

# COMMON GROUND

A Newsletter Celebrating Neighborhoods

## Smart Growth and Development Councilman Jack Benson, District 4

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As Councilman elected to represent the citizens of District 4 for the past 5 years, I

have been blessed with great satisfaction in not only working full-time to serve but in what has been accomplished during this period. While many of the district's needs have been or are being met, many other needs are awaiting funding. Most of East Brainerd's needs could have been fulfilled if we had not permitted growth to explode without a master Land-Use Plan from the mid-1980s to October 2001. Without the guidance of a smart growth plan, speculative zoning was permitted, thereby permitting changing the use of the land regardless as to how it would impact adjacent neighborhoods, traffic and infrastructure needs. After nearly 20 years of growth without guidance, the Chattanooga City Council adopted the Hamilton Place Community Land-Use Plan, which provided guidance for growth, thus protecting and enhancing existing

neighborhoods and commercial areas as well as providing recommendations for improving the traffic, environment and community parks.

With the advent and implementation of the Land-Use Plan, our community has begun to see many benefits and others are in the process of being attained. Some of these, which have or will be a benefit for the area, are:

- The Heritage House and the surrounding passive park
- Sidewalk from Shallowford to East Brainerd Rd.
- Improved turning lanes at Standifer Gap/Gunbarrel
- Additional turn lane off Shallowford on to I-75 South
- Improved intersection Jenkins/Shallowford with additional improvements in 2007
- Widening and paving of Igou Gap from Gray to Gunbarrel
- Widening of Zeigler Rd.
- Beautification of entrance ramps at I-75/Shallowford
- Initiate plans for additional ramp (exit) at Sticky Fingers for mall traffic coming from

the North

- Acquiring right-of-way for construction of new east-west Godwin Road linking I-75 to Jenkins Road
- Securing an agreement for a Branch Library as a part of the Mixed-Use Development at Shallowford/Napier
- Widening of Shallowford eastward with final phase planned for completion in 2007

While there is much more to be done when time and tax revenue permits, we now have a great advantage in meeting our needs because we not only have a Land-Use Plan to prioritize the needs but we have foresight methods in place that should prevent us from permitting growth, which diminishes our investments or the quality of future. I feel strongly the value of our property investments and the quality of life in District 4 are many times more secure than it has ever been in the past. This could not have been accomplished without exercising smart growth as directed by our Land-Use Plan.

Jack Benson, Councilman District 4

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### Letter from the Administrator

Dear Neighbor,  
As Mayor Littlefield told us in his State of the City address, there has never been a better time to be in Chattanooga. Exciting things are happening in our neighborhoods as beautification projects begin throughout the city, and citizens are making their voices heard in the community by attending Neighborhood Night Court and participating in their neighborhood associations. We encourage all citizens to get involved and work together to make our neighborhoods great places to live.

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



## Heritage House and Park Now Open in East Brainerd

The Heritage House and Heritage Park, located at 1428 Jenkins Road, are now open in East Brainerd. A ribbon-cutting ceremony took place on April 1, 2006. The 22-acre park features a 3200-foot walking track, picnic tables and grills, and a bocce ball court in addition to the natural beauty of two creeks and acres of natural meadows.

The Heritage House, located on the property, is ideal for community meetings and features a full-size kitchen. The Belleau Woods Homeowners' Association held their annual meeting at Heritage Park on April 24. District 4 Councilman Jack Benson encourages all neighborhood associations in the East Brainerd area to consider holding meetings and events at the Heritage House.

For information on reserving Heritage Park or the Heritage House, please call the 311 call center.



Above: Families enjoy the playground area and open spaces at Heritage Park.



