

## CONCLUSIONS

Neighborhoods are defined by much more than the boundaries that shape their geographical footprint. They are mostly defined by the appreciation shared among their residents for the physical characteristics of their surroundings, the friendliness and genuine concern expressed by their neighbors, and the opportunities that are presented for neighbors to interact with one another. Indeed, sometimes the larger the geographical footprint, the more effort it takes to develop a strong neighborhood feel – perhaps more difficult, but not impossible.

**Challenges** - Long before the COVID-19 pandemic, neighborhoods faced many other formidable challenges related to cultivating neighbor engagement. The results of this study support the conclusion that many of those challenges still exist today, including busy work schedules, age diversity, family-life commitments, and turnover that exists among modern day neighborhood residents. Lack of interest in neighborhood activities is closely related to lack of understanding of the *importance* of participation in such activities. Greater emphasis should be placed on offering a greater number of simpler and diverse activities, rather than trying to create larger “*one size fits all*” activities that often miss the mark for so many reasons and contribute to the frustration of event planners. Well-communicated stories about the successes of many simpler projects can lead to a momentum shift and greater overall participation in neighborhood projects and activities.

**Neighborhood Groups** – Currently, there are 110 officially recognized neighborhood groups in Knoxville, including 53 neighborhood associations, 26 homeowners’ associations, 24 neighborhood watch groups, and 7 other neighborhood interest groups. Some of these groups are more active than others. The results of this study support the conclusion that it is not uncommon for residents to be unaware that an organized neighborhood association exists within their neighborhood. And, if they are aware, many do not understand its mission or purpose. Often, they are unaware of the differences between *neighborhood* associations and *homeowners’* associations. Successful recruitment of new “members” is often used as a measure of success for neighborhood organizations. Indeed, increased membership is a good “process” measurement, but the more important measures are related to “outcomes”. How are the members becoming engaged? What are they doing? The best way for neighbors to understand the purpose and value of their organization is to seek their input, consider their ideas, share success stories reported by other groups, and customize them for your neighborhood. **Nearly 60 successful Knoxville neighborhood projects and events are described beginning on page 7 of this report.**

**Communication** – One of the most effective ways to describe the purpose of a neighborhood group is to share information about its successes, both *process* and *outcome* with emphasis on the latter. The results of this study support the conclusion that person-to-person, or these days *mask-to-mask*, is the most effective way to communicate. Social media, newsletters, and group emails, however, top the list for targeted mass distribution of information to neighbors. These methods overcome some of the challenges posed by busy work schedules and family-life commitments. Neighbors can receive information and become inspired when it is convenient for them. Short informative articles posted on social media with images and links to videos and other informative pages make it extremely easy for neighbors “on the go” to become engaged. Engagement may include providing comments and helpful suggestions, or it may involve actual participation in activities. Even if some of us may be reluctant to embrace social media for many different reasons, its effectiveness in reaching neighbors cannot be denied. Identifying residents who will serve as volunteer neighborhood social media coordinators could be one of the best strategic moves any neighborhood can make.

**Collaboration** – Community Television of Knoxville (CTV) is *ALL Ways* ready to support neighborhoods striving to cultivate enhanced engagement among their neighbors. We can teach motivated neighbors how to use their cell phones to easily create informative and inspirational videos that can be shared with neighbors using social media and cable TV. We can show neighbors how to improve communication, increase participation, and raise unrestricted funding for their neighborhood projects the *easy* and *COVID-safe* way through their participation in the **2021 CTV Neighborhood Treasure Hunt currently underway** by visiting [ctvknox.org/hunt](http://ctvknox.org/hunt). We can show neighborhood groups how to upload news and information about their projects and activities on our community engagement calendar which airs on cable TV and the Internet between regularly scheduled programs throughout the day. We can facilitate capacity-building workshops to help neighborhood leaders communicate and work more effectively as team members to achieve their project and fundraising goals. Contact [Kevin@ctvknox.org](mailto:Kevin@ctvknox.org) for details.

Dear Neighbor,

The fact you are reading this report suggests you are a leader in your neighborhood, whether by *title* or demonstrated *initiative*. I hope you will read and discuss this report with others who, like you, are looking for ways to increase engagement among your neighbors. Please pay particular attention to the nearly 60 successful neighborhood projects & activities described at the end of the report. If you would like to share similar descriptions of successful projects & activities in *your* neighborhood, please send them to [kevin@ctvknox.org](mailto:kevin@ctvknox.org). We will be happy to add them to our collection and share them with others!

**INVITATION . . .** During the 4-month period from November 2020 through February 2021, all Knoxville neighborhoods were invited to participate in a focus group study designed and facilitated by Community Television of Knoxville (CTV). Multiple invitations were sent to neighborhood leaders representing more than 60 established neighborhood groups. Several different public announcements were produced and aired extensively on CTV to promote the study. Follow-up phone calls and direct posts to neighborhood Facebook pages and other social media were also made.

**CHALLENGES . . .** Because of the impact of COVID-19 on our community, the study was conducted using the Zoom platform. With so many community residents spending so much time at home due to COVID restrictions, it was thought that using this method might make it simple to recruit participants. It wasn't as simple as it appeared. It took enormous effort to overcome the inertia that seemed to exist. No doubt, this was in part due to some hesitation on the part of some to use Zoom and uncertainty among others related to how the results would be used.

**PARTICIPANTS . . .** Forty-seven (47) neighborhood residents representing ten (10) different neighborhoods contributed to the study. Neighborhood residents included: Alan Cheatham, Amy Hathaway, Andrew Hale, Anna Kern, Anne Crais, Betty Mahan, Chris Griffin, Chris Hauck, Dale Grubbs, Danielle Estey, Danny Bryant, David Bolt, David Lee, Debbie Mallard, Doug Toppenberg, Drew Jeske-Polyak, Eric Johnson, Gayle Atherton, Gene Burr, Janice Tocher, Jeanette Cox, Jeffery Johnson, Jim Malia, Joy Guilford, Kathryn Smith Vinson, Kathy Scruggs, Kevin Jeske-Polyak, Kyle Allen, Laura Stone, Lee Hume, Libby Fisher, Mary Bryant, Matt Rosenberg, Nick Della Volpe, Ralph Harvey, Ralph Siglin, Sam Crockett, Sandra Korbelik, Sandy Robinson, Sharon Davis, Shawn Mauer, Susan Huskisson, Susie Smith, Sylvia Woods, Thomas Cegan, Tina Sparks, and Toni Hass. Neighborhood groups included: Forest Heights, Fourth & Gill, Inskip, Old North Knoxville, South Haven, South Woodlawn, Southside Waterfront, West Hills/Wesley, Town Hall East, and Vestal.

**METHODOLOGY . . .** During each of the 45-minute Zoom sessions, participants responded to two online polls and two sets of structured questions. When each of the two sets of structured questions were presented, participants were instructed to mute their microphones and respond to each question using the chat box feature of Zoom. This allowed everyone to respond at the same time and allowed no one to disproportionately "dominate" the discussion. All chat box responses were delivered directly to the facilitator, not to the entire group. This method also allowed multiple participants to offer similar responses which enhanced the validity of the summarized results. To promote engagement, provide reinforcement, and trigger additional responses, some of the contributed responses were shared with the group as the session moved along. At certain points during and after each of the two structured question portions of the session, participants were invited to unmute their microphones to add, modify, or provide additional comments related to the responses.

