

Town Hall East, Inc.
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TOWN HALL EAST NEWSLETTER

January 2004

Website: www.kornnet.org/towneast

**NEXT MEETING – JANUARY 12, 2003: Tennesseans for Fair Taxation
The Tea Party Continues...**

You are invited to our next Town Hall East meeting, on Monday, January 12, 2004, at 7 pm at the at Eastminster's Fellowship Hall where our speaker will address Tennessee's troubled tax structure. Brian Miller, Executive Director of Tennesseans for Fair Taxation ("TFT"), and several colleagues, will discuss issues surrounding Tennessee's sales tax. T.H.E. members and guests will learn how Tennessee's current sales tax impacts your life and the lives of neighbors -- in addition to learning facts, you may find some of your beliefs about the current tax structure challenged. Or you may decide to challenge the challengers. Turn off the boob tube and join your neighbors for this engaging discussion. We all realize that some change or reform of our tax structure will surface in the next year or two. Come air your views about this important issue. Deciding what is foul or fair requires a focused examination. Bring an open mind to the debate. And frankly, you have to get off your duff!

T.H.E.'s own Mac Goodwin, who is also a grassroots educator for Tennesseans for Fair Taxation, will introduce Mr. Miller and his colleagues. He encourages you and your family and friends to attend this educational meeting. TFT has been around for nearly 20 years, as a result of several organizations, including Solutions, MANNA Tennessee Hunger Coalition and JONAH, joining together in 1984 over the issue of high sales tax on grocery food. From this initial alliance, TFT has grown into a statewide coalition of individual members and organizations working to create what it believes may be a more fair and progressive tax structure. TFT has Local Organizing Committees in 5 major cities throughout the state, including Chattanooga, Knoxville, Oak Ridge, Nashville, and Jackson. TFT's most recent action in Nashville was organizing its members to prevent the sales tax increase from being applied to grocery food (now taxed at a 1% lower rate than all other items). Since the sales tax increase of 2002, TFT has committed most of its time and resources to public education on all areas of state tax reform, with volunteers presenting tax reform workshops in local communities. Come hear them speak, ask questions, and start to make up your own mind about the proper direction of tax reform in this state. You can do some advance checking on Tennesseans for Fair Taxation, by visiting their website at www.yourtax.org or calling their Knoxville office at 888-671-5188. Get involved. It's your money, your education system, your health care system, and your state. You should set the priorities.

HOLSTON RIVER FESTIVAL STEERING COMMITTEE TO MEET JANUARY 5th and 20th at 6:30 p.m., LOCATIONS TBA: The committee is well underway with plans for the Holston River Festival planned for **April 24, 2004**, in conjunction with the Dogwood Arts Festival. We still need additional

Holston River Festival 2004 Steering Committee	
<i>Festival Chair:</i>	Melissa Hansen-
<i>Petrik Fundraising:</i>	Deb Haines
<i>Entertainment:</i>	Mary Thom Adams
<i>Publicity:</i>	Emily Jones
<i>Food:</i>	Linden Craig
<i>Children's Activities:</i>	Karen Dhyanchand
<i>Vendors:</i>	TBA
<i>Transportation:</i>	TBA
<i>Silent Auction:</i>	TBA
<i>Additional Committee</i>	Margaret Crews
<i>Participants:</i>	Shelley Mangold
	Barbara Owens
	Patty Shea

volunteers, especially to participate in vendor recruitment, organizing transportation and parking, and organizing the Silent Auction fundraiser. Are you a kid at heart or do you have kids with lots of energy to burn? There is also the possibility of including a neighborhood float in the Dogwood Arts Festival Parade ... a few folks have expressed interest, so give us a holler if you want to help in the float effort, especially if you're willing to take charge! Call and volunteer today for jobs big and small: Melissa Hansen-Petrik at 523-9117 or melissahp@comcast.net. Also, if you have a talent you would like to share or artistic wares to sell or have other ideas to

make our festival great, please call. We are seeking Silent Auction donations, too, of East Knoxville memorabilia, antiques, collectibles, gift certificates, etc. ... if you have something to donate, please let us know! Fundraising chair Deb Haines is hard at work with plans to raise about \$7,000 to cover costs of the stage, sound, tents, insurance and other necessities. She is contacting area businesses and individuals to do so. Every little bit helps and our new association with Dogwood Arts allows

contributions to be tax deductible. Donations can be sent to Dogwood Arts Festival, 601 W. Summit Hill Dr., Knoxville, TN 37902 ... please earmark your donation for the Holston River Festival or it will go into the general fund. Thanks for your support!

