

# COMMON GROUND

A Newsletter Celebrating Neighborhoods

## Improving the Chattanooga Community: Councilman John P. Franklin, Jr. District 5

### Neighborhood Services Contact

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As a native of Chattanooga, I am always enthused about the opportunity to represent the citizens of Chattanooga City Council District 5. Over the past decade, Chattanooga has become one of the most livable mid-sized cities in the country; however, it is our responsibility

to ensure that this city correctly represents the accompanying characteristics of that honor including:

- quality employment opportunities;
- quality educational opportunities for our youth;
- thriving economic development; and
- a low crime rate.

There are many opportunities aimed towards entertaining our community, yet the local job market does not reflect as vast an array of employment opportunities. In conjunction with other business leaders and local chambers of commerce, I am

currently researching and evaluating best practices of other cities that have been successful in recruiting and retaining employers, hoping to mimic those practices and fill our community's current employment gaps.

Success in this arena will allow us to keep Chattanooga's best and brightest students in this city by providing quality employment opportunities that match:

- the diverse educational backgrounds of our young adults, and
- the expectation of those employment opportunities to

**(continued on page 2)**

## Letter from the Administrator

Dear Neighbor,

I am very excited about the upcoming projects and programming slated to begin this month. Most notably, the World Changers project provided through our partnership with the Office of Faith—Based Initiatives, Front Porch Alliance and volunteers who will offer much needed assistance in our community. I am also pleased to announce the addition of Anthony (Tony) Sammons, Deputy Administrator to the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development.

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



#### In this Issue:

Councilman John Franklin.....	1
Letter from the Administrator.....	1
Jacqueline Strong-Moss: Office of Multicultural Affairs.....	3
Neighborhood Partners Project: Georgetown Trace.....	4
28th Legislative Community Development Corporation .....	5
Neighborhood Notes.....	5
Employee Profile.....	6
Calendar of Events.....	6



Happy 60th Birthday Mayor Ron!

July 11th



**(Continued from page 1)** furnish the quality standard of living necessary to provide for a family.

I am also focusing my efforts on a number of activities aimed at improving the balance between business and residential areas. For example, the Highway 58 area plan outlines objectives intended to provide continuity between the residential and commercial interests through zoning and infrastructure improvements. Plans to install sidewalks in commercial districts as well as residential districts will greatly improve that continuity, in addition to increasing safety for both drivers and pedestrians. Another component of this plan includes clearing debris from stormwater drain openings to better mitigate our community from flooding and protect the property value of

area homeowners. The City has also completed the second of the four-phase Eastdale area plan, intended to:

- improve traffic signalization in the West Shallowford Road, Wilcox and Tunnel Boulevard areas;
- increase pedestrian safety and mobility through sidewalk installation; and
- spur economic development while protecting the interests of residents through zoning adjustments in the Eastdale community.

Our youth are a very vital resource that we must protect. City officials, neighborhood leaders, and the faith-based communities are seeking innovative positive activities, experiences and educational opportunities for our youth, to provide alternatives to involvement in crime and gang-related activities. The faith-based community is an

especially helpful partner to the City, in that local ministers and congregations labor to provide strong support systems for community needs.

As a third generation Funeral Director and business owner, I recognize the importance of small and/or minority-owned businesses to the local economy. The City actively endeavors to educate and increase the capacity of these businesses to engage in commerce activities with the City.

In order for Chattanooga to continue to prosper, all segments of the community must be involved. Chattanooga has a great formula for future success and I look forward to continuing the work necessary to bring about that success.

John P. Franklin  
The City Councilman  
District 5

## Save the Dates: September 27 –29, 2006



The City of Chattanooga's Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development presents the **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Neighborhoods and Codes Enforcement** Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> through Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at the Chattanooga Convention Center.

We encourage **policy makers, codes inspectors, neighborhood leaders and citizens** hoping to enhance their neighborhoods in a positive manner to please attend this year's conference. The conference theme is "**Laying the Foundation for Better Neighborhoods, One Brick at a Time, through Education, Opportunities and Experience.**"

For more information, contact the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development at (423) 425-3700.

## Jacqueline Strong-Moss: Office of Multicultural Affairs

July 2006



Originally from Memphis, TN, Jacqueline Strong-Moss earned a Bachelor's degree in Theatre from the University of Maryland. While theatre piqued her interests, she realized being in a position to level the playing field for all people is her true calling.

Focusing on her skills in research and investigation, Jacqueline worked as an insurance claims adjuster. After carefully honing those skills, she enrolled in law school at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. As a student attorney, she performed pro-bono work, representing low - income clients in landlord – tenant, fair-housing, and unemployment compensation cases. After working in the legal field in capacities that utilized her talents to be used to represent corporations against the people she

initially sought to help, Jacqueline determined that a degree in public policy would help her to better achieve her goal of leveling the playing field. She returned to Lewis and Clark, this time to earn a Masters in Public Administration.

Years later, Jacqueline arrived in Chattanooga and has worked with numerous organizations including Legal Aid of Tennessee, UTC as an adjunct professor for the UTC School of Criminal Justice, and as the Site Manager for the Chattanooga Area Urban League.

Her appointment to head the City's Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) provides "a good marriage of previously attained skills," in utilizing her legal and public policy backgrounds.

