

COMMON GROUND

A Newsletter Celebrating Neighborhoods

DANGERS of ILLEGAL DUMPING...

“Down in the **DUMPS!**”

Neighborhood Services Contact

Info:

Ron Littlefield

Mayor

757-5152

Steve Hargis

Deputy Administrator

425-3739

Mark Kleiner

Special Projects

425-3744

Tony Smith

Chief Inspector

425-3743

Vanessa Jackson

Program Manager

425-3741

In Boy Scout Troop 214, with Scoutmaster Joe Grow, we enjoyed hiking, and we took some challenging trails, including a 50-mile adventure across part of the Appalachian Trail. Like many similar groups, we had cadences to which we would hike. One I recall “...**Don't chuck your muck in my trash can, my trash can, my trash can. Don't chuck your muck in my trash can, my trash can's full!**” Unbelievably, 20+ miles from a paved road, we saw an illegal dump in the Cherokee National Forest!

Most all of us working in neighborhood and

community revitalization buy into the “broken window theory.” That is, in a neighborhood where all is in pretty good shape, a broken and un-repaired window will draw the at-



Illegal dump site in the city

tention and the interest of criminals. That's where it starts.

That first blighting is where the turnaround is easiest to recover the neighborhood's original cared-for appearance and preserve property values. City Code, and our Inspectors who enforce it, can be a powerful tool to preserve or revitalize individual properties, blocks, and entire neighborhoods and cities. At the same time, without that intervention, conditions tend to get worse rather than better.

Solid waste management is a huge and costly task for communities across the country.

In addition to the (continued p.4...)

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Letter from the Administrator

Dear Neighbor,

The busy transition from Spring to Summer is an invigorating time of the year. This Spring, I offer a fond fair-well to the Neighborhood Services Department after six years of service to the community.

During my tenure, we have seen our department grow by leaps and bounds, as we tirelessly meet the needs of our neighbors all over the community. We held seven annual conferences and hosted the largest neighborhood conference in the country, NUSA 2003, right here in the scenic city.

As you flip through the pages of this issue of CommonGround, take note of all the brand new initiatives that respond to the pulse of Chattanooga, and at the same time, keep us at the forefront of neighborhood revitalization efforts nation-wide!

Sincerely,

Administrator



CODES CONFERENCE PICKING UP STEAM...

The Codes division of the Neighborhood Services Department is responsible for enforcing rules that protect the health, safety and stability of our neighborhoods.

Codes inspectors work with property owners to ensure minimum housing standards are met, overgrown yards and lots are limited, illegal dumping and littering is avoided, junk vehicles are removed

and that trash and garbage bags are set in appropriate places.



Your Codes Enforcement Inspectors regularly canvass areas door-to-door and serve as advocates for protecting your

neighborhood. Inspectors respond to requests for investigation of alleged violations and follow through to help resolve the problem.

Ever wonder how this professional level of service is maintained? Conferences provide the training for inspectors to effectively provide services. **This years conference is scheduled for October 6-7 at the Choo-Choo. Call 425-3700 to register.**



"The 7th Annual Conference on Code Enforcement has become a Neighborhood Services trademark. Our training attracts codes officials from all over the country..." Steve Hargis, Deputy Administrator

Neighborhood Services impacts community, Partners with World Changers organization...

The Neighborhood Services Department is at it again! This summer, the department will once again host the World Changers organization here in Chattanooga.

World Changers is a service oriented

group that provides labor for service projects through youth volunteer participation.

To raise funds for materials, this year the NSD team is staging the first annual "Chattanooga Neighborhood Classic"

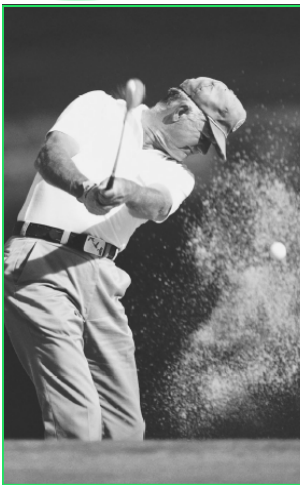
at the Brown Acres Golf Club on Friday, June 24.

With the additional support from the Chattanooga Neighborhood Classic, the NSD team is expecting a great set of projects.

If you would like to enter the golf



Youth volunteers participate in construction projects...