- The **introduction** provided an opportunity to welcome the participants and share the objectives of the study: to learn from one another, to energize and form new relationships, and to determine some of the best ways for CTV to help neighborhood groups inspire neighbors to become more engaged.
- The **first poll**, launched at the beginning of the session, surveyed the participants' assessments of:
  1. their current level of enjoyment living in their neighborhood
  2. the effectiveness of communication in their neighborhood
  3. the level of participation among neighbors in their neighborhood
  4. their level of interest in finding ways to improve teamwork & engagement
  5. their level of interest in finding ways to raise money to support neighborhood projects
  6. their level of enthusiasm related to planning & executing neighborhood projects

- The **first set of questions** explored the following topics:
  1. specific things the participants enjoy the most about living in their neighborhood
  2. specific things they don't particularly enjoy about living in their neighborhood
  3. the most effective ways news & information is shared in their neighborhood
  4. significant obstacles they have faced in trying to increase neighbor engagement
  5. successful projects and/or events their neighborhood has implemented in the past
  6. the 2 or 3 most important current priorities in their neighborhood
  7. some creative neighborhood project ideas they wish could be funded in the future
  
- The **second set of questions** explored the following topics:
  1. how the participants receive information they need about decisions made by local government
  2. the cable service provider options that are available in their neighborhood
  3. their awareness that people are replacing cable TV with other video streaming services
  4. their knowledge of some of the video streaming services neighbors have switched to
  5. their knowledge about the purpose (mission) of Community Television of Knoxville
  6. the kinds of TV programs they may have seen on Community Television of Knoxville
  
- The **final poll**, launched just before the wrap-up, surveyed participant awareness that:
  1. CTV reaches more than 100,000 cable subscribers in Knoxville
  2. CTV seeks to share the life experience & diverse culture of ALL community residents
  3. CTV can help raise funds for neighborhood projects in many ways
  4. CTV seeks to promote neighborhoods & neighborhood groups
  5. CTV provides gavel to gavel coverage of important local government meetings
  6. CTV provides an archived collection of all programs viewable anytime at archive.org
  7. CTV lends equipment to community residents to create videos
  8. CTV teaches community residents how to use cameras & cell phones to create videos
  9. CTV can be watched without cable via live internet stream at ctvKnox.org
  10. CTV provides free team-building workshops for neighborhood groups and nonprofits
  
- The **wrap-up** provided an opportunity to reassure the participants they should not be disappointed if they felt they did not "learn" very much during the 45-minute session. They were reminded that the most "learning" will occur *after* the shared experience and information from several neighborhood groups is combined, summarized, distributed, and thoughtfully considered. The participants were also informed that CTV would be following up to request additional details pertaining to some of the specific projects and activities that were mentioned. Much of this additional information has been included in this report.

**RESULTS . . .** Results from all 5 parts of the study are presented below in the order they occurred – (1) first poll, (2) first set of questions, (3) second set of questions, (4) final poll, and (5) follow-up inquiries.

**RESULTS: Part 1 – First Poll** (N = 42)

**90%** of the respondents reported a high or very high level of enjoyment living in their neighborhood. **50%** of the respondents assessed the effectiveness of communication in their neighborhood as high or very high. **76%** of the respondents reported a moderate, low, or very low level of participation among neighbors. **95%** of the respondents expressed a moderate, high, or very high level of interest in finding ways to improve teamwork & engagement. **81%** of the respondents expressed a moderate, high, or very high level of interest in finding ways to raise money to support neighborhood projects. **74%** of the respondents expressed a high or very high level of enthusiasm related to planning & executing neighborhood projects.

- A. My current level of enjoyment living in my neighborhood is:
 

Very High <b>50%</b>	High <b>40%</b>	Moderate <b>8%</b>	Low <b>2%</b>	Very Low <b>0</b>
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- B. The effectiveness of communication in my neighborhood is:
 

Very High <b>21%</b>	High <b>29%</b>	Moderate <b>31%</b>	Low <b>19%</b>	Very Low <b>0</b>
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- C. The level of participation among neighbors in my neighborhood is:  
 Very High **0**    High **24%**    Moderate **33%**    Low **33%**    Very Low **10%**
- D. My level of interest in finding ways to improve teamwork & engagement is:  
 Very High **31%**    High **31%**    Moderate **33%**    Low **5%**    Very Low **0**
- E. My level of interest in finding ways to raise money to support neighborhood projects is:  
 Very High **7%**    High **31%**    Moderate **43%**    Low **19%**    Very Low **0**
- F. My level of enthusiasm related to planning & executing neighborhood projects is:  
 Very High **38%**    High **36%**    Moderate **17%**    Low **9%**    Very Low **0**

## RESULTS: Part 2 – First Set of Questions

1. What are some of the things you **enjoy most** about living in your neighborhood?

Responses generally fell into 6 categories, including the **neighbors, accessibility, character, engagement, activities, and attitudes**.

Most frequent responses included: **friendly neighbors, access to shopping, genuine concern of neighbors, access to sidewalks, natural beauty, board engagement, neighbors knowing each other, access to downtown events, access to greenways, outdoor activities, demographic diversity, concern about the future, and security**.

Other responses included: **access to local schools, access to parks, dog walking activity, historical feel, urban feel, quietness, access to churches, porch visiting, tolerance, holiday celebrations, and kids playing together**.

2. Please share any of the things you **don't particularly enjoy** about living in your neighborhood?

Responses generally fell into 7 categories, including **roads, engagement, traffic, security, attitudes, neglect, and development**.

Most frequent responses included: **lack of sidewalks, lack of involvement, speeding traffic, homeless population, too much traffic, nonacceptance (discrimination), homeowner property maintenance, traffic noise, parking issues, narrow roads, and petty crime**.

Other responses included: **overbearing political expression, information retention, apartment property maintenance, apparent city disinterest, road repairs, fatalistic problem-solving attitudes, too many apartments, old leadership, lack of gathering places, and problem houses (drugs, etc.)**.

3. What have you found to be some of the most effective ways to **share news and information** in your neighborhood?

Most frequent responses included: **person-to-person, Facebook, newsletters, group emails, individual emails, flyers, Next Door App, signage, and websites**.

Other responses included: **bulletin boards, door knocking, regular mail, meetings, social events, telephone, text messaging, posters, local businesses, neighborhood directories, newspaper, school communications, and local television**.

4. What are some of the **significant obstacles** you have faced in trying to increase **participation or engagement** among your neighbors?

Responses generally fell into 4 categories, including **time, engagement, diversity, and communication**.

Most frequent responses included: **too busy, apathy, demographic diversity including age, COVID concerns, getting the message out, other life/family responsibilities, understanding importance of neighborhood organization, resident turnover, and competing work schedule**.

