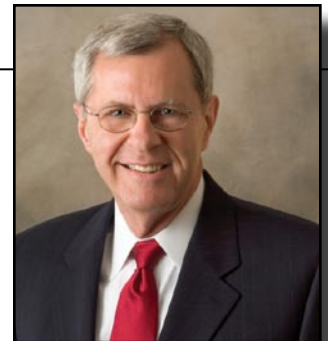


*Handicap ramp built by World Changers last year on Gilbert Street in Chattanooga*

and worked on over 1600 project sites, 35 of which were in Chattanooga. *continued on page 2*

## A Letter from the Mayor

Chattanooga's 26th police chief was ceremoniously sworn in to office on January 11, 2007. As mayor of Chattanooga, it was my great honor and privilege to host the standing room only event. I am proud to have a man of integrity and compassion like Chief Freeman Cooper as a member of my administration. He is a distinguished veteran of the Chattanooga Police Department, having served our city since 1982, and is well respected by his co-workers.



Chief Cooper has worked assignments in patrol, internal affairs, the police information office and the police training academy. He has served as a sergeant supervisor, *continued on page 3*

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### Neighborhood Services Contacts

Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator.....	425-3730
Anthony Sammons, Deputy Administrator.....	425-3730
Steve Hargis, Manager	
Codes & Neighborhood Relations .....	425-3739
Sandra Gober, Manager	
Economic & Community Development.....	757-5133
Dottie Swasey, Editor, Common Ground.....	425-3736



World Changers Coming to Chattanooga *(continued from page 1)*



*Volunteers demolish an unsafe structure at the back of a property on 4th Street*

This marks the 5th year that World Changers will come to Chattanooga bringing teenagers from all over the country to provide free home repair to qualifying homeowners in low to moderate income neighborhoods. Since their first project in Chattanooga in 2001, World Changers has rehabbed over 100 homes for some of our most deserving residents. During the week of July 21st through 28th, 2007, the volunteer laborers will return organized in crews consisting of primarily youth labor, but with adult supervision. So far, 404 youth have registered for the Chattanooga Project. Even though the work is performed by volunteers, many of the crew supervisors are construction professionals, skilled craftsmen, or have years of experience with World Changers and similar home repair projects. Best of all, the labor and materials are provided free to qualifying homeowners.

It's amazing to see these volunteers in action and the types of projects that they are able to perform! It's been said that nothing empowers a World Changers youth participant more than sitting on the top of a house while nailing down shingles on a roof. But roofs are just one of the tasks that have become their specialty in the past seventeen years. World Changers performs painting, siding, porch repair and handicap ramp construction, to name a few. The orders of

the week for the volunteers are sleep, eat, worship, and serve. Hence it is fitting that this year World Changers has chosen "Obedience, Choose to Serve" as its national theme.

How is all this possible? Through invaluable partnerships. The Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development is once again partnering with the Front Porch Alliance to provide funding support for building materials and related supplies, while the City's Office of Faith-Based and Community Partnerships will provide programmatic support. Brainerd Baptist Church will provide lodging and meals for the volunteers. Bill Kagay, National Missionary, Student Mobilization anticipates that the commitment of the partners will prove to make this year's project the best one yet. "Chattanooga has all the ingredients for a great project. We have great local leadership along with tremendous support".

The Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development along with Front Porch Alliance are currently accepting applications for this year's project. Elderly, disabled and low-income homeowners are encouraged to apply. The application deadline is March 30, 2007. To receive an application, please call the Department at 425-3741 or Front Porch Alliance at 756-8545, or go to <http://www.chattanooga.gov/Files/HomeRepair.pdf> to print a copy.



World Changers projects are a collaboration with local and regional faith-based organizations, non-profit agencies, and civic and professional groups in the form of free skilled-labor, matching funds, and volunteer assistance. If your organization is interested in partnering with our department in this effort, please contact our office at 423-425-3700



*Student volunteers replacing a roof*



Police Chief Freeman Cooper

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

a shift lieutenant, a zone commander, and a sector commander before being appointed Executive Chief in 2004.

