

COMMON GROUND

A Newsletter Celebrating Neighborhoods

Promoting Cleaner, Safer Neighborhoods

Councilwoman Sally Robinson, District 2

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Chattanooga has been my home for 36 years. During my time here, my husband and I have raised four children, who are all married and raising their own families in the greater Chattanooga area. Twenty-five years ago, I had the honor of being appointed to the Moccasin Bend Task Force, which created the Tennessee Riverpark Master Plan. That plan foretold the revitalization of downtown and development of the riverfront. Now in my second term as the City Council representative for District 2, I continue to work every day to deliver the promise I made in both my campaigns to promote efforts for cleaner, safer neighborhoods.

Living in North Chattanooga adds so much to my quality of life, as I hope it does

for everyone who enjoys walking along the Walnut Street Bridge and the Tennessee Riverwalk. My whole family loves to attend the Riverbend Festival, and the Coolidge Park Carousel is one of my youngest granddaughter's favorite places.

I have worked hard to represent the residents of District 2, as well as the greater Chattanooga community, in the following ways:

- Helping to improve the 311Call Center
- Promoting the Hixson/ North River Community Development Plan
- Working with Councilman Dan Page to support the North River Civic Center and the new soccer fields on Access Road
- Adding two new traffic lights on Hixson Pike near the "S" curves.

I will continue to work diligently to:

- Advocate and promote cleaner, safer neighborhoods for the residents of District 2
- Improve the North Shore Plan which will guide us in commercial and residential growth on the North Shore.

As your City Council representative, my doors are always

open to meet with residents who have questions, concerns or new ideas. I am also open to residents who want me to visit their neighborhood to meet with them and their neighbors. You don't have to have a neighborhood association for that to happen. Just give me a call and we will find a date and a place that will work.

I want to be accessible to every resident in District 2 in order to keep abreast of the concerns and interests of my constituents. Attending neighborhood association meetings, returning phone calls and replying to email messages as quickly as possible are priorities. While I may not have the answers to all questions and concerns, I work very hard to find out what is needed to get the desired end results for citizens. Our City services departments are very helpful and quick to respond to our requests and needs. If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact me at (423) 757-5334 or email at robinson_sa@mail.chattanooga.gov.

Sincerely,
Sally Robinson
City Council, District 2

Letter from the Administrator



Dear Neighbor,

I am very excited to present the March edition of Common Ground. This month's edition highlights City Council District 2 Representative Sally Robinson, as well as the addition of the Office of Community Development to the Neighborhood Services Department. Also, we highlight the Great American Cleanup, sponsored by the Scenic Cities Beautiful Commission and the Tennessee Department of Transportation in our Neighborhood Notes. I hope that in the interest of citizens working together to achieve the common goal of improving our community that you will consider volunteering with the campaign.

If you have any issues, questions or concerns involving your neighborhood, please feel free to call our office. I look forward to seeing you in the neighborhood.

Sincerely,
Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator

Property Transformations

March 2006

This property, located at 506 Tucker Street, is another example of citizens working with the Neighborhood Services Department by bringing their property into compliance with the City Code.

In March 2005, a Neighborhood Services Codes Enforcement Inspector originally inspected this property and determined the collapsing accessory structure (see before picture, immediately to the left) to be unfit for human habitation, in an emergency condition, and a danger to nearby inhabitants in accordance with Section 21-19 of the Municipal Codes.

The property owner swiftly complied with the Municipal Code by demolishing the accessory structure and rehabilitating the housing structure adjacent to the accessory structure.

In instances where a property is



506 Tucker Street (Before)

complying within the 30 day window are cited to City Court, where a judge may levy fines and court costs on the property owner.



506 Tucker Street (After)

in violation of the City Code, the City allows the property owner 30 days to bring the property into compliance. Property owners not

Expanding the Neighborhood Services Department: The Office of Community Development

Under Mayor Littlefield, the Neighborhood Services Department expanded to include the Office of Community Development. The Office is responsible for administering Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and other entitlement grants; Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), and Home Investment Partnership Act (HOME) funds from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The general purpose of the



Office of Community Development Staff (as pictured left to right) Juliette Thornton, Gloria McKeldin, Rod Morton, Pat Bryan, Paula Coleman, Sandra Gober and Doug Smith

Office of Community Development is to provide opportunities for decent housing, establish and maintain suitable living environments and expand economic opportunities for low and moderate income citizens. The Office of Community Development seeks to significantly impact Chattanooga by identifying, developing and supporting quality affordable housing, healthy community environments and expand economic opportunities for low and moderate income citizens.

Neighborhood Notes

News from Chattanooga's neighborhood groups

The Neighborhood Services Department is working with residents of the **Radmoor Neighborhood** of East Brainerd as they are organizing a new neighborhood association.

The **Glenwood Neighborhood Association** will conduct a neighborhood drive-through survey. They recently met to finalize a detailed list of the various con-

cerns that they will tally to assess the areas requiring attention in their neighborhood.

