

COMMON GROUND

A Newsletter Celebrating Neighborhoods

Working With the Community:

Councilwoman Marti Rutherford, District 6

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The past 15 months have been extremely busy, and I am honored to have the privilege of representing District 6 again on the Chattanooga City Council.

My secret to success in District 6 is working

with the organized neighborhood associations; we are fortunate to have 15-20 associations in some form of development.

The leadership of these associations and I meet once a month and discuss issues with various city representatives. We have addressed issues from crime to zoning, to working with developers, and to trying to clean up areas within their neighborhoods.

The Chattanooga Police Department under the leadership of Captain Mike Williams has worked

diligently with individual citizens and me. We have addressed and hopefully solved nuisances generated by bars on Brainerd Road. The Police have met with the neighborhood associations and helped solve problems through legislation that the Council approved. The latest legislation passed pertains to prohibiting under age people going to "bars" unless accompanied by a parent or guardian; this legislation was first suggested by Captain Williams who knew of its success in

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Letter from the Administrator

Dear Neighbor,

I am especially excited to present this month's edition of Common Ground. In our featured article, City Council District 6 Representative Marti Rutherford highlights the efforts of neighborhood organizations and city employees working together to maintain Chattanooga's status as a national city of choice.

I would like to also thank the citizens, community agencies, and neighborhood organizations that partnered with the City on the various projects featured this month..

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



other cities.

Dickie Hutsell, Zoning Official, has had a daily impact on the neighborhoods in District 6. With the neighbors working through Dickie, we have had commercial vehicles removed from the residential areas, and with his guidance, the Council passed legislation to prohibit bigger trucks and commercial trailers from being parked in our neighborhoods. We have been able to enforce zoning issues with Dickie's help. Several locations which had been down zoned have lost the grandfather protection; Dickie has assisted the neighborhoods by making sure these properties are not used inappropriately.

The individuals within the neighborhoods probably have more contact with Ed Graham and his team than any other group at City Hall. From abandoned cars to knee high grass, the neighbors know that Ed will be on the scene and take violators to

court. In District 6, Ed and his team have truly made me look like a great Councilperson by taking care of the everyday issues that affect everyone.

The unsung heroes in our neighborhoods are the employees of Public Works. Public Works does such a good job that the neighbors take them for granted. Only when something does not go exactly as expected do the neighbors realize how important their services are to making our lives better. Steve Leach and Lee Norris are always available to help in the neighborhoods with concerns from potholes to coyotes.

The Regional Planning Agency and John Van Winkle, Traffic Engineer, have assisted neighborhoods with problems and addressed concerns when development has been proposed. We have had residential and commercial growth in District 6, and all of it has abutted existing homes. The problems have been many, but the professional staff has less-

ened the impact on the established neighbors.

District 6 is in the process of planning an art event, "Celebrate the Arts in Brainerd" for October 14th. The neighborhood representatives, Missy Crutchfield, Administrator of Arts and Culture, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, the Fire Department and Police Department are involved at various stages in bringing this event to fruition. The festival is an example of the neighborhoods and the City working together to make Chattanooga the best place to live, work and play.

The neighborhood associations are truly the basis of success in District 6, and I am proud of the involvement that the City Departments and I have with these groups.

Sincerely,
Marti Rutherford
City Council, District 6

Save the Dates: September 27 -29, 2006



The City of Chattanooga's Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development presents the 8th Annual Conference of Neighborhoods and Codes Enforcement Wednesday, September 27th through Friday, September 29th, 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.**"

Neighborhood Conference limited to 300 registrants

Codes Conference limited to 150 registrants

First come first serve basis - - Conference Brochure and Registration Form available soon

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

Volunteer Tax Preparer Appreciation Luncheon:

August 2006



Mayor Ron Littlefield and Joseph Kotsis of the IRS

In attendance at the reception were representatives from the City, Urban League, IRS, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, University Extension's Tennessee Saves, volunteers and other program stakeholders.

Mayor Ron Littlefield and Urban League President and CEO Warren Logan addressed

In addition to the \$2.2 million in federal tax refunds, volunteers assisted Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) eligible tax payers receive over \$700,000 in the refundable credit.

