

COMMON GROUND

A Newsletter Celebrating Neighborhoods

Mayor Littlefield on 2006: Nurturing the Neighborhoods

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By: Mayor Ron Littlefield

During the campaign for the Mayor's office, we talked a lot about "Nurturing the Neighborhoods" – and that's just what we plan to do.

The heart of this effort will be the staff and resources of the Department of Neighborhood Services. The department's administrator, Beverly Johnson, is a seasoned professional with a reputation for efficient organization and effective

execution of assigned tasks. She has utilized the Municipal Technical Advisory Service of the University of Tennessee to reorganize and fine tune her responsibilities. The stage is set for a much more successful operation. At the enforcement level, we have the complete backing of both City Judges. The separate environmental docket will be continued.

Neighborhoods are like living organisms with a wide variety of factors contributing to the overall health of the community. Accordingly, expect us to undertake a broad spectrum of large and small measures to "nurture the neighborhoods" rather than depending on one or two major projects. First, we will continue to encourage and support neighborhood organizations – they are the best way to

stay informed with all that government can offer. Second, we will address deteriorating influences – both physical and societal. Our code enforcement officers will be working in a new team structure which – we believe – will maintain clearer focus on the most essential issues and prevent details from falling through the cracks. Also, we will seek a closer working relationship with police personnel assigned to specific neighborhoods – with improved continuity so that new officers are not having to constantly relearn the details that are important and unique about their territories. Finally, we will be devoting more money to physical improvement of the public infrastructure – particularly to sidewalks.

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Letter from the Administrator



Dear Neighbor,
I would like to wish you a Happy New Year on behalf of the City's Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development.

In this month's edition of Common Ground, we will highlight the approved projects that neighborhood and community organizations have proposed under our Neighborhood Partners Program, formerly Neighborhood Grants. I am excited about the opportunities to strengthen the core of our great city,

the neighborhoods. We will also highlight the upcoming free income tax preparation program, which will begin this month.

I look forward to seeing you out in the neighborhood.

Sincerely,
Beverly P. Johnson, Administrator

On December 16th, the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development announced its 7th annual Neighborhood Partners (formerly grants) Program. Participants at the awards reception included: Mayor Ron Littlefield, Chief of Staff Dan Johnson, City Council members Linda Bennett, Jack Benson, Marti Rutherford, Manuel Rico, Leamon Pierce and Yusuf Hakeem, along with neighborhood organization representatives and city employees.

With assistance from Administrator Johnson and Program Manager Vanessa Jackson, City Council members presented 22 Neighborhood Partner awards to organizations in their respective council districts. Those projects are:

Council District 1

Lookout Valley Neighborhood Association
Project – Projector for community meetings.

Council District 2

Ashland Parc Neighborhood Association
Project – Beautification.

Council District 3

Murray Hills Neighborhood Assoc.
Project – Beautification.

Council District 4

Ashwood Homeowners Assoc.
Project – Beautification.

Georgetown Trace Neighborhood Association

Project – Beautification.

Willow Trace Homeowners Association
Project – Beautification.

Council District 6

Alta Vista Neighborhood Association
Project – Neighborhood directory.



Neighborhood leader, Jerry Evans, left, accepts the Neighborhood Partners Project award on behalf of the Belvoir Neighborhood Association from Councilwoman Rutherford, Administrator Johnson and Program Manager Vanessa Jackson.

Belvoir Neighborhood Association
Project – Bird watch trail and installation of bird boxes.

Hemphill Neighborhood Association
Project – Bird watch trail and installation of bird boxes.

Olde Town Brainerd Neighborhood Association
Project – Membership campaign and newsletter.

Council District 7

Clifton Hills Improvement League
Project – Youth development.

East Lake Neighborhood Association
Project – Beautification.

East Lake Senior Citizens
Project – Members Identification Program.

Council District 8

M. L. King Neighborhood Association
Project – Pictorial booklet.

Southside Historic District
Project – Youth development.

Council District 9

Bushtown Neighborhood Association
Project – Reading center expansion.

Churchville Neighborhood Association
Project – Community outreach drive.

Glass Farms Neighborhood Association
Project – Beautification.

Glenwood Neighborhood Association
Project – Membership campaign.

Highland Park Neighborhood Association
Project – Installation of reader board.

Missionary Ridge Neighborhood Association
Project – Beautification.

Second Missionary Services, Inc.
Project – Youth development.

Neighborhood Notes

News from Chattanooga's neighborhood groups

The **Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council (CNAC)** recently elected new officers for the upcoming two-year term. The new officers are: President, Charles Payne of the **Washington Hills Neighborhood Association**, Vice-President, Bob Graham of the **Missionary Ridge**

Neighborhood Association, Secretary, Lee Tripp of the **Cedar Hill Community Neighborhood Watch** and Treasurer, Jean Swafford of the **East Lake Neighborhood Association**.