The local **Scenic Cities Beautiful Commission** and the **Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)**

Litter Grant Program are joining forces to sponsor the **Great American Cleanup**. Each spring, people who love



America take the time to make her shine by cleaning up litter, perking up parks and beautifying public areas. You can make a hands-on commitment to our community's future and see how big a difference one volunteer can make by joining the nation's largest cleanup and beautification program—the **Great**

American Cleanup. The Cleanup kickoff and materials distribution begins at 10am Saturday April 1, 2006 at the City Wide Services Building, 900 E. 11th Street, please enter at the back of the building. For more information on how you can get involved with this campaign, contact **Jeanette Eigelsbach** of the Scenic Cities Beautiful Commission at **(423) 757-0061**.

Employee Profiles

March 2006

Sandra Gober is the Manager of the Office of Community Development in the Neighborhood Services Department. Sandra lived in Georgia and Brooklyn, New York prior to moving to Chattanooga. Sandra's educational background includes an undergraduate degree in Accounting and a Masters in Business Administration from Tennessee Technological University, as well as a Bachelor of Science in Finance from East Tennessee State University.



Sandra has been employed with the City of Chattanooga since 1991, and has a wealth of knowledge in the field of Community Development.

Prior to working for the City, Sandra worked for the State of Tennessee. In addition, she serves on several boards in the community and is very active in various civic organizations.

Sandra is married and the mother of three, two daughters and a son. In her spare time, Sandra enjoys reading, walking, and spending time with her family.

As Manager of the Community Development, Sandra takes pleasure in seeing the physical changes taking place in the community as well as being able to have a positive impact on the lives of many people in the City

Paula Coleman joined the Community Development staff a year and a half ago as a Planner.

Prior to her employment with the City, Paula worked for 20 years with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) as a Worker's Compensation Specialist, and 5 years with the Westside Community Development Corporation (CDC) as a Project Director.

Paula received a Bachelor of Science degree in Management from Covenant College, and a Master of Science degree in Public Administration from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. In addition, Paula serves on several boards locally and is the Director of Music at the Second Missionary Baptist Church. Paula is also a member of the Chattanooga Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.



Paula is married and has one son and three grandchildren. In her spare time she enjoys music, baking, and traveling.

When asked about her job, Paula says that she really enjoys helping others, especially managing the Shelter Plus Care Program, which allows her the opportunity to provide housing for homeless individuals.

Upcoming Events!

March 2006:

27 - Chattanooga Environmental Court (Night Court)

Location: Glenwood Recreation Center

2610 East Third Street

Time: 6:00 PM

27- Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council Meeting

Location: Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga

1270 Market Street

Time: 6:00 PM

29 - Court Watch

Location: East Lake Seniors Center

3208 15th Avenue

Time: 11:30 AM

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Neighborhood TALK

TUNE IN!!!

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

Demolitions Hearing Notice:

March 2006

March 22, 2006

Development Resource Center
1250 Market Street,
Conference Room 1A
Time: 8:30 AM

TO THE OWNERS AND PARTIES WITH AN INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY LOCATED:

Property: 2012 Robbins Avenue
State Tax Number: 146C-D-016
Owner: Brandon E. Lindsey

Property: 2014 Citico Avenue
State Tax Number: 146C-L-017
Owners: Curtis M. Reaves & Lorenzo E. Ervin

Property: 2210 Bailey Avenue
State Tax Number: 146N-L-006
Owner: Keisa Avans

Property: 4100 Hooker Road
State Tax Number: 167C-P-007
Owner: Phoeby Dawson Ushery & Kathy Michelle Dawson, Co-Trs.

Property: 1801 S. Willow Street
State Tax Number: 156B-T-004
Owner: Camille M. Moret

THIS HEARING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Neighborhood Talk March 2006 Lineup

For the latest information on what's new and notable in your neighborhood, please tune-in to WNOO 1260 AM on Tuesdays Mornings from 9:00—9:30 AM.

Our guests and topics for March 2006 will include:

March 7: Beth Trussell of Front Porch Alliance and Bill Kagay of World Changers

March 14: Chief Codes Enforcement Inspector, Randy Ridge on Districts 2, 4 and 7

March 21: Chief Codes Enforcement Inspector, Ed Graham on Districts 5, 6 and 8

March 28: Chief Codes Enforcement Inspector, Doris Parham on Districts 1, 3 and 9

Scheduled Neighborhood Talk topics and guests are tentative and subject to change.

31st Annual Conference on Neighborhood Concerns Connecting Hearts, Homes and Communities

Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) will conduct their 31st Annual Conference on Neighborhood Concerns Connecting Hearts, Homes and Communities May 24-27, 2006 in Kansas City, MO. For more information and updates, visit www.kmco.org or www.nusa.org. For registration packets, please fax your request to (816) 513-3201 or send an email to renea_nash@kmco.org.



DO YOU OR YOUR NEIGHBORS NEED HOME REPAIR HELP???

The City of Chattanooga, Front Porch Alliance and World Changers are partnering to offer that help.

If you own the home you live in, and are a senior citizen, and/or disabled, and/or low-income, your home may be eligible for selected repairs.