Other responses included: [converting interest to action, schedule timing conflicts, apparent city disinterest, information retention, desperate situations, language barrier, large geographic area, disagreement on issues, generating enthusiasm, and overcoming inertia.](#)

5. What are some of the most **successful projects and/or events** your neighborhood has implemented in the past?

Responses generally fell into 3 categories, including [events, improvements, and solutions.](#)

Most frequent responses included: [holiday/seasonal gatherings, neighborhood clean-ups, candidate forums, home tours, regular social events, park upgrades, engagement with local schools, camp fire events, delivered meals, live entertainment events, movie nights, porch hops, wildlife certification, engagement with public officials, and successful rezoning.](#)

Other responses included: [food truck events, healthy neighbor projects, holiday decoration contests, ice cream socials, marathon cheering, neighborhood suppers, neighborhood workshops, outdoor classrooms, picnics, pool parties, tailgate events, welcome parties, anti-litter signs, bike racks, bike repair stations, butterfly habitats, dog walk amenities, lending libraries, sidewalk construction, blighted properties, collaboration with funders, information kiosks, neighborhood signs/banners, neighborhood videos, neighborhood websites, speed humps, stop signs, and traffic studies.](#)

6. What would you say are the 2 or 3 most important **current priorities** in your neighborhood?

Responses generally fell into 5 categories, including [improvements, engagement, leadership, solutions, and events.](#)

Most frequent responses included: [traffic calming, more sidewalks, park upgrades, community involvement, inclusivity, increased membership, capacity building and neighborhood communication.](#)

Other responses included: [being more inviting, getting to know more neighbors, welcoming owners and renters, city road repairs, clearing vegetation, neighborhood signs, leadership development, COVID safety, homelessness, fundraising, creative events, recreation opportunities, block parties, bus shelter, economic opportunities, crime reduction, homeowner property maintenance, and litter control.](#)

7. What are some of the creative **neighborhood project ideas** you wish could be funded in the future?

Most frequent responses included: [community garden, landscaping, park/playground upgrades, sidewalks, traffic calming, bike routes, community centers, neighborhood signs, and road improvements.](#)

Other responses included: [art installations, commercial development, dog parks, fire pits, school support, anti-litter signs, art wraps, bus connection, career resource center, charitable contributions, cleanups, cottage meetings, drainage improvements, festivals, healthy neighbor initiatives, Internet speed, kayak put in/launch, live entertainment, movie nights, neighborhood banners, neighborhood T-shirts, outdoor recreational equipment, seasonal decorations, street lighting, and swimming pools.](#)

### **RESULTS: Part 3 - Second Set of Questions**

1. How do you currently receive most of the information you need about decisions being made by **your local government**?

Most frequent responses included: [city meetings, informed neighbors, News-Sentinel knoxnews.com, emails, local TV, city council rep, CompassKnox.com, Facebook, Office of Neighborhood Empowerment, and Twitter.](#)

Other responses included: [county commission rep, county meetings, neighborhood newsletter, radio, Community Television of Knoxville, InsideofKnoxville.com, Knoxville Focus knoxfocus.com, Neighborhood Advisory Council, and Next Door App.](#)

2. Which **cable service provider** options are available in your neighborhood?

Most frequent responses included: Comcast/Xfinity, AT&T, and WOW!

3. Are you aware that many people are replacing their **cable TV subscriptions** with other video streaming services? Do you know why?

Most frequent responses included: cost, choice, and quality.

Other responses included: convenience, customer service, and reliability.

4. What are some of the **video streaming services** you have heard they have switched to?

Most frequent responses included: Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, YouTube TV, Disney Plus, Roku, Sling TV, HBO Max, and Peacock.

Other responses included: Apple TV+, Discovery, Acorn TV, BritBox, CBS All Access, Direct TV, Now, Kanopy, and Tubi TV.

5. What do you know about the **purpose (mission)** of Community Television of Knoxville?

Most frequent responses included: government meetings, valuable information, government transparency, local community shows, neighborhood engagement, community happenings, community news, non-commercial broadcasting, and serve the public.

Other responses included: free speech on cable TV, nonprofit information, fundraising, and school information.

6. What **kinds of TV programs** have you ever seen on Community Television of Knoxville?

Most frequent responses included: city government meetings, county government meetings, locally produced shows, and school board meetings.

Other responses included: community calendar, community interviews, emergency briefings, fundraising auctions, and tutoring sessions.

### RESULTS: Part 4 – Final Poll (N = 43)

**63%** of the respondents did NOT know CTV reaches more than 100,000 cable subscribers in Knoxville. **51%** of the respondents did NOT know CTV seeks to share the life experience & diverse culture of ALL community residents. **74%** of the respondents did NOT know CTV can help raise funds for neighborhood projects in many ways. **42%** of the respondents did NOT know CTV seeks to promote neighborhoods & neighborhood groups. **79%** of the respondents were aware that CTV provides gavel to gavel coverage of important local government meetings. **72%** of the respondents were NOT aware that CTV provides an archived collection of all programs viewable anytime at archive.org. **58%** of the respondents did NOT know CTV lends equipment to community residents to create video. **65%** of the respondents did NOT know CTV teaches community residents how to use cameras & cell phones to create videos. **56%** of the respondents did NOT know CTV can be watched without cable via live internet stream at ctvKnox.org. **91%** of the respondents did NOT know CTV provides free team-building workshops for neighborhood groups and nonprofits.

- A. CTV reaches more than 100,000 cable subscribers in Knoxville  
Yes **37%** No **63%**
- B. CTV seeks to share the life experience & diverse culture of ALL community residents  
Yes **49%** No **51%**
- C. CTV can help raise funds for neighborhood projects in many ways  
Yes **26%** No **74%**

- D. CTV seeks to promote neighborhoods & neighborhood groups  
Yes **58%** No **42%**
- E. CTV provides gavel to gavel coverage of important local government meetings  
Yes **79%** No **21%**
- F. CTV provides an archived collection of all programs viewable anytime at [archive.org](http://archive.org)  
Yes **28%** No **72%**
- G. CTV lends equipment to community residents to create videos  
Yes **42%** No **58%**
- H. CTV teaches community residents how to use cameras & cell phones to create videos  
Yes **35%** No **65%**
- I. CTV can be watched without cable via live internet stream at [ctvKnox.org](http://ctvKnox.org)  
Yes **44%** No **56%**
- J. CTV provides free team-building workshops for neighborhood groups and nonprofits  
Yes **9%** No **91%**

## RESULTS: Part 5 – Follow-up Inquiries

Following each of the focus group sessions, CTV followed up with the participating neighborhood groups to find out more details about several of the successful projects and activities that were mentioned. Information gleaned during that follow-up is presented below, along with appropriate contact information if further information or possible collaboration is desired. Listed in no particular order, this is a virtual treasure trove of ideas that may be of interest to your neighborhood organization.