Chief Cooper is a 1969 graduate of Howard High School, a 1991 graduate of the

the dynamics of what makes our city work.

Former Police Chief Steve Parks lived in a neighborhood in Brainerd not far from me and remained committed to making neighborhoods a foundation element of a peaceful and orderly city. I believe Freeman Cooper will at least equal that record and perhaps go further because he has connections with the community that are different than the former chief. Hopefully, he'll take the solid foundation that Chief Parks has left behind and build on that with his own special contacts and resources.

F.B.I. National Academy and has completed various leadership, management, and criminal justice courses from UTC and Chattanooga State. He is a 55-year old single parent with a 15-year old son, Daniel. He also has two adult children; a son Kory and a daughter TeKisha, each of them with two sons.

I think people should be happy that Freeman Cooper is a product of the Chattanooga neighborhoods and still very much engaged with the city. He is a native of the city having grown up in St. Elmo and very much understands

**“I think people should be happy that Freeman Cooper is a product of the Chattanooga neighborhoods and still very much engaged with the city.”**

*Mayor Littlefield*

I think Chief Cooper has created a command structure that will work very well— it is simple and clean. He has good seasoned veterans as his executive staff. I have every confidence they will

do a good job and I'm looking forward to seeing how the team unfolds and performs together. I think Chattanooga will be well served by Chief Freeman Cooper's police department leadership.

*Ron Littlefield, Mayor*

**A Letter from the Administrator**

I hope everyone is pleased with the new look of our *Common Ground* newsletter. Our Graphics and Technology Specialist, Dottie Swasey, created three layouts for us to choose from, and our focus group by far preferred this design. If you have any suggestions on future content for the newsletter, please feel free to let her know. We want *Common Ground* to be timely, informative and serve the community well.

The Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development is in full swing this month preparing for this year's World Changers event in July. This project provides resources and assistance to qualifying elderly, disabled and low income homeowners in need of home repairs. It is great collaboration of civic organizations and city government providing a much needed and appreciated service.

We are busy planning for the 9th Annual Neighborhood and Codes Conference that will take place this year on October 17th through 19th. This two part conference addresses concerns for local community leaders as well as code enforcement officers from around the country.

Currently, we are signing the agreements for this year's Neighborhood Partners Projects (NPP) that were awarded last month. Also, the first round of Allocation Committee reviews are in process to determine which organizations'

projects will be funded under by the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). We are pleased to have so many worthy projects to take into consideration.

All of this has us starting off the year at a run. It is wonderful to have so many exciting opportunities that will have such a positive impact on our community. We look forward to seeing and hearing from all of you as we proceed with these projects. As always, if you have any questions or comments, feel free to call us. We appreciate any input you may have.



Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator



**Join us for the  
Alton Park  
Community-Wide  
Brownfields Assessment  
Public Meeting**

**February 22, 2007  
6:00-7:00 p.m.**

**Calvin Donaldson  
Elementary School  
927 West 37th Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37410**

## Alton Park Brownfields Assessment

In 2005, the City of Chattanooga pursued an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant for its highest priority for brownfields assessment - Alton Park.

The City of

comprehensive community planning organization for the City of Chattanooga and Hamilton County.

### **Who is involved in brownfield redevelopment?**

One of the important goals of Chattanooga's brownfields assessment is to involve the many different stakeholders within the community. A variety of private and public sector organizations will play a role in identifying and redeveloping brownfield sites. Key players include: citizens, community groups, developers, community development corporations, the Brownfields Task Force, Hamilton County Health Department, State of Tennessee, and the City of Chattanooga Mayor's Office and the departments of Public Works, Neighborhood Services, and Office of Multicultural Affairs, among many others.

Chattanooga has received grant funding in the amount of \$200,000 from the EPA to conduct a community-wide Brownfield Assessment for the Alton Park community south of downtown. The grant funds three years of work from October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2009, and under EPA guidelines, can only be used to fund four major tasks: site inventory, site assessment, community involvement, and developing a cleanup and redevelopment plan.