The **Orchard Knob Neighborhood Watch**, with the assistance of Boy Scout Troop #43, stenciled and

painted address numbers on the curbs in front of residents' homes. The new address curb labels will enable emergency response agents to better locate homes in the case of an emergency.

The **Glenwood Neighborhood Association**, which advocates on behalf

of its neighborhood residents and encourages home preservation is holding a membership campaign. If you live in the Glenwood area and would like more information, please contact Neighborhood Services at (423) 425-3700.



January's Employee Profile features the Neighborhood Services and Community

Development Code Enforcement Inspector, Doris Cato-Parham.

Doris has been employed with the City of Chattanooga in this department for over seven years. Prior to her employment with the City, Doris worked as a Claims Litigation Specialist, focusing on Bodily Injury and Property Damage with Allstate Insurance.

Doris is a graduate of Spelman College in Atlanta, GA, where she majored in History. During her free time, Doris enjoys spending time with her husband James, and daughter Courtney. She also enjoys reading and being active in her church, Greater Tucker Baptist.

When asked about what she enjoys about her job, Doris states, "being able to remove people from a dangerous, uninhabitable environment to a more secure one."

Nurturing the Neighborhoods *continued from page 1*

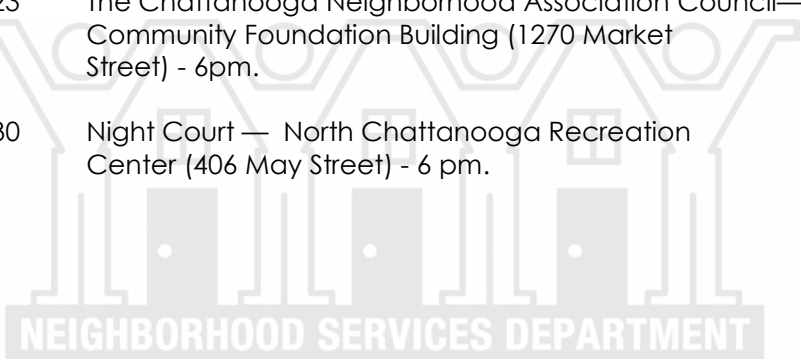
In the recently adopted capital budget, we have set aside more money than ever previously allocated for sidewalk construction. In addition, we are attempting to identify additional funds that might be shifted to make this undertaking even larger. The only negative factor influencing this effort is the unprecedented increase in materials cost due to the Katrina disaster affecting Southern Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Still, the overall positive effect of our efforts should be very observable and measurable.

We know that traffic speeding through neighborhoods is a major problem in some areas and the lack of public spaces for children and adults affects others. Accordingly, we will be doing more traffic calming where requested and appropriate plus many more programs involving recreation, parks and such.

Finally and simply, let me summarize by wishing everyone a Happy New Year with the absolute assurance that we are taking the necessary steps to make it happen in our neighborhoods.

Upcoming Events! January 2006:

- 9 Chattanooga Police Information Council — Diagnostic Center (2205 McCallie Avenue) - 6pm.
- 17 City of Chattanooga's Free Income Tax Preparation Sites open.
- 23 The Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council—Community Foundation Building (1270 Market Street) - 6pm.
- 30 Night Court — North Chattanooga Recreation Center (406 May Street) - 6 pm.



Neighborhood Talk

TUNE IN!!!

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

The City's Free Income Tax Preparation Program

Reminder:

The City of Chattanooga is partnering with the Urban League of Greater Chattanooga, the Internal Revenue Service and other local organizations to offer free income tax preparation to Chattanoogaans. Local volunteers serve as tax preparers to provide the electronic filing services to low- and moderate-wage earning citizens.

The City's free tax program features eight free sites across the Chattanooga area. Our mobile sites will serve as a

new addition to this year's services. The mobile sites will visit some of the major employers in Chattanooga, to assist our working citizens in e-filing their taxes at no cost.

All of our volunteer tax preparers receive training and certification for the federal income tax returns that they will complete through the Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program prior to filing federal income tax returns.

If you have questions about whether you qualify or would like to know more about our eight locations, please call the Urban League of Greater Chattanooga at (423) 756-1762.



If you have a neighborhood event that you would like to see highlighted in the Common Ground Newsletter, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development at (423) 425-3700.



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January 2006

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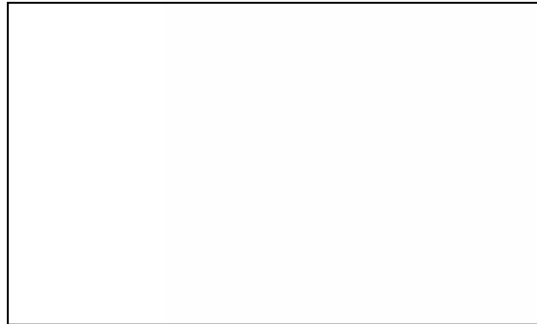
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CHATTANOOGA
311
ONE CALL TO CITY HALL