1. **Fire Pit Street Social . . .** In place of the annual Home Holiday Tour in 2020, the Forest Heights Neighborhood organized a Fire Pit Street Social event with neighbors hosting fire pits throughout the neighborhood while encouraging wearing face coverings and physical distancing with smaller gatherings throughout the neighborhood. Neighbors felt this was a safe way to visit with others who were not self-isolating due to COVID. Neighborhood leadership coordinated the hosts and provided guidelines for hosts to follow to help reduce the spread of COVID. Neighbors commented that they really enjoyed this event and would like to continue the event every year regardless of COVID. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [amymhathaway@gmail.com](mailto:amymhathaway@gmail.com)
2. **Safety Response Team . . .** Before COVID-19 ever became a concern, the Southside Waterfront Neighborhood organized a volunteer Safety Response Team at CityView at Riverwalk. A team of 12 resident neighbors who are health and organizational development professionals volunteered to form a committee and a project plan. Subsequently, they were trained by the Knoxville Fire Department on the safety features of the building and what the plan should look like. Important resident emergency contact information and special needs were identified, along with pet census information. Later, emergency evacuation routes were identified for each of the 5 floors, signage was posted, and customized evacuation maps were printed and distributed to each unit. Each floor now has at least two safety team members who will assist in an emergency. Pet stickers have been placed on the outside of residents' doors if they have identified themselves as pet owners. The team is currently exploring ways to mentor neighbors at 303 Flats to assist them in forming a similar team. They are also discussing protocols for responding to other types of potential emergencies. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [editor@southsidewaterfront.org](mailto:editor@southsidewaterfront.org)
3. **Candidate Forum . . .** The Town Hall East neighborhood has been hosting pre-election candidate forums since before the mid-1970s. Recently, they invited mayoral and City Council candidates to separate candidate forums. Another forum was provided for the primary candidates for Districts 4 and 6. Each forum featured 3-minute statements from each of the candidates, followed by answers to three previously submitted East Knoxville specific questions, concluding with a selection of questions submitted in writing from the audience and curated by two neighborhood association members. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [Townhalleast@gmail.com](mailto:Townhalleast@gmail.com)

4. **Victorian Holiday Home Tour . . .** Decorating for the holidays is a long-standing tradition in the Old North Knoxville Neighborhood. For more than 30 years the neighborhood has hosted their Victorian Holiday Home Tour. Opening a select number of homes each year, they invite the wider community to tour not only these homes but their entire neighborhood. They have actually acquired many new neighbors as a result of these tours. Prizes for outdoor decorations are offered to set the mood for the tour in both, the lighted and traditional categories. The event is always hosted the first full weekend of December. Neighbors and volunteers for the event are invited to tour Friday evening just prior to a party hosted in the neighborhood. Saturday and Sunday tours are for guests from all over who have purchased tickets. This festive event raises money for the neighborhood through ticket sales, calendar ads, as well as souvenir ornament sales. The money raised is used to support Mobile Meals, local schools, and so much more in the community. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [thesmith3@aol.com](mailto:thesmith3@aol.com)
5. **Second Monday Social . . .** For many years, the Southside Waterfront Neighborhood has held a regular bi-monthly "Second Monday" social event. As the name suggests, the one-hour social gathering has occurred on the second Monday in the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November. On each occasion, an average number of 30 neighbors have come together to enjoy great food and fun music, rekindle relationships, form new friendships, and win some wonderful door prizes! Prior to COVID-19, these events were held in the CityView Club Room. They always started at 6:30 pm and ended promptly at 7:30 pm with door prizes awarded at the "top of the hour" (7 pm). The timing was always precise to encourage attendance and respect everyone's busy schedule. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [editor@southsidewaterfront.org](mailto:editor@southsidewaterfront.org)
6. **Wildlife Habitat Certification . . .** In 2013, the South Woodlawn Neighborhood received certification from the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) as the first Community Wildlife Habitat in the state of Tennessee. The NWF program provides national recognition to neighborhoods and communities that are striving to protect water resources, preserve green landscapes, restore wildlife habitats and thus improve the overall quality of life for residents. The program typically takes two years or more to complete, however the neighborhood was able to complete the process in just 18 months. Neighbors felt this project would be an excellent way to meet and become more connected to each other and the environment around them. It also helped to promote and enhance the image of South Knoxville as an emerging center of "urban wilderness" and outdoor recreation. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [info@swana-knox.org](mailto:info@swana-knox.org)
7. **Movie Night . . .** The West Hills/Wesley Neighborhood has been holding movie nights in the driveway of a neighbor at the end of the school year when school has been in session. A DVD player and speakers are set up near a white garage door so the movie can be seen easily. Movies are selected that have broad appeal to all ages and neighbors are asked to bring "healthy" food to share. This has been a huge success as folks arrive early, bring folding chairs and enjoy visiting before the movie. Young singers and instrumentalists from the area sometimes entertain the crowd until it is dark enough to start the movie. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [anneccrais@gmail.com](mailto:anneccrais@gmail.com)
8. **Neighborhood Butterfly Habitat . . .** Inspired by the neighbors with a shared appreciation for the unique ecosystem of the Tennessee River and its surroundings, the Southside Waterfront Neighborhood Butterfly Habitat project was funded through the City's 2019 Neighborhood Small Grants Program. Neighbors worked together to plan and construct six beautiful butterfly-friendly raised garden beds adjacent to the Riverwalk which runs through the neighborhood. Today, neighbors continue to help with bed preparation, planting, fertilizing, mulching, watering, weeding, pruning, harvesting seeds, making cuttings, and winterizing the plants. One of the core engagement principles of the project has been to encourage the participation of more than one neighbor whenever possible, to perform tasks that might otherwise be performed by a single neighbor. Quarterly butterfly-themed social events ("*Butterfly Egg Social*", "*Butterfly Caterpillar Social*", "*Butterfly Chrysalis Social*", and "*Butterfly Adult Social*") are held to generate wider interest and sustain ongoing participation in the project. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [editor@southsidewaterfront.org](mailto:editor@southsidewaterfront.org)



