COMMON GROUND
A Newsletter Celebrating Neighborhoods

NSD Restructures Department:
Exciting changes coming

Over the coming weeks, the Neighborhood Services Department will be undergoing a restructuring process that will allow us to better serve our neighborhoods and target those areas with the most need.

Under the new structure, the Codes and Community Services Division of Neighborhood Services will see the most change. The city will be divided into three major regions. Each region will be served by a team consisting of a Chief Code Enforcement Inspector, three Code Enforcement Inspectors, a Neighborhood Relations Coordinator, and a support staff member. The change will be applied gradually over the coming weeks, and the pilot region will launch this month, with the other two teams beginning to work within their

respective regions in January 2006.

The first region will consist of Council districts 2, 4, and 7. The team serving these districts includes Chief Code Enforcement Inspector Randy Ridge, Code Enforcement Inspectors Alphonso McClendon, Jason Chauncey, and Marcia Greene, Neighborhood Relations Coordinator Debbie Johnson, and support staff member Dianna Blackmon.

Each team will be responsible for developing a scope of work for their assigned region. The teams will be impact-focused in their work and will seek to produce measurable outcomes.

The new department structure will allow Neighborhood Services to focus codes enforcement in the areas that need it most, as well as allowing Neighborhood Services staff to provide a better quality of service to Chattanooga's neighborhoods.

Letter from the Administrator

Dear Neighbor,

This fall, there have been a number of changes in the Neighborhood Services Department. Into the New Year, the structure of our department will be changing, and this will change—for the better—how we provide services to Chattanooga's neighborhoods.

With input from Chattanooga's residents, we can work together to create change and improve our communities through Neighborhood Partners projects, codes enforcement, and neighborhood relations.

Please feel free to call our office at any time with questions or concerns. We appreciate your interest and involvement.

Sincerely,
Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator

INSPECTOR TRAINING: **7th Annual Conference on Codes Enforcement**

The 7th Annual Conference on Codes Enforcement was held October 6 and 7, 2005 at the Chattanooga Choo-Choo. This year's conference was an overwhelming success, boasting approximately 130 attendees from several municipalities across Tennessee, including Knoxville, Oak Ridge, Mur- freesboro, Jackson, and Franklin.

The conference offered two tracks: a technical track and a professional development track. One particularly successful pres- entation in the technical workshops was the Chattanooga Police Department's presentation on meth and its impact on lives and the region.

Anne Bruce, a renowned author and leadership expert, was the keynote speaker and conducted workshops for the professional development track. Ms. Bruce is known both as the best - selling author of several books in the field of human behavior and performance, customer service, leadership, and motivation, as well as an inspirational force and specialist in human development and personal growth. Her workshops for the conference included "Communications Excellence in Enforcement" and "Authentic Coaching At All Levels."

Neighborhood Notes
News from Chattanooga's neighborhood groups

East Chattanooga's Seniors Day Out

On November 12, the **East Chattanooga Neighborhood Association** sponsored one of its monthly Seniors Day Out events. The November event brought together seniors from East Chattanooga, Avondale, and Glass Farms in a relaxed setting.

The event was held from 12 noon to 3 pm at the East Chattanooga Recreation Center and featured good food, games, and prizes. Each senior who participated in the event was encouraged to carry a plate of food to a shut-in.

Bellflower Neighborhood Cleanup

On October 22, the **Bellflower Neighborhood Association** held a neighborhood cleanup. Residents of the neighborhood rented a pressure washer and dumpster and cleaned common areas as well as individual houses. The neighborhood also rented an obstacle course for the children. A maple tree was planted in the neighborhood's common area. Food was served after the cleanup was complete, and with

Councilwoman Marti Rutherford and Mayor Ron Littlefield in atten-

dance, Neighborhood Association President Amie Brien-Slack was presented with a proclamation declaring her to be Queen Belle of Bellflower, in thanks for all of her years of working to make the neighborhood the best it could be.

Welcome Signal Hills!

We extend a warm welcome to the City's newest neighborhood association, the **Signal Hills Neighborhood Association**! While this is a new organization, it is part of a well-established neighborhood; the residents know one another and the community's history well. The Signal Hills community includes a number of multigenerational families who have lived in the neighborhood for many years. We welcome this close-knit community and wish them great success!

New Employee

The Neighborhood Services Department has a new Code Enforcement Inspector. Jason Chauncey has been with the City of Chattanooga for five years, and until just recently worked as an Animal Services Officer with the Chattanooga Police Department's Animal Services division.

Jason is 28 years old and lives in Soddy-Daisy. He is an outdoors enthusiast and particularly enjoys riding motorcycles and ATVs. He is excited about the opportunity to serve the City of Chattanooga in his new capacity as Code Enforcement Inspector and looks forward to working with Chattanooga's neighborhoods to make an impact.

Reminder: 2004-2005 Neighborhood Grants

Just a reminder that ALL funded 2004-2005 projects under the Neighborhood Grants Program MUST be completed by December 31, 2005!

If you have any questions about the status of your project or need assistance, make sure to contact your Neighborhood Relations Coordinator.

Neighborhood TALK

Tuesday Mornings, 9:00-9:30am WNOO, 1260AM -Heritage Radio

TUNE IN !!!

Upcoming Events

December:

1   District 4 Citizens' Meeting — Erlanger East (1751 Gunbarrel Road) - 7:00 pm

8   Technical Assistance Workshop for CDBG, ESG, HOME, and ADDI grant funds — 3rd Floor Conference Room, City Hall Annex - 5:00 pm

19 Neighborhood Partners Awards Reception — Neighborhood Services Department Atrium, 3rd floor, Warehouse Row - 2-4 pm

23 Mayor's Christmas Party—Bessie Smith Hall, 10 am - noon

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT

New Office: Faith-Based and Community Partnerships

In September 2005, Mayor Ron Littlefield launched a new City office, the Office of Faith-Based and Community Partnerships.

The Office of Faith-Based and Community Partnerships, led by Al Chapman, is designed to build upon the transformative initiatives being led in Chattanooga by the faith-based community and reach out to all citizens in need of assistance. According to Mayor Littlefield, "The faith community is uniquely qualified to design and implement programs of compassion that strengthen neighborhoods and communities in permanent ways."

The members of the Faith-Based and Community Partnerships Advisory Board include pastors from a number of local churches, local faith-based nonprofit groups, the Chattanooga City Council and Hamilton County Commission, the Jewish Community Federation, and the Chattanooga Housing Authority.

City of Chattanooga
Neighborhood Services Department
1110 Market Street, Suite 333B
Chattanooga, TN 37402

www.chattanooga.gov
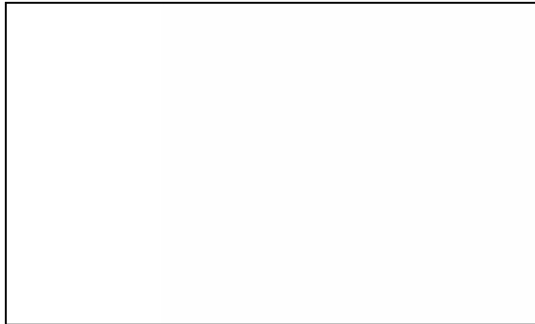
Contact Info:

Ron Littlefield
Mayor
757-5152

Beverly P. Johnson
Administrator
425-3731

Steve Hargis
Assistant Administrator
425-3739

Vanessa Jackson
Program Manager
425-3741

Sandra Gober
Manager, Economic and Community Development
757-5133

CHATTANOOGA **311** ONE CALL TO CITY HALL