The overall site management from the staff of the Urban League of Greater Chattanooga, marketing assistance from local partners, and individual site management by volunteer site coordinators and tax preparers were key contributors to the success of this year's program.

The City of Chattanooga hosted the annual Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) reception along with partners Urban League of Greater Chattanooga and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in the 3rd Floor Atrium of Warehouse Row on July 20, 2006.

This reception, honoring the hard work of dedicated volunteers, celebrated the successful electronic filing of 2,213 federal income tax returns completed by our volunteers at nine free tax preparation sites. These returns successfully refunded over \$2.2 million to local taxpayers free of charge.

citizens most in need of free tax assistance.

Volunteers received training, certification, and technical assistance from the IRS to complete electronically filed returns for low-to moderate-income earning citizens..

Pictured (left to right) Joseph Kotsis (IRS), Warren Logan (Urban League), and June Puett (UT Extension)



How to Access Board of Zoning Appeals (Variance Board) Monthly Agenda on the web

1. Go to the City of Chattanooga website at: <http://www.chattanooga.gov/>
2. On the left side of the screen, find the **Departments** drop-down box.
3. On the drop down box, scroll down and click on **Public Works**.
4. On the Public Works page, click on the **Land Development Office** link located on the left sidebar.
5. Under the Land Development Office, click on **Zoning Services**.
6. On the Zoning Services page, click on the **Zoning Inspection Link** located on the center of the screen.
7. On the Zoning Inspection page, the **Board of Zoning Appeals Agenda** is the third link on the right sidebar.

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



World Changers 2006

August 2006

The City in partnership with Front Porch Alliance recently completed the 2006 World Changers home repair projects. These projects focused on assisting local low- to moderate- income elderly and disabled citizens complete home repair projects that otherwise may not be possible.

Thanks to financial assistance from Community Development Block Grant funding, Front Porch Alliance, Office of Faith-Based Initiatives, other stakeholders, 350 volunteer builders and



World Changers recipient and volunteers

teens from all over the country completed home repair projects for 35 properties in Chattanooga.

Completed repair projects included: roof repair and/ or re-

placement, handicapped accessible ramp and porch repair and/ or construction, painting, interior structural repairs, and accessory structure demolition.

Local churches and neighborhood organizations provided food and lodging for the volunteer workers.

World Changers is a ministry-initiative of the North American Board of the Southern Baptist Association, based in Alpharetta, GA.



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



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.

Property Transformation

August 2006



Before: 7647 Austin Drive

This property located at 7647 Austin Drive is another example property owners working with the City's Department of

Neighborhood Services and Community Development to correct compliance issues as outlined in the City Code.

Codes Enforcement Inspectors assessed the condition of this structure and found several codes violations. Primarily, the violations centered around the damage and deterioration of the structure.

The property owners brought those violations into compliance and the end re-

sult of their corrective efforts not only brought the house into compliance, but also made the property more attractive.

After: 7647 Austin Drive



CDBG Funding in Action: James A. Henry YMCA Playground



James A. Henry YMCA

This location is the site for a new playground to be installed

during August 2006 at the James A. Henry YMCA at Eastgate Town Center.

This project is made possible by Community Development Block Grant funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and

Community Development in the amount \$25,000.

The original playground

located at the same site was in need of serious. The playground will be used by children attending the Henry YMCA preschool program, most of whom are from low to moderate income families. Several different types of playground were considered, but the colorful metal and plastic variety was chosen. It will also feature a plastic barrier around the perimeter to contain a pea gravel surface area.

Neighborhood Notes

News from Chattanooga's neighborhood groups

The **Molly's Meadow Neighborhood Watch**, **Manchester Park and Kesington Forrest Neighborhood Associations** recently held "National Night Out" events in their neighborhoods. National Night Out is a unique crime / drug prevention event sponsored by the **National Association of Town Watch** designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support and participation for local anti-crime programming, strengthen neighborhood spirit and partnerships with the police, and send a

message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and



Molly's Meadow Neighborhood Watch

fighting back.