9. **Neighborhood Clean-ups . . .** The Vestal Neighborhood is always interested in forming collaborations with other partners to participate in neighborhood clean-ups. The Goose Creek cleanups have been consistently successful especially with the support of volunteers available through the Sustainable Future Center and Beautification Board. The neighborhood often receives calls from groups interested in clean-up events and have partnered with CAC AmeriCorps Volunteers and groups of incoming UT freshmen. They also enjoy an awesome relationship with Keep Knoxville Beautiful and frequently receive calls for help to provide supervision for groups wanting to coordinate clean ups. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [ericzjknox@gmail.com](mailto:ericzjknox@gmail.com)
10. **Porch Hops . . .** A group of neighbors in the Old North Knoxville Neighborhood coordinate an annual staggered "porch hop" where neighbors move from porch to porch, usually 3-4 homes, during one evening in the fall. Each porch provides snacks and drinks for those who come. The hosts on the earlier part of this evening event offer activities geared for the kiddos from finger foods to chalk, bubbles, and sprinklers. The evening usually ends with adults enjoying fire pits and delicious desserts at the final home. The neighborhood association usually sets aside funds for each participating porch on the Porch Hop. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [thesmith3@aol.com](mailto:thesmith3@aol.com)
11. **Bike Repair Stations . . .** In recent years, there has been a great increase in cycling activity by children and adults in South Knoxville. The South Woodlawn Neighborhood encourages participation in this healthy outdoor activity and wanted to add a nice amenity for Sam Duff Memorial Park. So, the neighborhood installed a bike repair station in the park. Since then, another has been installed at Baker Creek Preserve. The bike repair stations are a useful and educational addition to the neighborhood. They offer residents and visitors easy access to tools needed for minor adjustments and repairs. Both stations were purchased from Kickstand – an all-volunteer community bike shop. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [info@swana-knox.org](mailto:info@swana-knox.org)
12. **Neighborhood Clean-ups . . .** The Forest Heights Neighborhood organizes neighborhood clean-ups in the spring and fall of each year. Neighbors gather at Forest Heights Pocket Park as a starting point. Then, they disperse to various locations in the neighborhood, the commercial district along Sutherland Avenue/Kingston Pike, and the Third Creek Greenway. Typically, about 15 neighbors attend each event. Keep Knoxville Beautiful provides supplies for all participants. The neighborhood has also coordinated cleanup days with nearby sister neighborhoods to successfully execute larger community efforts. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [amymhathaway@gmail.com](mailto:amymhathaway@gmail.com)
13. **Neighborhood Night Out . . .** In 2019, the South Haven Neighborhood partnered with the Lake Forest Neighborhood, Dogwood Elementary School, Hillcrest Methodist Church, and the Roundup Restaurant for Neighborhood Night Out. The event took place in the parking lot of the South Land Square neighborhood housing project. More than 300 hamburgers & hot dogs and several gallons of ice cream were served. Activities included dancing, face painting, and a naming booth! More than 65 plants were given away, and the local fire station showed up to provide tours. A good time was had by all. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [southhavenna@gmail.com](mailto:southhavenna@gmail.com)
14. **Burlington Library . . .** When the original Burlington Library branch was suffering from declining usage due to lack of parking, reduced budget allocation, and fewer books, which led to further usage decline, the Town Hall East Neighborhood decided to take the lead to save the library. They set out to move the branch to a more accessible location. After exploring several options, they turned to the health department building on Asheville Hwy, which had some unused space. The community successfully raised money to purchase equipment and perform necessary facility upgrades. The library remained in that location for a few years until the Health Department needed their space back. When that happened, the neighborhood worked with Mayor Ragsdale to acquire space in a shuttered Walgreens type shopping center - the current site. Once again, the community raised money to help make that happen and to create a computer learning center in the new space so residents without computers could take free classes and have access to computers. Later, the library grew into purchasing the neighboring acreage, demolition, and development of a delightful adjacent pocket park requiring joint funds from the City, County, and State, which the neighborhood consistently promoted and supports today. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [Townhalleast@gmail.com](mailto:Townhalleast@gmail.com)

15. **“Big Tent” Project . . .** The “Big Tent” Project will: (1) connect neighbors and promote inclusion by allowing SWFT to hold future neighborhood events under a literal “big tent”, (2) strengthen the communication network between residents at CityView and 303 Flats, and (3) increase the number of youths involved in the planning and execution of neighborhood events. The largest portion of our funding request will be used to purchase a large (20’ x 40’) portable commercial weather resistant event tent and anchor bags, a cabinet to store the tent, and a portable collapsible multipurpose cart to safely transport and serve beverages, including hot coffee. A sturdy portable tent is preferred over a permanent structure for two important reasons: (1) to hold outdoor events on the grounds both, at CityView and 303 Flats, and (2) to encourage active participation among both groups of neighbors in the planning, set up, and execution of each event. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [editor@southsidewaterfront.org](mailto:editor@southsidewaterfront.org)
16. **July 4 Celebration . . .** Due to the concerns of COVID-19 in 2020, the City of Knoxville's 2020 Festival on the 4th was canceled. The Vestal Neighborhood responded by participating in the city-sponsored inaugural "Knoxville's Neighborhood Trails of Red, White and Blue" event – a COVID-safe alternative to the traditional July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration. Vestal neighbors had a great time and demonstrated enormous creativity through their enthusiastic participation in the decorating competition that featured patriotic decorations & displays on their homes and in their yards. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [ericzjknox@gmail.com](mailto:ericzjknox@gmail.com)
17. **“In the Neighborhood” Interviews . . .** In 2019, several Southside Waterfront neighbors collaborated with Community Television of Knoxville (CTV) to record a 4-part video series of interviews called “In the Neighborhood”. During the recorded interviews, which aired on CTV, neighbors shared their reasons for choosing to live in the neighborhood, some of the things they have enjoyed most about living there, what the neighbors are like, and some of the principles the neighbors share. Afterward, links to the videos were posted at the neighborhood website for other current and future neighbors to enjoy. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [editor@southsidewaterfront.org](mailto:editor@southsidewaterfront.org)
18. **Annual Dog Walk . . .** Every May, West Hills/Wesley neighbors are invited to bring their leashed dogs to gather at the Weigel's on Kingston Pike and Wesley Road to begin the annual walk to the end of Wesley Road and back. Break stations with bowls of water for the dogs are provided along the way. One year, several tents were set up and manned by pet store merchants. They gave out “freebies” for the dog owners to take home - dog treats, etc. The neighborhood hopes to use the new Sheffield Drive sidewalk this year to walk the dogs to the West Hills Elementary School and back. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [anneccrais@gmail.com](mailto:anneccrais@gmail.com)
19. **“Full House” Membership Drive . . .** Using funds secured through a grant from the Office of Neighborhoods, the South Woodlawn Neighborhood sponsored a “Full House” event where a house filled with neighborhood residents who had just joined the neighborhood association were treated to chili, drinks, and dessert as a “full house” meal. This event led to their biggest membership year ever. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [info@swana-knox.org](mailto:info@swana-knox.org)
20. **Partners in Funding . . .** A demonstrated successful track record for completing multiple projects has made it easier for the Vestal Neighborhood to obtain funding for many different projects. They have received grants from the city Department of Recreation and Office on Neighborhood Empowerment for several different projects. They also received a significant \$7,500 grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission for construction of the Vestal Gateway Arch and funding from the Aslan Foundation for other projects. The Aslan Foundation funding is more flexible and requires less administrative work on their part. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [ericzjknox@gmail.com](mailto:ericzjknox@gmail.com)
21. **Holiday Cheer Contest . . .** In 2020, members of the Forest Heights Neighborhood leadership photographed homes in the neighborhood that were decorated for the holidays and shared the photos on the neighborhood Facebook page so neighbors could vote for their favorite. A case of beer was awarded to the winner along with a Santa trophy engraved with “Forest Heights Neighborhood Holiday Cheer - Leader Award.” The trophy will be passed to the new winner in future years. In 2020, 23 homes were nominated. The winner received 23 votes on Facebook. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [amymhathaway@gmail.com](mailto:amymhathaway@gmail.com)