### **Why redevelop brownfields?**

Brownfields are often blight on urban neighborhoods and can potentially harm human health and the environment.

Most brownfields produce little tax revenue and reduce local employment opportunities. When brownfields are investigated, cleaned up, and returned to productive use, the City, its economy and its neighborhoods benefit. Cleaning up and reinvesting in brownfields increases the local tax base, facilitates job growth, utilizes existing infrastructure, takes development pressures off undeveloped, open land and both improves and protects the environment.

### **What is the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency's (RPA) involvement in this brownfields initiative?**

The RPA has been chosen by the City of Chattanooga to provide oversight and staffing for the EPA Community-wide Assessment Grant. RPA is the



**The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines Brownfields as:  
Real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.**

### **How do I become involved?**

You don't have to be an elected official, environmental specialist, or property owner to identify potential

brownfield sites in Alton Park and envision a better, more productive, use for those sites. As a member of the community, your help is needed to help assess potential sites, select those sites that have the greatest potential for development or redevelopment, and plan for potential cleanup and development. If you would like your property to be considered for inclusion in the assessment, please contact the RPA.

Further information is available online from the Environmental Protection Agency's website at [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

### **For more information contact:**

Chattanooga-Hamilton County  
Regional Planning Agency  
Development Resource Center  
1250 Market Street, Suite 2000  
Chattanooga, TN 37402

Phone: 423-757-5216  
TDD No: 423-757-0011  
Fax: 423-757-5532

Contact Person:

Yuen Lee

Director of Information Services  
[WWW.CHCRPA.ORG](http://WWW.CHCRPA.ORG)

## Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

The Urban League of Greater Chattanooga, the IRS, and the City of Chattanooga are providing free, accurate tax preparation to Chattanoogaans who qualify for Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Taxes will be completed and filed by IRS certified tax volunteers at any one of thirteen conveniently located preparation sites.

Beginning this year, tax refunds can also be electronically deposited in up to three accounts by filing Form 8888. Checking, savings and IRA accounts are all eligible for electronic deposit. Items taxpayers will need to bring are:

- Photo identification
- Social Security Cards for the taxpayer, their spouse and dependents, if applicable
- Birth dates for primary, secondary and dependents on the tax return
- A copy of last year's Federal and State returns if available
- Wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)
- Current year's tax package, if you received one
- Other relevant information about income and expenses
- Total amount paid for day care
- Day care providers identifying number
- To file taxes electronically on a married filing joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms.
- Checking, savings and IRA account numbers (in your name), along with your bank's routing numbers, if you wish to have your tax refund electronically deposited.



**FREE  
TAX  
PREPARATION!**

### The following is the list of sites where taxes will be prepared:

Site Name	Address	Contact Person	Phone Number
Calvin Donaldson Elem. School	927 West 37th St.	Rebecca Smith	756-1762
Bethlehem Center	200 West 38th Street	Will Rowe/ Roy Turley	266-1384
Brainerd Recreation Center	1010 North Moore Road	Melanie McCosky	425-3600
Chattanooga Room in the Inn	230 North Highland Park Avenue	Erin Creal	624-6144
Chattanooga State	Accounting Department	Hisel Gobble	Walk In/No Calls
Church Koinonia Credit Union	2319 East Third Street	Anne Pierre	629-5400
Human Services	501 West 12th Street	Glenda Hill	757-4740
La Paz De Dios (Spanish Speaking)	2903 E 37th Street at 12th Avenue	Sonia Sasse/Sylvia Rangel	624-8414
M. L. King Weed and Seed	804 Central Avenue	Kim Hickey	648-9334
Northgate Mall	TJ Maxx Shopping Center	Rosemary Thurkill	Walk-In/No Calls
Northside Neighborhood House	211 Minor St.	Jim Houghton	267-2217
Lone Oak Community Center	1278 US 127, Signal Mountain	Mona Geer	280-1394
Memorial Hospital	Mobile Site (TBA)	Roy Turley	TBA
Erlanger Hospital	Mobile Site (TBA)	Joseph Kotsis	TBA
Chattanooga Cares	Mobile Site (TBA)	Bill Cox	265-2273

Please contact the appropriate person at each site for dates and hours of operation, or contact the Urban League of Greater Chattanooga at 423-756-1762 for more information.