OMA first year goals include:

- operating as a clearing-house for quality information and best practices for the general public;
- establishing management procedures for garnering and reviewing substantial locally-relevant research as

it relates to disparity in the Chattanooga community;

- acting as a community liaison for Chattanooga's citizens, community leaders, city officials and stakeholders to facilitate the exchange of information on various issues facing this community;

- identifying problem areas within the community in regards to equal employment opportunity (EEO), fair housing compliance, and Federal Title VI regulations, and for recommendation of resolution to the OMA Advisory Board, Mayor Ron Littlefield and the Chattanooga City Council; and

- reviewing existing procedures for handling civil rights, discrimination, and related complaints and developing procedures for the management and review of these complaints.

Strong-Moss asserts that she aspires, "that [OMA] should be part of the matrix that makes Chattanooga a more livable city for all of its citizens."

Visit the City of Chattanooga on the web at:  
<http://www.chattanooga.gov/>





Before: Georgetown Trace Entrance



After: Georgetown Trace Entrance

The Georgetown Trace Neighborhood Association recently completed its 2005-06 Neighborhood Partners Program (NPP) project.

This project focused on aesthetically enhancing and beautifying the landscaped areas

surrounding the neighborhood entrance by planting new flowers and shrubbery in place of the entrance's original plants.

The City funded this project through the Neighborhood Partners Program funding, awarded to Georgetown Trace in December 2005.

Neighborhood organizations showed more interest than anticipated for beautification projects during the fall funding approval round of 2005. That interest spurred the creation of the NPP for Beautification Project funding opportunity specifically designed to fund beautification projects.

If your neighborhood organization is interested in partnering with the City to beautify your

neighborhood, it's not too late. The Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development is currently accepting proposals for beautification projects. For more information, contact **Darius Swoope at (423) 425 - 3718.**



Before: Georgetown Trace Entrance



After: Georgetown Trace Entrance



### Neighborhood Partners Projects for Beautification

The Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development is still accepting applications for the Neighborhood Partners Projects for Beautification. A maximum of \$1,500 will be awarded for landscaping and beautification efforts within Chattanooga's neighborhoods.

To request guidelines and applications, please contact Darius Swoope at (423) 425-3718.



This house (pictured above) located on Newell Street in the Bushtown community, was recently con-

structed by the 28th Legislative District Community Development Corporation (CDC) using U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds as appropriated to the City's Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development. The home features three bedrooms, two baths,

central heating and air, a security alarm system, and an open living and dining area. The home will be sold to a low-to-moderate income family. Proceeds from the sale of the home will pay for the construction of another home for similar use, with the intent of repeating this process indefinitely. Homebuyers of 28th CDC properties must attend a homeowner and financial education course.

## Neighborhood Notes

News from Chattanooga's neighborhood groups



**Mayor Ron Littlefield** will conduct a neighborhood meeting July 27, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. at the Parkridge Diagnostic Center, 2205 McCallie Avenue.

**The City of Chattanooga's Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development**, in partnership with **Front Porch Alliance**, will work on local World Changers Home Re-

pair Projects July 10th through the 14th.

The **Indian Hills Community Watch** will hold a meeting at **Brainerd Recreation Complex** Monday, July 10th. The focus of this meeting is to strengthen and unify the Indian Hills Neighborhood Association. The Indian Hills Neighborhood Association encourages individuals representing other local neighborhood organizations to attend this meeting. For more information, please call **Bill Gardner** at **(423)304-0077**.

**Second Missionary Services, Incorporated's Success Seminars for Youth**

**Program** recently took approximately 50 6th through 9th grade students to visit Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, AL. The summer program, partially funded by the City's Neighborhood Partners Program, emphasizes drug awareness and prevention, personal and social development, and education.



**Nicole Gwyn**  
**Administrative Assistant**  
**Office of Multicultural Affairs**



Nicole Gwyn is a native of Chattanooga, TN. Prior to her current employment with the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs (OMA), she worked as a Data Conversion Operator for the United States Postal Service (USPS). During her tenure with the USPS, Nicole insists that she never “went postal.”

She earned a Bachelor’s Degree in English from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

In her spare time, Nicole enjoys writing, as she has since childhood. As a child, Nicole favored writing short stories, however, as an adult, her focus has shifted to screenwriting and freelance news writing for local media. She also volunteers with Chattanooga Cares and the local AIDS clinic, distributing educational information regarding AIDS and HIV.

On the subject of OMA, Nicole asserts that she is “grateful to work in [OMA]” and her goal is to “make [OMA] one of the most efficient departments in the City.”

**July 2006:**

**Upcoming Events!**

**13—Sector 2 Community Policing Interactive Committee (CPIC) - (Echo and Fox zones)**

**Location:** Parkridge Diagnostic Center  
 2205 McCallie Avenue  
**Time:** 6:00 PM

**24—Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council Meeting**

**Location:** Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga  
 1270 Market Street  
**Time:** 6:00 PM

**26—Court Watch**

**Location:** East Lake Seniors Center  
 3208 15th Avenue  
**Time:** 11:30 AM

**27—Mayor Littlefield’s Neighborhood Meeting**

**Location:** Parkridge Diagnostic Center  
 2205 McCallie Avenue  
**Time:** 6:00 PM

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT

**Neighborhood Talk**

**TUNE IN!!!**

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