Above: The Heritage House at Heritage Park; Below: Picnic area at Heritage Park



## Community Development Notes

- The environmental review of HUD'S regulation 24 CFR Part 58 is coordinated by the Office of Community Development. The environmental review is required anytime Federal funds are expended. The review process is initiated as soon as the proposed activities are determined and before any funds are committed. Recent reviews conducted by the Office of Community Development include the infrastructure project for the installation of new sidewalk panels, curbs and handicap ramps throughout various locations in the city, all housing related projects initiated through Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise, and all demolition of blighted properties initiated by Neighborhood Services.
- On April 17<sup>th</sup>, The Office of Community Development submitted a program brief to the Chattanooga Homeless Coalition regarding the intent to apply under the McKinney-Vento Act for renewal of the Shelter Plus Care through the 2006 Continuum of Care. The Shelter Plus Care Program provides tenant based assistance for the homeless, mentally ill, those dually diagnosed with mental illness and substance abuse, and homeless individuals with AIDS and AIDS related conditions.



## Property Transformation: 7456 Pinewood Drive

This property at 7456 Pinewood Drive in Chattanooga was in poor condition. Its owners had passed away, and the property was left in serious disrepair.



Above: 7456 Pinewood Drive, before demolition

When the property was condemned by the City of Chattanooga, the owners' children pulled to-

gether to have the house demolished. As a result, the lot is clear, and the blighted area has been removed.

Formerly a neighborhood eyesore and an unsafe area, the lot is now clear of any hazards and is an attractive open space in the neighborhood.

Below: 7456 Pinewood Drive, after demolition



## Neighborhood Night Court

Chattanooga Environmental Court was held by The Honorable Sherry Paty on Monday, April 24 at Eastgate Towne Center. At this Neighborhood Night Court, City Codes violations cases were heard from the Brainerd area dealing with substandard housing, overgrowth, inoperable/junk vehicles, litter, and dumping. The purpose of Neighborhood Night Court is to make it easy for neighborhood residents to speak up for community standards and of-

fer input and information to the Court about specific cases important to their neighbor-

hood. We were honored by the presence of District 6 Councilwoman Marti Ruther-

ford, who thanked the Court for helping support neighborhoods by enforcing City Code and asked the Court to support the Police Department in their efforts to curb noise ordinance violations in Brainerd.



Chattanooga Neighborhood Services Code Enforcement Inspectors and Brainerd citizens attend Night Court at the Eastgate Towne Center.

The Environmental Court docket is posted online at [http://www.chattanooga.gov/Neighborhood\\_Services/86\\_court\\_cases.asp](http://www.chattanooga.gov/Neighborhood_Services/86_court_cases.asp).

Cases were presented by each Inspector in Team 2, serving City Council Districts 5, 6, and 8: Chief Inspector and Team 2 Leader Ed Graham, Nelsene Lowery, Tim McGinnis, and Alice Williams.

## Employee Spotlight



David Hood is a native of Chattanooga, having most recently worked for Walter Industries as a project construction manager. He holds an Associate of Science degree in Business Management from Chattanooga State Technical Community College and a Bachelor

of Science degree in Economics from UTC. He proudly served in the U.S. Army and is a Vietnam War veteran.

David has four grown children and several grandchildren and currently resides with his lovely wife Debbie on Lookout Mountain as "empty nesters." They are both members of Central Baptist Church. Something that David doesn't mind sharing with everyone is that he is an avid Big Orange fan. He enjoys most spectator sports, having played during his school days. As a camping enthusiast, he looks forward to planning trips which includes fishing and most outdoor activities. He also enjoys hiking and walking with his Great Dane, Sadie.

As a Code Enforcement Inspector, David looks forward to the many new and different challenges each and every day. He says that the work is always interesting and enjoyable and that it gives him great encouragement to know that he has the opportunity to make a difference. David would like to give special thanks to all the Neighborhood Services staff and team members for such a warm welcome and helpful support.

## Employee Spotlight



Code Enforcement Inspector Tim McGinnis grew up in the Red Bank/ Mountain Creek area and now lives in Hixson. He has been married to his wife, Darline, for

20 years and has two grown stepdaughters, Melissa and Julie. He has a 13-year-old golden retriever named Storm. He enjoys watching all types of sports especially college football, and is a big Alabama fan.

This is Tim's second season to participate in Senior Olympics softball. He plays for *The Old Goats*, and their goal is to win the state tournament in Nashville this summer.