22. **Thanksgiving Buckets . . .** The Inskip Neighborhood started making Thanksgiving Buckets for Inskip School families in 2014. They started with 62 buckets. The number grew to around 120 buckets over the next 5 years. Because 2020 was such a rough year for the families, they joined forces with the Inskip Lions Club, Inskip Baptist Church, Cedar Lane United Methodist Church and Bookwalter United Methodist Church to increase the number to 200 buckets. The buckets, donated from Home Depot and Lowes, were filled with canned goods, sugar, puddings, snack cakes, breakfast bars, fruit, etc. In addition, 200 \$15.00 gift certificates were added, so the families could purchase meats of their choice. The social worker at the school determined which families needed them most. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [inskipneighborhood@gmail.com](mailto:inskipneighborhood@gmail.com)
23. **Little Free Library . . .** The Little Free Library, located in the CityView Club Room in the Southside Waterfront Neighborhood, began with a donation of less than a dozen books. It grew so rapidly, it required the installation of some bookcases, generously provided by a neighbor. The bookcases are now filled with more than 200 books and 20 DVDs – all donated by neighborhood residents. The collection continues to grow and change as new books are donated, some books are taken for personal use, and others are shared with free libraries in nearby neighborhoods. The rules of the library are simple: contribute a book, take a book, and enjoy reading. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [editor@southsidewaterfront.org](mailto:editor@southsidewaterfront.org)
24. **Pool Party . . .** Usually held in June, a pool party event actually counts as a regular meeting of the West Hills/Wesley Neighborhood Association. Some business is discussed, but mostly it is fun and enjoyable to visit with neighbors. For this annual event, a neighbor provides access to their pool. Most of the kids use the pool and swim, but some adults do too. The association provides hot dogs, buns, and drinks to share and neighbors bring side dishes like coleslaw, potato salad, chips, veggies, and desserts. This is always a well-attended activity that usually lasts about 2-3 hours. Everyone missed the event last year because of COVID, but they look forward to its return. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [anneccrais@gmail.com](mailto:anneccrais@gmail.com)
25. **Neighborhood Treasure Hunt . . .** During the past 2 years, the Southside Waterfront Neighborhood has participated in the CTV Neighborhood Treasure Hunt, a community-wide event to engage neighbors and raise unrestricted income for neighborhood projects and activities. During the event, neighbors donate new and gently used “treasures” to be auctioned through the CTV website. Community residents also encourage local businesses to “sponsor” their neighborhoods through cash donations. During the 3-week bidding period, residents from all over the city compete to be the highest bidder. When the event is over, the winners come to each neighborhood to pick up and pay for their winnings. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the sale of auction items and sponsorships contributed in the name of a specific neighborhood are given to that neighborhood. The Southside Waterfront Neighborhood has led the way in terms of donated auction items and proceeds among all neighborhoods during each of the past 2 years. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [editor@southsidewaterfront.org](mailto:editor@southsidewaterfront.org) and visit: [ctvknox.org/hunt](http://ctvknox.org/hunt)
26. **Halloween Pizza Party . . .** Every year, the Forest Heights Neighborhood organizes a pizza party in front of one house in the neighborhood and all neighborhood families are invited to attend. The pizza party is funded by the neighborhood association and serves as a kickoff for Trick-or-Treat and gathers the kids in one place to begin their Trick-or-Treat activities. Families enjoy it as a place where adults get to socialize, and kids can all see each other's costumes before they take different paths through the neighborhood. About 75 neighbors attended in 2019, but the event was cancelled in 2020. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [amymhathaway@gmail.com](mailto:amymhathaway@gmail.com)
27. **“The Last Movie Star” . . .** In 2018, Southside Waterfront Neighborhood neighbors organized a free screening of the just released feature-length film, “The Last Movie Star”, starring Burt Reynolds and filmed in Knoxville. Shown on the giant screen in the CityView Club Room on a Friday night, the film was chock-full of recognizable scenes from Knoxville and the Southside Waterfront Neighborhood, so it was great fun for everyone. Seating was on a first come – first seated basis. Neighbors were invited to bring their own beverages and snacks, but freshly popped popcorn was also provided. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [editor@southsidewaterfront.org](mailto:editor@southsidewaterfront.org)

28. **Sidewalk Construction . . .** The West Hills/Wesley Neighborhood Sheffield Drive sidewalk project took many years to complete because it was necessary to meet all the required guidelines to be included in the city budget. Drawings needed to be created and shared at meetings to demonstrate how it would connect the whole neighborhood and the neighbors needed to be canvassed to secure their agreement. Existing sidewalks on Vanosdale, Middlebrook Pike and Wesley Road provided a great foundation for walking, biking, and jogging. When the project was finished, a celebration & ribbon cutting was held. Mayor Indya Kincannon, Andrew Roberto, Sandy Robinson, and Donnie Ernst were there to cut the ribbon! When an ice cream truck arrived, the neighborhood association paid for the ice cream for everyone. This was a huge achievement, and everyone loves having the sidewalk. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [anneccrais@gmail.com](mailto:anneccrais@gmail.com)
29. **Outdoor Classroom . . .** In 2014, the South Woodlawn Neighborhood created an outdoor classroom in collaboration with South Doyle Middle School as part of their Community Wildlife Habitat. Funding for the project was secured through a DowGives Grant. The outdoor classroom includes, (1) a large hardscape amphitheater set into the hillside which seats over 100 students overlooking Baker Creek and the natural area across the creek, and (2) the "labitat," - a combination of student lab and natural habitat along the creek where students work with AmeriCorps volunteers to study water quality and ecology. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [info@swana-knox.org](mailto:info@swana-knox.org)
30. **Home Holiday Tour . . .** The Home Holiday Tour is a December tradition for the Forest Heights Neighborhood. With the help of many enthusiastic neighbors, the neighborhood association coordinates this walking tour of 4-5 homes in the neighborhood as their doors are opened by gracious hosts. It is a great time for neighbors to gather, meet one another, and admire the unique homes throughout the neighborhood. Traditionally, the event lasts about 2 hours, providing about 30 minutes for each home visit. The final home on the list hosts a pizza party for the attendees funded by the association. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [amymhathaway@gmail.com](mailto:amymhathaway@gmail.com)
31. **Neighborhood Clean-ups . . .** The Old North Knoxville Neighborhood organizes several neighborhood clean-ups throughout the year. The largest clean-up is performed along First Creek where neighbors literally grab waders and climb into the creek to rescue lost shopping carts and so many more strange and interesting finds. Keep Knoxville Beautiful provides grabbers and other supplies to help keep everyone remain safe and clean. Drinks and snacks are provided for the volunteers by the neighborhood. The event concludes with a gathering for lunch at Harby's, the local pizza place, which the neighborhood provides. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [thesmith3@aol.com](mailto:thesmith3@aol.com)
32. **Wildlife Habitat Certification . . .** In 2019, the Forest Heights Neighborhood became a National Wildlife Federation (NWF) certified Community Wildlife Habitat. The overall goal was to engage and promote a sense of community among residents with a united vision to promote, protect, and enhance wildlife habitats while utilizing talents and expertise of neighborhood residents. Although it typically takes two years or more to complete, the Forest Heights Neighborhood quickly organized and created a surge of positive momentum for the certification project, finishing in less than a year. This project connected neighbors and brought the broader vision of protecting and improving wildlife habitats into focus by highlighting various passions and interests of residents and sharing their knowledge throughout the neighborhood. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [amymhathaway@gmail.com](mailto:amymhathaway@gmail.com)
33. **Welcome 303 Flats . . .** In 2018, the Southside Waterfront Neighborhood sponsored a welcome party for the incoming residents at the newly opened 303 Flats student apartments. During the event, the younger group of 303 Flats neighbors enthusiastically embraced the more senior group of CityView neighbors who acted as hosts during the event. Activities included on-site new member registration, great conversation, delicious popcorn, hot food, appetizers & desserts, lively tunes, and a collection of some really great neighborhood engagement ideas provided by the residents at 303 Flats. Most of their engagement ideas involved various kinds of social and professional networking events throughout the year. With a total of 52 neighbors in attendance, a record was set for the largest neighborhood event ever held. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [editor@southsidewaterfront.org](mailto:editor@southsidewaterfront.org)