— F I R S T A N N U A L —

Chattanooga Neighborhood Classic

Brown Acres Golf Club • Friday, June 24, 2005

SPONSORS:

City of Chattanooga Neighborhood Services Department Front Porch Alliance Prebul Jeep	City of Chattanooga Parks, Recreation, Arts and Culture WNOO "Heritage Radio" AM1260
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**FOR DETAILS CALL
425-3700**

tournament, **please call 425-3700 for registration information, sponsorship information, and volunteer opportunities.** We look forward to seeing you out on the green and at projects sights all over Chattanooga.

C.N.A.C... Spring cleaning, Community meetings, Red Cross guest speaker to present...

By: Bob Graham, President

Many of our local neighborhood associations are busy planning for clean-up days in conjunction with Scenic Cities Beautiful Commission (SCBC) and the Great American Cleanup.

This is a great time to embrace the beauty of our City (in addition to dropping a few pounds gained during the holidays!) Call Jeanette Eigelsbach @ 757-0061 for assistance and to register your organization for participation. SCBC may be able to assist with bags,

gloves, and perhaps other resources. Call Jeanette.

Next month (May 23) we will have our CNAC meeting hosted at the Chattanooga Zoo. This should be a fun-filled event and we invite you to attend. Now that the mayoral race is finally over, our various neighborhood associations can again focus on improvements necessary to enhance their areas' quality of life.

This month's CNAC meeting will be Monday, April 25, which will be held at the Community Foundation, 1270

Market Street at 6 p.m. Bill Douglas, our local American Red



ARC speaker at NSD conference

Cross Chapter's Emergency Services Director, will present some ideas about disaster preparedness/homeland security on a neighborhood level that can make your family and your neighbors more safe.

Please try to attend. We look forward to seeing you!

For more information, please call CNAC president Bob Graham at 423-629-8827.

Upcoming Events

May:

- 5** District 1 District Wide Meeting John A. Patten Center 6:30 p.m.
- 18-19** Spay Mobile Animal Services 3204 Amnicola Hwy (appointment required)
- 23** Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council (CNAC) Monthly Meeting Warner Park Zoo 6:00p.m.
- 24** Shepherd Neighborhood Court, Shepherd Recreation Center, 2124 Shepherd Road 6:00p.m.
- 30** Memorial Day City Offices Closed

June:

- 22-23** Spay Mobile Animal Services 3204 Amnicola Hwy (Appointment Required)
- 24** Chattanooga Neighborhood Classic Golf Tournament Brown Acres Golf Course "A Fund Raiser for the World Changers Senior Home Repair Project" For More Info Call: 425-3700
- 27** Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council (CNAC) Monthly Meeting, Community Foundation, 1270 Market Street, 6:00 p.m.
- 28** Alton Park/Piney Woods Neighborhood Court South Chattanooga Recreation Complex, 1151 W. 40th Street, 6:00p.m.

Neighborhood Talk

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

Tuesday

JUNE!!!

Down in the Dumps,

(continued)

broader and longer-term view of things, though, there are specific dangers associated with illegal dumping and the resulting dump sites that neighborhood leaders can communicate and work to address. (

Any dump site documents our failure as a community to guard our homes and neighborhoods. This is not lost on opportunistic criminals, who watch for signs of neglect and deterioration as their invitation to

come into that area as a safe place for thugs to conduct their business where nobody's looking.

If you see illegal dumping, and are willing to testify against the dumper, it may be possible to earn a cash reward. The dangers of dumping, so long as they are borne by neighbors instead of by dumpers, are going to continue to be with us.

Thankfully, we have tools with which to work. "Reduce, re-

use, and recycle."

Call 311 to report suspected illegal dumping. If you witness illegal dumping taking place, call 698-2525 and report your observations to the Police Department. Try to identify persons and vehicles as specifically as possible. Be safe, and let's work together to clean up our City. What was the anti-littering campaign theme a few years ago - "...there's no lower class than Tennessee trash..." That's down in the dumps, indeed.

Dangers in the DUMP!

1. Tires and similar objects that hold water are mosquito breeding & hatching sites. With the arise of West Nile Virus and SARS, this is a critical environmental hazard.
2. Walking on or even near some dumpsites creates very significant falling hazards, including falling through or into broken glass, vermin feces, and urine.

City of Chattanooga
Neighborhood Services Department
1001 Lindsay Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402

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