

## Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 10, No. 19 – Tuesday, May 16, 2017

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*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.*

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### **1. 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 is just getting started and this is an opportunity for the community to learn about the project and begin sharing their input.

Attendees will be greeted by representatives from the [City of Knoxville](#) and [Metropolitan Planning Commission](#). This will be followed by a presentation from [Camiros](#), the consultants assisting in the ordinance update.

An Open House will immediately follow where staff from the project team 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.

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.

For more, contact Amy Brooks at [\(865\) 215-4001](tel:8652154001) or email [recode@knoxmpc.org](mailto:recode@knoxmpc.org).

## **2. Reminder: Savings in the House Workshop Tonight**

Are you interested in simple steps to reduce your utility bills?

Don't miss out on this free workshop from 6-7p.m. at the new Public Works Building on 3131 Morris Ave.

This workshop is sponsored by Alliance to Save Energy. For more information, contact Jennifer Alldredge at 615-830-1875.

## **3. Edgewood Park to Restart Third Thursday**

The monthly concerts in the Park have returned!

This Thursday, May 18, Edgewood Park will be hosting the musical talent of [Matt Foster](#) and his unique blend of mountain music.

Bring a blanket, a chair, your family, and friends to enjoy music on a beautiful spring evening. There will be toys for kids, water, and of course watermelon.

## **4. Volunteers Needed for Mechanicsville Clean-up**

This Saturday, May 20, from 10 a.m. - 12 noon, Keep Knoxville Beautiful (KKB) is looking for volunteers to help in Mechanicsville.

Participants will meet at Danny Mayfield Park, 700 College Street, to gather supplies then disperse into their own groups. Snacks and beverages will be available free for all participants, as will the use of litter-pickers, gloves, garbage bags and safety vests.

Whether you live in Mechanicsville or just want to lend a hand, join the group to make Knoxville a cleaner, greener and more beautiful city! To volunteer, [register](#) at KKB.

Contact Patience Melnik at 521-6957 or [programs@keepknoxvillebeautiful.org](mailto:programs@keepknoxvillebeautiful.org) for more information.

## **5. Open Streets Knoxville is this Weekend!**

Come walk, bike, dance, play, much more in East Knoxville this weekend.

This Sunday, May 21, from 2-6 p.m., will be the fourth edition of Open Streets Knoxville. Hosted by [Bike Walk Knoxville](#), this event will be located on Magnolia Ave. from Randolph St. to North Chestnut St. including a small "L" loop onto East Depot Ave.

There will be over 60 organizations participating, all with a different activity or event planned. There will also be 11 food vendors and five performers. To see the full list of organizations, vendors, and other information about the event visit <http://openstreetsknoxville.com/news/>.

Parking will be located at John T. O'Connor Senior Center, Vine Middle School, and Knoxville Family Justice Center, as well as on various public side streets on either side

of Magnolia Ave. Accessible parking will be located at Regions Bank. KAT is providing a free ride home if you come to their booth for a pass.

If you have any questions, email [openstreetsknoxville@gmail.com](mailto:openstreetsknoxville@gmail.com).

## **6. Save the Dates: 2018 Grant Cycle**

If you are considering applying for the Neighborhood Small Grant Program this year, make note of these workshops.

You must attend **ONE** of the two Mandatory Workshops:  
Saturday, June 3, from 10 a.m.-12 noon at the Public Works Building, 3131 Morris Ave.  
**OR** Thursday, June 15, from 6-8 p.m. at the Knoxville Station, 301 E Church Ave.

Contact Debbie Sharp at [dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov) or 215-4382 to register for either of these two workshops.

Be on the lookout for the 2018 Application and Guidelines to be posted on the Office of Neighborhood's web page and in the Neighborhood Advisory next week.

## **7. MPC: Short Term Rental Ordinance**

Last Thursday, May 11, MPC decided to make no recommendation on the short term rental (STR) ordinance, moving it on to City Council.

Read more about the STR ordinance [here](#). Also refer back to last week's [newsletter](#) to read about the State Legislature's dropping their "Airbnb Bill" for this year.

Bill Lyons, Deputy Mayor, and Crista Cuccaro, from the City Law Department, spoke on behalf of the City. They believe this ordinance strikes a balance between allowing short term rentals, with permits and regulations, while protecting neighborhoods.

There is also a concern that if the ordinance is too restrictive the State Legislature may be more tempted to step in and override the ordinance. Currently most STRs are illegal in Knoxville. This ordinance will allow City officials to better regulate this new industry.

There were several neighborhoods present that voiced their opinion on the ordinance. Sandy Gillespie spoke on behalf of Community Forum. Community Forum passed the following resolution, "Be it resolved that Community Forum, an organization of many neighborhoods in the City of Knoxville and Knox County, is oppose to allowing short term rentals in residential districts, R-1 and R-1E, as proposed in the ordinance."

Gillespie also stated that at the Community Forum meeting, several neighborhood leaders indicated that their respective boards have voted and are opposed to allowing STRs in R-1 and R-1E. These neighborhoods are Alice Bell Spring Hills, Pond Gap, Fountain City Town Hall, Kingston Pike Sequoyah Hills, and Tazewell Pike/ Beverly Station, Wesley Neighbors, and West Hills.

Carlene Malone from Fountain City Town Hall agreed with Sandy Gillespie. However, she mentioned without a restriction in R-1 and R-1E, the commission should consider passing the ordinance on to City Council with no recommendation.

Jenny Wright represented the board of Historic Fourth and Gill Neighborhood. She spoke in favor of the ordinance specifically the provision that states STRs must be owner occupied. "Without this provision.... the true heart of our neighborhood would be diminished."

The Short Term Rental Ordinance should go to City Council in July, following a Council workshop. Visit City Council's website [http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/government/city\\_council](http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/government/city_council) to find out when the ordinance will be on the agenda. As a reminder, if you wish to speak at City Council you must sign up. If you cannot make it to the meeting, but still wish to voice an opinion, consider sending a letter to be entered into the record.

#### **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](mailto: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.*