34. **Schools Appreciation Night . . .** During the past three or four years, the Town Hall East neighborhood has sponsored a Schools Appreciation Night. All the schools in the neighborhood area are invited to attend and share some of the things about which they are most proud. The neighborhood strives to regularly monitor any threats to the health and continued existence of their local schools. They also regularly coordinate small projects in conjunction with the local schools and are currently contemplating a larger one. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [Townhalleast@gmail.com](mailto:Townhalleast@gmail.com)
35. **Food Trucks . . .** A neighbor in the West Hills/Wesley Neighborhood has access to all of the websites for the different food trucks in the area and is especially tuned in during the warmer months. During the pandemic, she has scheduled food trucks to arrive and park in another neighbor's driveway for 2-3 hours. Masked family units arrive to order, pick up, and carry their food home to eat. The neighbors love the different varieties of food that are offered with lots of options for kids too. It has been a great way to support the food truck industry. Usually, scheduled on weekends, it is occasionally scheduled on a weeknight. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [anneccrais@gmail.com](mailto:anneccrais@gmail.com)
36. **Online Networking Directory . . .** The Southside Waterfront Neighborhood consists of two distinct groups. One group, (CityView at Riverwalk), consists of working & retired adults with experience in professional, technical, executive & administrative occupations. The other group, (303 Flats), consists of young adults studying to *enter* these fields. Because the neighborhood is committed to encouraging neighbors in *both* groups to get to know each other based on their shared work experience and/or field of study, they created a secure online Membership Directory. The searchable Membership Directory allows registered members to identify neighbors with similar interests and complementary skill sets. It is only accessible to registered members who complete the Interest/Skills Inventory Form. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [editor@southsidewaterfront.org](mailto:editor@southsidewaterfront.org)
37. **Information Kiosk . . .** The information kiosk in Sam Duff Park is a point of pride for the South Woodlawn Neighborhood because it is a great looking structure, and it provides information to others interested in certifying their property or community as a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat. It also provides a place for the neighborhood to post community announcements. Designed by one of the neighbors, it was built by a Boy Scout working on his Eagle Badge Project. In addition to posting information on the board, the neighborhood takes care of the flowers planted around it. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [info@swana-knox.org](mailto:info@swana-knox.org)
38. **Ice Cream Social . . .** The Old North Knoxville Neighborhood hosts an Ice Cream Social every year towards the end of spring or the beginning of summer. The neighborhood organization provides several gallons of ice cream attending neighbors are invited to bring various toppings. This is always a fun evening gathering in the park where longtime neighbors catch up with one another and introduce themselves to new neighbors. The local fire department is also invited, so the kids not only have the park to explore but the fire trucks as well. This gathering often draws several of the local politicians who enjoy meeting and greeting the neighbors as well. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [thesmith3@aol.com](mailto:thesmith3@aol.com)
39. **Candidate Forum . . .** The Forest Heights Neighborhood has hosted several candidate forums where candidates for local offices (City Council, Mayor, County Commission) were invited to a regularly scheduled neighborhood association meeting to have a Q&A forum with residents. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [amymhathaway@gmail.com](mailto:amymhathaway@gmail.com)
40. **Community Christmas Potluck . . .** In 2019, the South Haven Neighborhood partnered with Dogwood Elementary to hold their traditional Christmas potluck. This community-driven event held at the school reached out to the entire community and surrounding neighborhood groups with plenty of food and games to entertain the kids. *Crimson Calamity*, the duo of Lauren Harding & Mallory Trunnell, performed live as several community leaders and nearby association members attended. A good time was had by all. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [southhavenna@gmail.com](mailto:southhavenna@gmail.com)

41. **Build-a-Birdhouse . . .** In 2018, Forest Heights neighbors and the coordinators of the Community Wildlife Habitat certification hosted a Build-a-Birdhouse Workshop in Forest Heights Pocket Park. Twelve birdhouses were built by neighborhood residents. Each received a kit that included a design plan, wood pre-cut to appropriate dimensions, the necessary hardware, and information sheets that detailed the types of birds that would reside in that type of birdhouse and how to place the birdhouse at home. Nine resident volunteers were available to help with the birdhouse building, as three additional volunteers led a pinecone bird seed activity that was a great activity enjoyed by the young children. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [amymhathaway@gmail.com](mailto:amymhathaway@gmail.com)
42. **Neighborhood Coffee Mugs . . .** Due to the challenges associated with COVID-19, the Southside Waterfront Neighborhood was unable to hold large gatherings under their Big Tent during 2020. The emphasis of smaller COVID-safe gatherings was changed from large food-oriented social events to other kinds of informational, demonstrational, and member recruitment events. The idea of distributing a limited supply of neighborhood coffee mugs to participants seemed like a practical and effective way to get an engagement message into the “hands” of the neighbors. The very attractive mugs bearing the neighborhood logo, website address, and five bullet points remind neighbors of the benefits of becoming engaged in the Southside Waterfront Neighborhood Association. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [editor@southsidewaterfront.org](mailto:editor@southsidewaterfront.org)
43. **Easter Egg Hunt . . .** The Old North Knoxville Neighborhood Easter egg hunt has evolved over the years. It began as a simple Easter egg hunt with neighbors bringing a set number of plastic eggs with goodies inside. Adults would hide them in the park and turn the children loose for an event that would be over in moments. Since then, the event has grown to be an Egg Hunt enjoyed by multiple age groups, followed by a brunch potluck. It is a beautiful day to gather and linger with neighbors in the park. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [thesmith3@aol.com](mailto:thesmith3@aol.com)
44. **Dogwood Elementary School . . .** Dogwood Elementary School is a community school and as such depends on community involvement. Each grade has sponsors who provide extra help. The South Haven Neighborhood is proud to sponsor the second-grade class. During the current pandemic, neighbors are not allowed to show up in person for story times or to help with physical activities, so they have donated money to supplement classroom needs. Currently, there are 75 students in the second-grade classes. The donated money has been used to purchase the extra supplies needed to give each student items they are not allowed to share. In addition, other small gifts have been appreciated, including hot chocolate for the kids at Christmas, gift baskets for the teachers, cake for the school staff, and some very special Spring surprises that are being planned. A good time was had by all. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [southhavenna@gmail.com](mailto:southhavenna@gmail.com)
45. **Speed Humps . . .** Following a traffic study conducted by the city that showed speeding was a problem on certain streets in the West Hills/Wesley Neighborhood, several project leaders spent many hours meeting with city officials planning where speed humps could be positioned to slow down traffic. Then, permission from the homeowners on both sides of the proposed speed hump locations had to be secured. Wesley Road, Sheffield Drive and Gainesborough now have speed humps. Other streets on the west side of West Hills - Corteland Drive, and maybe another street, will be receiving speed humps as well. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [anneccrais@gmail.com](mailto:anneccrais@gmail.com)
46. **Neylgate Events . . .** Most have heard of *tailgating*, many have heard of *sailgating*, and some have heard of *railgating*. In the Southside Waterfront Neighborhood, neighbors routinely huddle on the terrace adjacent to the Riverwalk with a panoramic view of the river, the Vol Navy, and Neyland Stadium. The neighbors call it *neylgating*! The event begins 4 hours before kickoff for every home game and technically ends 2 hours before kickoff so everyone can get to the game. Though, some neighbors choose to remain throughout the game. The event always features a wide assortment of potluck edibles, inspiring gameday music, and lively conversation. Go VOLS! For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [editor@southsidewaterfront.org](mailto:editor@southsidewaterfront.org)
47. **Printed Newsletters . . .** The South Woodlawn Neighborhood delivers printed newsletters to approximately 600 residences. About once a year the mailing is done through the USPS. At other times printed newsletters are delivered door-to-door by neighborhood volunteers. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [info@swana-knox.org](mailto:info@swana-knox.org)

