



Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 10, No. 18 – Tuesday, May 9, 2017

To subscribe to this newsletter via email, fill out form at <http://eepurl.com/b2Rk9T>. You will then receive an automated email. Reply to this email to secure your free subscription.

Newsletter (PDF version): <http://bit.ly/NeighborhoodAdvisory-2017-05-09>

1. Register by Noon Friday for “Community Sparks” Workshop
2. Legislature Backs Off Local Zoning Interference – for Now
3. Meeting in Parkridge to Discuss Historic Overlay Expansion
4. North Hills to Host Garden Tour and Art Sale
5. City Zoning Overhaul: First Community Meeting... and a Brand Name
6. MPC Drafts Walkability Ordinance, Schedules Open House
7. Open Streets Moves to East Knoxville
8. [Neighborhood and Government Calendar](#) (clickable to online calendar)

Published by the City of Knoxville’s Office of Neighborhoods to report news important to Knoxville’s residential neighborhoods. Include your neighborhood-related event or meeting in this space. Call 215-4382. News deadline: 5 p.m. Mondays.

[Like us on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleNeighborhoods): <https://www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleNeighborhoods>

1. Register by Noon Friday for “Community Sparks” Workshop

Neighborhood leaders are urged to attend the “Community Sparks” workshop on Saturday, May 13, to pick up tips and ideas for neighborhood-based projects and programs.

The workshop is free, but to reserve your seat you MUST register by noon Friday. Please contact Debbie Sharp at dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-4382. Be sure to leave your name and phone number.

The workshop will be held from 10 a.m. until 12 noon Saturday at the Public Works Building, 3131 Morris Avenue.

Participants will hear from neighborhood groups that have carried out projects using funds from the Neighborhood Small Grants Program. There will also be a brainstorming session to generate as many ideas as possible for neighborhood projects and programs. You can also get tips on applying for grants.

This workshop will be useful for any neighborhood group that recognizes needs and opportunities in the neighborhood, but is not sure how to come up with workable project ideas. It should also help groups who plan to apply for funding from the Neighborhood Small Grants Program. The funding application will be issued later this month.

2. Legislature Backs Off Local Zoning Interference – for Now

The Tennessee Senate Finance Committee on Tuesday morning punted the so-called “Airbnb Bill” to next legislative session in 2018.

As originally proposed in both the House and Senate, [House Bill 1020 and Senate Bill 1086](#) would have prohibited local governments in Tennessee from regulating, restricting or prohibiting short-term rentals (STRs) of less than 30 days, such as those listed on websites like Airbnb.

On Monday evening, the State House of Representatives adopted a version of the bill which, due to amendments, would have exempted Chattanooga, Knoxville and Memphis but not Nashville. The combination of the House vote and the Senate Finance Committee action effectively sidelines the effort until next year.

Over the last several weeks, a number of Knoxville neighborhood associations and community leaders have contacted their legislators and members of the Senate Finance Committee to oppose the legislation.

The City of Knoxville also opposed it, for two reasons. First, the measure, if adopted, would represent an unprecedented intrusion of state government into local zoning decisions. Second, the bills were introduced long after the City of Knoxville began holding public meetings and exploring options for regulating short-term rentals.

After reviewing public comments and digging into the lessons learned in other cities, the City Administration concluded that short term rentals:

- Are occurring in increasing numbers across the City, are illegal in many districts under current zoning codes, and are avoiding the motel-hotel tax that established businesses have to pay.
- Could shrink the supply of affordable housing, the lack of which is already a growing problem in Knoxville.
- Could negatively impact the character and sense of community in residential neighborhoods if proper protections are not included.
- Represent an emerging economy, make Knoxville a more welcoming place to visitors, and should be regulated wisely rather than prohibited altogether.
- May provide an important source of income for retirees and other homeowners who need to supplement their incomes.

The City’s proposed ordinance is an effort to balance these concerns. Among other provisions, it contemplates allowing STRs in residential neighborhoods through a permitting process --- but only for owner-occupied properties. The state legislation would have allowed investors to buy up houses and turn them into short-term rentals on a full-time basis.

The draft ordinance is on the agenda for the May 11 meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Commission. It then moves to City Council for consideration in June. See [this City web page](#) for the final (April 25) draft of the proposed ordinance, previous versions, a list of frequently asked questions, and past press releases.

Public comment can still be provided via strs@knoxvilletn.gov.

3. Meeting in Parkridge to Discuss Historic Overlay Expansion

[Knox Heritage](#), the [Knoxville Historic Zoning Commission](#), and the [Parkridge Community Organization](#) this week will host an informational meeting on the proposed expansion of the [Edgewood-Park City Historic Overlay District](#) in the Parkridge neighborhood.

The meeting begins at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 11, at Cansler YMCA, 611 Winona Street.

Kim Trent, executive director of Knox Heritage, will provide information on the organization's commitment to pay the fees for Level 1 and Level 2 Certificates of Appropriateness for low-to-moderate income homeowners owners in the event the Edgewood-Park City Historic District is expanded.

She will also discuss the organization's Salvage Shop and solicit ideas for discounting or donating salvaged architectural materials to low-to-moderate income homeowners in an expanded district who wish to make repairs or improvements to their homes. There will also be time for questions and discussion about other historic districts in Knoxville.