## Making New “Associations” - Lupton City

The Lupton City community was built by the Dixie Spinning Mills in the 1920’s and 1930’s to house mill employees and their families. Today, a large number of the residents are comprised of retired mill workers, their children and grandchildren. This community possesses a rich legacy of history and still embraces the spirit of fellowship among the residents.

In November, 2006, Lupton City residents came together to organize the Lupton City Neighborhood Association. Since then, they have established by-laws and elected officers. The association meets on the second Tuesday of each month at Brooks Memorial Methodist Church.



*Lupton City Neighborhood Association listens during an officer’s training session conducted by Debbie Johnson, District 2 Neighborhood Relations Coordinator*



*From left to right: Judith Cooper, Treasurer; Taylor McDonald, Vice President; Suzanne Harris, Secretary; Jonathan Clardy, President*

The Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development is providing organizational/technical support and serves as a liaison and resource on an ongoing basis. District 2 Neighborhood Relations Coordinator, Debbie Johnson, is working closely with the Lupton City Neighborhood Association in the development of a strategic plan to bring their community’s vision to reality.

Congratulations to this new association for their hard work, pride and ongoing efforts to make their community the best it can be!

# Neighborhood TALK

**Tuesday Mornings 9:00-9:30 a.m.**  
**WN00 1260AM - Heritage Radio**

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>February 6th</b>  | <b>Urban League – VITA Program</b>   |
| <b>February 13th</b> | <b>Chief Freeman Cooper, Chattanooga Police Department</b>                 |
| <b>February 20th</b> | <b>Sherrie Gilchrist, Chattanooga African American Chamber of Commerce</b> |
| <b>February 27th</b> | <b>Chief Wendell Rowe, Chattanooga Fire Department</b>                     |



## Parks and Recreation Department

### The Peace Grove Dedication

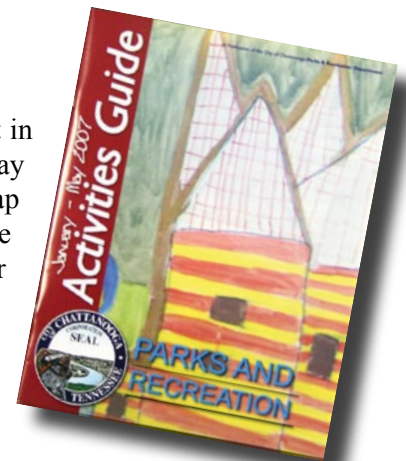
Five new trees were planted on January 12th in Coolidge Park to replace the Slippery Elm damaged in last summer's thunderstorm. Each of these new trees are native to Chattanooga's international sister cities and mark the beginning of a new landscape called The Peace Grove. Two additional trees will be presented later for cities that have recently joined in cultural and civic exchange with Chattanooga.

Mayor Littlefield acknowledges the significance of this effort and said, "The Peace Grove will celebrate these cities not only with signature trees, but will symbolize the growth and longevity of our relationships and mutual bonds with people world wide." "Chattanooga is a diverse community and welcomes this positive international exchange."

The Peace Grove will be dedicated to the City in a special ceremony on Arbor Day, March 2, 2007.

### Neighborhood Fun and Fitness

Want to find a fun event in your neighborhood, a summer camp for the kids, or get in shape? The Parks and Recreation Department's Activities Guide for January through May of 2007 is 28 fun-filled pages of programs, events, recreation center activities, park map guide, 2007 Summer Programs Planner and MORE!! The guide is available throughout the city at all of our neighborhood recreation centers, the Zoo, the Fitness Center at Warner Park, both of our public golf courses, Coolidge Park Carousel, Outdoor Chattanooga, Parks and Recreation office, or by calling 311.