The deadline for application submission is: 4:00pm March 31, 2006

For further details and an application, contact Vanessa Jackson at (423) 425-3741 or visit the website at http://www.chattanooga.gov/Neighborhood_Services/86_916.htm.



Visit us on the web at:
www.chattanooga.gov

Still Haven't Filed Your Federal Income Tax Return? Let the City and Urban League e-file them for Free!!!

If you have not yet filed your taxes, the City, Urban League and the Internal Revenue Service are still offering **FREE** Federal Income Tax Preparation services to citizens. For more information on whether you qualify, or if you would like to know more about our conveniently located where you can electronically file your taxes, please call the Urban League of Greater Chattanooga at (423) 756-1762.



Urban League of
Greater Chattanooga, Inc.
*Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.*





CHATTANOOGA NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT



Front Porch Alliance



EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

The Front Porch Alliance
in partnership with
The City of Chattanooga
Department of Neighborhood Services and Community
Development
and
Office of Faith-Based Initiatives

CHATTANOOGA HOMEOWNERS

**DO YOU OR YOUR NEIGHBORS NEED
HOME REPAIR HELP?**

**THE FRONT PORCH ALLIANCE
THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA
AND
WORLD CHANGERS**

WANT TO KNOW!

If you own the home you live in, and you are a senior citizen, and/or disabled, and/or low-income, your home may be eligible for selected repairs.

For further details and an application, contact:

Vanessa A. Jackson, Program Manager
City of Chattanooga
Neighborhood Services Department
(423)425-3741

Deadline for receipt of applications: 4:00 p.m. March 31, 2006



The Front Porch Alliance
in partnership with
The City of Chattanooga
Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development
and
Office of Faith-Based Initiatives
HOME REPAIR APPLICATION

This is an application for assistance. It holds no obligations. All information will be verified prior to an applicant being placed on our waiting list for consideration. All applicants must meet established selection criteria.

Date: _____

A. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Head of Household: _____

Age: _____ Sex: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Race: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Marital Status: Single Married Divorced Widow/Widower

Name of Spouse: _____

Age: _____ Sex: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Race: _____

Are either you or your spouse handicapped or disabled? YES NO
If YES, what is the nature of the condition? _____

Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony? YES NO
If YES, please explain _____

Whom should we contact in an emergency?

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship: _____

B. PRESENT HOUSING INFORMATION

How long have you lived at your present address? _____

What year was your home built? _____ Square footage: _____

Number of stories: _____

Do you have a mortgage on your home? YES NO

Mortgage company: _____

In which community is your home located? _____

Verification of Ownership of Property

Property in the name of _____

Tax receipt number _____ for the year of _____.

(or) Deed (Recorded in the Hamilton Co. Registrar of Deeds Office)

Book # _____ Page _____

Please attach a copy of the verification of ownership (deed or tax receipt).

Are your property taxes current through December 2005? _____

Do you intend to sell your property within the next three years? _____

C. OTHER ASSISTANCE

Have you submitted an application or sought assistance from any other home repair assistance program this year? YES NO

If yes, please state organization and whether there is a pending application _____

Have you had repairs made to your property in the last 5 years by any organization (World Changers, Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise, Widows Harvest, etc)?

YES NO

If yes, when and by whom? _____

D. REPAIRS/IMPROVEMENTS DESIRED

Please identify the repairs needed on your house.** List work desired in order of priority need. Be sure to include both interior and exterior work needed.

Exterior

Interior

*****This project is not designed to address electrical or faulty wiring problems or major repair needs, including any sewer work or certain above ground work.***

E. EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME INFORMATION

Employer: _____

Address: _____

Pay: _____ per _____ Hours per Week: _____

Length of Employment: _____

Spouse's Employer: _____

Address: _____

Pay: _____ per _____ Hours per Week: _____

Length of Employment: _____

List all persons, beginning with yourself, who live in your house, and their age, sex, relationship to you; for persons 18 years old or older, their gross annual employment/benefit income; their source(s) of income (i.e. employment, SS, SSI, pension, etc); and social security number. **Please remember to attach copies of check stubs for the past two months or eligibility letters from Social Security or the Department of Human Services or other verification of income.**

	Name	Relationship	Age	Sex	Income	Source of Income	Social Security #
Applicant							

Number in Household _____ Annual Household Income: \$ _____

F. CERTIFICATION AND AGREEMENT

I certify that all the information above is complete, correct and true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that false or misleading information may result in the rejection of my application. I also understand that completion of this application in no way guarantees that I receive home repairs. Further, I give permission to check any and all information and/or references contained herein, including but not limited to employers; and further, I also give permission to check my credit rating and the credit information contained herein either directly or through a credit reporting agency.

Applicant Date: _____

Co-Applicant Date: _____

RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION AND ATTACHMENTS TO:

Vanessa A. Jackson
 Department of Neighborhood Services
 1110 Market Street
 Suite 333B Warehouse Row
 Chattanooga, TN 37402
 (423) 425-3741

NRC: _____ Date: _____