A complimentary dinner will be served in order to make it easier for residents to attend and share their thoughts and questions. Please RSVP by 10 a.m. May 11 by calling the Knox Heritage office at 865-523-8008 or send a note to rsvp@knoxheritage.org.

4. North Hills to Host Garden Tour and Art Sale

The North Hills Garden Club is hosting a Garden Tour and Art Sale this coming Saturday, May 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The tour will feature five residential gardens located along the neighborhood's tree-lined boulevards. Participants can speak directly to home owners about the various plants, flowers, hardscapes and techniques in their gardens. One site will feature live music.

An Art Sale at 2511 North Park Blvd. will feature nearly 20 vendors with nature-related art, jewelry, and native plant species for sale. The Art Sale is open to the public, and attendees will NOT need a tour ticket to shop.

Tickets are \$12 on tour day or \$10 in advance when purchased through [Paypal](#) or from a garden club member. Tickets should be picked up on the day of the tour between 9:45 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. at 3033 Fountain Park Blvd. Children under 12 years of age will be admitted free of charge. The rain date for this event is May 20.

Proceeds support beautification of the neighborhood's boulevards and park. For more information on the tour, or North Hills Garden Club, visit the club's website at <http://northhillsgardenclub.wixsite.com/nhgc>.

5. City Zoning Overhaul: First Community Meeting... and a Brand Name

The two-year effort to overhaul the City of Knoxville's zoning code is now branded with a new moniker --- Recode Knoxville --- and has been outfitted with a new website: <http://recodeknoxville.com/>.

The kickoff community meeting for Recode Knoxville has been scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, May 18, at Central United Methodist Church, 201 3rd Avenue. All are welcome.

The process to modernize Knoxville's Zoning code officially gets underway with this event. Attendees will be greeted by representatives from the [City of Knoxville](#) and [Metropolitan Planning Commission](#). They will be followed by a presentation from [Camiros](#), the consultants assisting in the ordinance update.

Finally, staff will be available to answer questions. Stations will also be set up to collect input from the community and help residents learn more about their current zoning. For more, contact Amy Brooks at 865-215-4001 or email recode@knoxmpc.org.

Citizens may also wish to attend the periodic meetings of the [Stakeholder Advisory Committee](#). Two meetings are scheduled currently --- Wednesday, May 17, and Wednesday July 19, both starting at 10 a.m. in the City County Building.

6. MPC Drafts Walkability Ordinance, Schedules Open House

The [Metropolitan Planning Commission](#) (MPC) has posted the latest draft of a proposed ordinance that addresses walkability issues in both the city and county. The document can be found [here](#) on the MPC website.

Among other items, the ordinance addresses the issue of whether developers should be required to build sidewalks in new subdivisions, and to repair sidewalks when redeveloping existing buildings.

MPC has also scheduled a "coffee and conversation" open house about the ordinance for 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 15, in the back conference room at Panera Bread, 4855 Kingston Pike. City, County and MPC staff will be on hand to discuss the draft ordinance, hear public input and answer questions.

To arrange for an MPC staff person to come speak to your community group about the walkability ordinance, contact MPC at 215-4001 or gerald.green@knoxmpc.org.

7. Open Streets Moves to East Knoxville

Walk, bike, dance, and play... in the street!

Knoxville's fourth "Open Streets" will be held from 2-6 p.m. Sunday, May 21, in East Knoxville. There will be live music, food trucks, booths, activities and much more!

Hosted by [Bike Walk Knoxville](#), this event will take place on Magnolia Avenue from Randolph Street to North Chestnut Street, as well as a small “L” loop onto East Depot Ave. and back. Businesses along this route will be participating.

With the support of the City of Knoxville’s police and engineering departments, the streets are closed to vehicular traffic so that pedestrians and bicyclists can use public spaces in a new way.

If you are driving to the event, parking will be located at John O’Connor Senior Center, Vine Middle School, and Knoxville Family Justice Center, as well as on various public side streets. ADA parking will be located at Regions Bank. KAT is providing a free ride home if you come to their booth for a pass.

Volunteering for this event is fun. [Sign up now](#).

For more information visit <http://openstreetsknoxville.com/> or email Linda Kimble at openstreetsknoxville@gmail.com.

8. Knoxville Neighborhoods Calendar (clickable to online calendar)

Call 215-4382 to include your neighborhood event or meeting in [this Google calendar](#).

If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation in order to attend a City of Knoxville public meeting, please contact Stephanie Brewer Cook at scook@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-2034 no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. For an English interpreter, contact the City Law Department at 865-215-2050.

Other Calendars

Here are several other online calendars that cover events outside of the neighborhood realm:

- [Arts & Culture Alliance](#) (There’s More to Knoxville)
- [Arts & Fine Crafts Center Classes](#) (City of Knoxville)
- [Birdhouse Community Center](#)
- [City of Knoxville General Calendar](#)
- [Knoxville Mercury](#) (weekly community paper)

About This Newsletter

*** This Advisory is produced on most Tuesdays of the year.*

*** Ideas and contributions are welcome. We reserve the right to edit submissions.*

*** Deadline for news & calendar items: 5 p.m. Mondays*

*** May be copied and forwarded via neighborhood e-mail lists and newsletters.*

*** See past issues at our Website: <http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/neighborhoods>*

*** Don’t have Internet access? Call 215-4382 if you need a copy of a particular document.*