## Department of Education, Arts and Culture

### First Fridays

The Department of Education, Arts & Culture (EAC) announces the debut of First Fridays for all community teens between the ages of 13 through 18 at the Community Theatre located in Memorial Auditorium (399 McCallie Avenue). The kickoff is Friday, March 2nd from 6:30 p.m. until 9:45 p.m. Here teens can enjoy performances by local talent in a safe, secure and controlled environment. These performances will showcase individuals and groups from local schools, recreation centers, and youth organizations.

Interactive poetry group, Rhyme N' Chatt, singer/songwriter Scott Allison and Infinite Orange (a band from Soddy-Daisy High School) are just a few of the scheduled performances for this inaugural event. An "open mic" opportunity will be held for teens during down time between programmed acts.

Founder, organizer and EAC Administrator Missy Crutchfield exclaims, "I am so excited to offer the opportunity to host First Fridays in the Community Theatre. Teens will be able to interact with one another while enjoying excellent local entertainment not only by adults but by individuals their age. First Fridays end at 9:45 p.m.; thereby allowing teens to be home at a reasonable and safe hour."

Again, First Friday kickoff is Friday, March 2nd at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Theatre. A nominal cover charge of \$5 per person will be collected at the door and concessions will be available for a small fee. The series begins in full swing on May 4th and will continue every "First Friday" throughout the year. For additional information on First Fridays contact the Department of Education, Arts and Culture at (423) 757-5261.



## February Calendar of Events

1<sup>st</sup>**Environmental Court**

(Also held on the 8th, 15th & 22nd)  
Courts Building, Division II, 2nd Floor  
600 Market Street  
10:00 a.m.

12<sup>th</sup>**Sector 2 Community Policing Interactive Committee (CPIC)**

(Echo and Fox Zones)  
Parkridge Diagnostic Center  
2205 McCallie Avenue  
6:00 p.m.

12<sup>th</sup>**Regional Planning Agency Meeting**

Hamilton County Courthouse, 4th Floor  
625 Georgia Avenue  
1:00 p.m.

14<sup>th</sup>**Board of Zoning Appeal Meeting**

City Council Building  
1000 Lindsay Street  
10:00 a.m.

26<sup>th</sup>**Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council Public Meeting**

Hamilton County Bicentennial Library  
1001 Broad Street  
6:00 p.m.

28<sup>th</sup>**Demolition Hearings**

Development Resource Center  
Conference Room 1A  
1250 Market Street  
10:00 a.m.



**MRNA's Historic Committee Presents  
our Second Annual Celebration  
of Missionary Ridge Heritage**

Thursday, March 15th from 5:30 to 7:30

All Missionary Ridge Residents Are Invited  
Light Hors D'Oeuvres and Refreshments Served

Last spring, the Historic Committee organized a special event to show off our collection of pictures, documents and maps that depict the rich history of Missionary Ridge. This collection is now permanently displayed at the Fire Hall. It was so well attended that we decided to make it an annual event. We invite residents to share facts and memories and bring additional pictures, documents, maps, etc. We will have an area set aside to display these items that evening. There will be special programs presented by Jim Ogden, Park Historian of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park and Daryl Black, Curator of Chattanooga Regional History Museum. Please RSVP by calling Ben Jones at 240-2100. Leave a message with your name, address and number attending. We look forward to seeing you at the Missionary Ridge Fire Hall for this special event!

# Save the Date

## The 9th Annual Neighborhoods and Codes Conference

hosted by the  
**Department of Neighborhood Services and  
Community Development**  
is set for

**October 17-19, 2007**

at the  
**Chattanooga Convention Center**

**Mark your calendar for this special event  
that is quickly earning the distinction of  
being one of the superior training events of  
its kind in the region**