WHERE ARE WE HEADED AS A COMMUNITY? Planning our own future takes work. We have a new Mayor and City Council, a fairly new County Mayor and a changing County Commission, a change in faces in the neighborhood. We urge you to get involved in the rebirth of our East Knoxville community. Issues abound about upgrading our schools, revitalizing the economic corridor along Magnolia, fostering good decisions about building a new branch library and where to locate it, building our greenway, restraining speeding traffic in the neighborhood, and generally making and keeping our area a healthy place to live and raise a family. Get involved! Town Hall East provides a forum and an opportunity for you to work at the grassroots level to improve our collective home. Remember Plato's admonition: "It is the penalty of wise men and women (let's modernize here) who fail to take part in the affairs of government to live under the government of unwise men and women." Don't just grouse, seize opportunity by the horns and make something good happen ... right here in the hood!

BOY SCOUT TROOP 30 CHILI SUPPER: On Monday, January 19th, from 5:30 to 7:30, Boy Scout Troop 30 will hold its annual Chili Supper in the Fellowship Hall of Eastminster Presbyterian Church. Tickets are \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children age 6-12. Children under 6 are free. Tickets are available at the January meeting of Town Hall East, from Troop 30 scouts, and at the doors. All proceeds from the event go to support Troop 30 activities.

HOME SECURITY SURVEYS: The Knoxville Police Department (KPD) offers free Home Security Surveys to the elderly and other citizens living in the City of Knoxville. An officer will visit your home free of charge and go over the premises with you. They will identify areas that appear vulnerable to theft or break in and provide you tips on how to better secure your home and property. To schedule a survey, contact the KPD Safety Education Unit at 215-8633.

LUMINARIES OPENING SEASON A SUCCESS: Darla Garrison and her team of luminary promoters report that T.H.E. sold some 1500 luminaries in December, surpassing their target figure. They hope to increase participation next year and also to provide for a rainy day (to avoid the soggy bag syndrome which struck the designated day). All told, we raised some \$1300, net of expenses. Funds will be used to purchase library books and to fund other area revitalization projects. Stay tuned, and be sure to shine your light for the community next year! Thanks to all who participated.

SPRING PLACE PARK IMPROVEMENTS & LOVES CREEK GREENWAY: Spring Place and T.H.E. reps met with Karen Nolt of County Parks and with students and teachers from UT's School of Art in October and December to discuss improvements at the Loves Creek Park. The County plans to begin work in February to upgrade the picnic shelter, redo the playground area, rework the foot bridge crossing to the spring, and add a loop trail around the existing park. A spring house sculpture or rework is being studied. Volunteers will be working to cut a path for a creekside trail from Loves Creek north to Buffat Mill road. Volunteers please contact Nick Della Volpe by phone: 525-4600(w) or email: ndellavolpe@wmnpc.com to help at a January Saturday work session.

KNOX COUNTY EDUCATION SUMMIT JANUARY 16TH AT KNOXVILLE CONVENTION CENTER: Hosted jointly by Knox County, the City, Knox County Schools and the Knoxville Area Chamber Partnership, this event will give you an opportunity for input to advance educational excellence in Knox County. The summit is free to the public and is scheduled from 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (lunch is provided). Please consider attending this important event. To register, call 215-HELP or log on to www.knoxcounty.org and click on the Education Summit logo.

****T.H.E. "DISCOVER EAST KNOXVILLE" t-shirts on sale** at the meeting. If you haven't seen them yet, you should. And buy one for heaven's sake ... they're awesome tributes to our area, designed by our own Deb Haines. Only \$10 most sizes (XXL are \$12). Wear it with pride!

2003-2004 DUES ARE NOW DUE!! JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

Please Support Your Community Organization

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Please provide an email address if you would like us to inform you of happenings between newsletters.

- ... Are you willing to receive the Newsletter via email? yes no
- _____ \$10 Active membership: I live in city ward 13, 30, 31, or 75 (or still in the county but adjacent to ward 75)
 - _____ \$10 Associate membership: I live outside wards 13, 30, 31, or 75 but would still like to receive the newsletter and keep informed of Town Hall East activities
 - _____ \$25 Business membership: I own or manage a business in city ward 13, 30, 31, or 75 and would like to support the neighborhood and the residents of Town Hall East.

Please Remit Payment to: Town Hall East, Inc. , P.O. Box 6207, Knoxville, TN 37914. Your dues help defray printing and mailing costs for the newsletter. Consider opting for an email version of the newsletter—please notify Melissa if you're willing to receive the newsletter electronically: melissahp@comcast.net.