48. **Great American Smoke-Out . . .** The West Hills/Wesley Neighborhood participates in the Great American Smoke-Out in November every year by placing a total of forty (40) yard signs throughout the neighborhood, among other things, expressing thanks to the neighbors for not using tobacco products. This is part of the successful Healthy West Hills - Healthier TN program. The Knox County Health Department provided the yard signs that are used every year. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [anneccrais@gmail.com](mailto:anneccrais@gmail.com)
49. **Speed Humps . . .** Following the procedures outlined by the city, the Town Hall East Neighborhood is working on a traffic calming project to mitigate speeding on local streets. A city traffic study in 2020 confirmed that speeding is occurring on three neighborhood streets and the Traffic Engineering department has suggested a solution that involves the installation of speed humps. The neighborhood is currently seeking endorsements from the households adjacent to the planned speed bumps to move forward with the concept. So far, they have collected over 50% of the required signatures and are hopeful the city will appropriate funds for the project in the upcoming fiscal year. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [Townhalleast@gmail.com](mailto:Townhalleast@gmail.com)
50. **Small Area Plan . . .** In 2013 a Small Area Plan was developed and approved for the Inskip Neighborhood by the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC). Numerous meetings were held to collect input and several "walking audits" coordinated with the Health Department were conducted. As a result, a change in the zoning designation of the area was recommended. Very old designations that permitted multi-family housing to grow out of control in the area were revised. With the help of MPC and City Council, approximately 550 parcels were rezoned from "multi-family" housing to "single family" housing. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [inskipneighborhood@gmail.com](mailto:inskipneighborhood@gmail.com)
51. **One Cup at a Time . . .** The Southside Waterfront Neighborhood recognizes the obvious differences that exist between the younger college students who live in the apartments at 303 Flats and the professionals & retirees who live in the condominiums at CityView at Riverwalk. One strategy used to bridge the physical distance between the two housing developments is the unannounced "coffee service" provided by CityView neighbors early in the morning on random occasions as the students leave their apartments to go to classes. Strategically positioned in the lobbies adjacent to the parking garages, the students appreciate the freshly brewed coffee provided one cup at a time. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [editor@southsidewaterfront.org](mailto:editor@southsidewaterfront.org)
52. **Holiday Christmas Party . . .** The West Hills/Wesley Neighborhood has hosted a Holiday Christmas Party for many years at the Bearden Banquet Hall near Buddy's BBQ. Interested neighbors RSVP and sign up ahead of time to attend. It usually costs \$20 for each person and if there are any extra charges, the neighborhood association covers them. A full meal is provided and carryout boxes are offered so neighbors can take home another meal to eat later. A guest speaker is usually invited to share stories or insights and sometimes a slide show featuring neighborhood events is presented. Neighbors make this a very special event by dressing up and calling it a "date night"! It usually lasts 3-4 hours as neighbors eat together and listen to the speakers. Door prizes are given out as trivia questions are asked to determine who wins a prize. It is always a lot of fun. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [anneccrais@gmail.com](mailto:anneccrais@gmail.com)
53. **Creating a Pocket Park . . .** In the 1940s, a parcel of property in the Forest Heights Neighborhood was designated a neighborhood park and was deeded to 32 property owners in that area. Over the years, it became neglected and overgrown with vegetation, but in the 1990s, neighbors rallied together to install a walking path, play equipment, and picnic tables. During the next two decades, the shared responsibility of maintaining the property among neighbors became difficult. In 2015, the neighborhood association met to discuss donating the park to the City. Eighteen months later, 32 properties transferred their ownership to the City, 45 notarized signatures were obtained from homeowners, 17 mortgage lenders gave their approval, and Forest Heights Pocket Park officially opened. Neighbors came together to achieve a common goal to improve the park and strained relationships between neighbors were restored. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [amymhathaway@gmail.com](mailto:amymhathaway@gmail.com)

54. **Neighborhood Fall Gathering . . .** In 2019 the Town Hall East neighborhood received discretionary fund grants from several individual City Council members, food from Archer’s Barbeque, and beer from the Albright Grove Brewing Company to hold a neighborhood Fall Gathering. Representatives from all official neighborhood organizations and neighborhood watches in East Knoxville were invited to come and enjoy food and music in the Mule Barn, (*now Carriage House*), at the Knoxville Botanical Garden. About 120 neighbors attended. The purpose was to foster cooperation among these groups. Future follow-up events are anticipated that will include a more formal portion of the program to explore common issues and ways to improve communication. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [Townhalleast@gmail.com](mailto:Townhalleast@gmail.com)
55. **Healthy West Hills . . .** The West Hills/Wesley neighbors decided to become healthier by tracking mileage (walking, running, swimming, hiking, playing tennis, pickle ball, etc.) and submitting their records to the state of Tennessee. They also developed a plan and implemented activities for healthy eating and tobacco cessation and have received two awards - bronze in 2019 and silver in 2020. Now the city is helping them compete for the gold award. Beginning in March until December 2021 they will show what they have done to achieve this status. Other Knoxville neighborhoods are also striving to achieve this goal, including Timbercrest, Old North Knoxville, Fourth and Gill, and South Knoxville. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [anneccrais@gmail.com](mailto:anneccrais@gmail.com)
56. **Grapevine Newsletter . . .** The Southside Waterfront Neighborhood Association (SWFT) publishes a periodic electronic newsletter called the *SWFT Grapevine*. Released every 7 – 10 days, published articles feature stories about neighborhood projects, events, and other stories of interest to neighbors, including success stories reported in other neighborhoods. In addition, some featured articles are printed and posted on bulletin boards and in elevators. Articles that were published in previous editions are uploaded to a searchable archived at the neighborhood website. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [editor@southsidewaterfront.org](mailto:editor@southsidewaterfront.org)
57. **Bats in the Park . . .** In 2018, a member of the Forest Heights Neighborhood coordinated a Bats in the Park workshop with Zoo Knoxville staff member Cynthia Maples. This outreach and education program was part of the Community Wildlife Habitat certification program and was primarily geared towards educating children and interested adults about the benefits bats offer to the ecosystem. Cynthia led a discussion followed by a Q&A session. Then, the neighbors worked together to install a bat house in Forest Heights Pocket Park. For more information or possible collaboration, please reach out to: [amymhathaway@gmail.com](mailto:amymhathaway@gmail.com)