Tim also enjoys camping, canoeing and listening to music and says that he is happy to be a part of the Neighborhood Services Department.

## Upcoming Events

### May:

- 15 - Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council elections for vacant board seats—Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library, 6:00 pm
- 20 - Washington Hills Neighborhood Association Annual Mayfest, Washington Hills Recreation Center—10:00 am-6:00 pm (parade at 11:00 am)
- 22 - Neighborhood Night Court—Southside Recreation Center—Alton Park, Howard, and Piney Woods—6:00 pm
- 31 - Demolition Hearings—Development Resource Center (DRC), 1250 Market Street, 8:30 am

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT

NEIGHBORHOOD TALK

TUNE IN !!!

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

## Office of Multicultural Affairs

Mayor Ron Littlefield has appointed Jacqueline Strong Moss as the Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

"It has been a long process of selection and the field of candidates was large. There was a committee in place that interviewed and reduced the number of candidates to three. An internal committee of five made the final selection. Jacqueline is well suited for this position and has a strong commitment to service and her community. I look forward to working with her as part of our team," said Mayor Ron Littlefield.

As the Director of Multicultural Affairs, Mrs. Strong Moss will develop and implement programs and activities to serve the needs of diverse social, cultural, and economic groups within the City. The Office of Multicultural Affairs will be an advocate for the community by providing outreach and education to im-

prove equal opportunity and accessibility within the City of Chattanooga.

Mrs. Strong Moss has a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Maryland at College Park, a Juris Doctorate Degree from Northwestern School of Law, and a Masters of Public Administration from Lewis and Clark College. She is also a member of the Tennessee Bar Association and was admitted to the United States Tax Court. Among her leadership positions and employment background, she has served as a staff attorney for Legal Aid of East Tennessee, an adjunct professor for the UTC School of Criminal Justice, and the Site Manager for the Chattanooga Area Urban League.

Mrs. Strong Moss is married to Robert Moss. They have two children, Riki Moss, and Akili Moss. They also have a dog named Wally.

### Neighborhood Partners Projects for Beautification

The Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development announces the availability of funding for **Neighborhood Partners Projects for Beautification**. A maximum of \$1,500 will be awarded for landscaping and beautification efforts within Chattanooga's neighborhoods. Proposed projects must demonstrate civic participation and create community-based solutions that will substantially eliminate or reduce blighted conditions. Funding is limited.

Eligible projects include planting of trees, flowers, shrubbery; or, creating passive park and green spaces in public and common areas. Eligible applicants are nonprofit organizations, neighborhood associations, community based groups or neighborhood youth groups. Ineligible applicants are governmental agencies, educational institutions, religious institutions, private and for-profit businesses and individuals and private property owners.

To apply for **Neighborhood Partners Projects For Beautification** funding, please contact Darius Swoope, Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development, at 425-3718.

## Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council (CNAC)

Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council (CNAC) enjoyed a healthy first quarter from having a wealth of information flowing through their monthly meeting which featured guests from Chattanooga Government. Mayor Ron Littlefield participated in January, Neighborhood Services Administrator Beverly Johnson in February and Chief of Police Steve Parks in March. All gave answers to pertinent questions regarding city neighborhood concerns, in which city neighborhoods were invited to participate.

Next on the agenda for CNAC is the election for its Governing Body on May 15, 2006 from 5-8 p.m. in the auditorium of the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library; refreshments will be served.

The CNAC Mission Statement is "To be a unified community voice promoting a better quality of life for all Chattanooga Neighborhoods." The purpose of the meeting is to fill the vacant seats of the CNAC Governing Body, which has a maximum number of 27 seats with three (3) seats per City Council District.

Each of the three (3) members must be from different geographic parts of the City Council District. The election is an open membership from all neighborhood associations wishing to participate to elect a governing body. Participants can come from neighborhood association and organized groups of people representing a community with specific geographic boundaries with common interests.

For more information regarding the election please contact Charles Payne, President of CNAC at 899-1748.