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.,

and **Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.** have partnered with the **28th Legislative Community Development Corporation (CDC)** to sponsor the Fourth Annual Hamilton County Minority Health Fair, "Empowering and Educating Minorities to Close the Health Gap." This **FREE** event will be held on **Saturday, August 19, 2006** from **9 AM** until **2 PM** at the **Eastgate Town Center**. There will also be a 1-Mile Fun Walk starting at 7:30 AM. To pre-register for the health fair, please call **(423) 778-LINK (5465)** between the hours of 8 AM – 8 PM.

Neighborhood Services and Community Development Deputy Administrator: Anthony Sammons

August 2006



Anthony (Tony) Sammons joined the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development as Deputy Administrator June 26, 2006.

Prior to joining the City and this department, Tony was Assistant Vice President and Branch Manager for AmSouth Bank for seven (7) years.

Prior to joining AmSouth he was a Branch Manager and Bank Analyst for SunTrust Bank for approximately 18 years.

Tony views his move from the private to public sector as an ideal shift, in that he is a people person and enjoys being of service to others. He also realizes the importance of identifying issues facing the community and the greater importance of finding solutions to those issues.

Tony is a graduate of Tennessee State University, where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, with an emphasis on Economics.

Tony enjoys working on projects that involve him working hand-

in-hand with the community. As a native Chattanooga, he cites being able to give back to the community that he grew up in as a major motivator in his life. He is also a music-lover, with his favorites being gospel, jazz, and the instrumental fusion of both.

Tony and his wife Muriel are the proud parents of a daughter and two sons.

His community involvement includes serving as Vice-Chairman/Treasurer of the 28th Community Development Corporation, Financial Advisory Board Member of Koinonia Federal Credit Union and a Board Member of Chattanooga Human Services Department.

Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) Funding Opportunity

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) announced an exciting new opportunity to assist community groups and local governments beautify their communities. These groups can apply to receive grants for landscaping and beautification projects along state highways and interstates.

Civic and neighborhood groups such as garden clubs, chambers of commerce and development organizations demonstrating a partnership with their local governments will also be eligible to submit applications.

The Tennessee Roadscapes Grants will be awarded by TDOT on an 80:20 cost-share basis. TDOT will fund 80 percent of the cost of a project with the grant recipient contributing the remaining 20 percent. The minimum grant award is \$10,000. The deadline for submitting applications to TDOT is September 1, 2006.

Qualifying categories for grant applications include:

- Community gateways and entry corridors
- Interstate and highway interchanges
- Highway crossroads
- Scenic vistas and overlooks
- Points of interest (e.g., historic sites, park entrances)
- Exotic/Invasive plant removal
- Native plant restoration
- View shed/landscape enhancement
- Stream bank/wetland restoration

Please visit the TDOT website at www.tennessee.gov/tdot/roadscapes for grant application materials or other general information. Grant applications will be reviewed by TDOT and a statewide advisory council.



**Anjenet Brown
Codes Enforcement Inspector
Department of Neighborhood Services and
Community Development**

Anjenet (Anje) Brown is the newest addition to the Department of Neighborhood Services and Community Development. Originally from Alpharetta, GA, Anje (pronounced like Angie) has lived in Chattanooga for the past seven years. Prior to joining the City's Neighborhood Services, she worked as a Service Relationship Specialist in Group Billing at UnumProvident.

Anje is a 1999 graduate of Lee University where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, cooking, and being outdoors. She and her husband Victor have five cats and one dog.

Anje's lists working outside the office and the many diverse scenarios she faces in the field on a daily basis as her favorite details of her job.

One thing that most people do not know about Anje is that she has five tattoos of Celtic designs in honor of her Irish heritage.

NEIGHBORHOOD TALK

Tuesday Mornings, 9:00-9:30am
WN00, 1260AM — Heritage Radio

TUNE IN!!!

Upcoming Events!

August 2006:

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

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

18—The EAC (Education, Arts and Culture) Way

Location: Tivoli Theater
709 Broad Street
Time: 7:00 PM

28—Chattanooga Neighborhood Association Council Meeting

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

30—Court Watch

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

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT