

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 9, No. 28 – Tuesday, August 2, 2016

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.

1. Three Neighborhoods to Celebrate National Night Out
2. City Seeks NAC's Input on Airbnb, Similar Services
3. [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. Three Neighborhoods to Celebrate National Night Out

Three neighborhood groups --- Eastport/Lee Williams Neighborhood Watch, Wesley Neighbors Community Association, and Westavia Woods Neighborhood Watch --- will celebrate National Night Out this evening.

Neighbors will gather, meet police officers, and make a statement that the community is organized to fight crime.

While groups are free to celebrate National Night Out on the first Tuesday of August, the Knoxville Police Department chooses to celebrate the nationwide event on the first Tuesday in October to avoid hot weather and afternoon thundershowers. Most neighborhoods have switched as well.

If you plan to participate on Tuesday, October 4, please register your event with the KPD Safety Education Unit by notifying Neighborhood Watch Coordinator John Morgan at jmorgan@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-1519. This will ensure that KPD schedules officers to attend your event. Be sure to give the name and phone number of your contact person and organization, the time your event will begin and end, and the exact location.

If you provide the same information to the Office of Neighborhoods (Debbie Sharp, dsharp@knoxvilletn.gov, 215-4382), we can include your event in an upcoming article in this newsletter.

2. City Seeks NAC's Input on Airbnb, Similar Services

City staff next week will meet with the [Neighborhood Advisory Council](#) in a first round of public input on the possibility of regulating and restricting short-term rentals of residential property.

The NAC meeting begins at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 10, in the community room of the Cansler Family YMCA, 616 Jessamine Street, near the Hall of Fame exit on I-40. NAC meetings are free and open to the public.

Short term rentals are becoming increasingly popular across the country. These rentals are typically brokered by Airbnb and similar online services that match renters—usually vacationers—with property owners who want to rent a portion of their home or their entire home for a fee. In some cities, investors use their properties exclusively for short-term rentals.

Currently, these services are operating in Knoxville without permits, inspections or taxation. Such short-term rentals of homes in residential zones are illegal and can be required to cease operating if a complaint is verified by the City's Plans Review and Inspections Department. (These short-term rentals are different from traditional bed-and-breakfast establishments, which in Knoxville are permitted with a use-on-review in certain residential districts with an H-1 historic overlay.)

Figuring out how to regulate short-term rentals is a challenge in terms of balancing many competing interests and concerns.

How can the City best manage this “shared economy” phenomenon, while also providing options for tourists who support the local economy, capturing the tax revenues that motels and hotels have to pay, acknowledging the needs of homeowners who rely on the extra income to stay in their homes, protecting public safety, maintaining the supply of affordable housing, and respecting the integrity of residential neighborhoods?

A small task force of City staff is studying the issue and evaluating best practices and approaches used in other cities, with the goal of crafting an ordinance that works for our City. The meeting with NAC will be followed later by more public meetings and a City Council workshop.

For some background on the issue, [see this 2014 study](#) commissioned by the City of Asheville to examine regulations in other cities and the effects of short-term rentals on the supply of affordable housing.

The Neighborhood Advisory Council is appointed by the Mayor to provide advice and feedback to the City Administration on matters impacting residential neighborhoods.

[3. Neighborhood and Government Calendar](#) (clickable to online calendar)

Include your neighborhood-related event or meeting in this calendar. Call 215-4382.

Visit <http://knoxvilletn.gov/calendar> for a complete list of meetings of various city boards and commissions.

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 David Massey at 215-3232 or dmassey@knoxvilletn.gov.

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.*