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## PARADES!

### DECEMBER 1 PARADE

The 45th Annual WIVK Christmas Parade will be held Friday, December 1, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

Rain or shine, the parade will step off onto Church Street and travel towards Gay Street, where the parade emcee will be positioned, announcing each unit as they pass. The parade will turn onto East Jackson Street and will disband in the Old City, past Barley's.

### DECEMBER 2 PARADES

The Karns Christmas Parade begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 2 at Ingles and continues to the red light in downtown Karns. Line up begins at 9 a.m. in the Ingles parking lot.

Come see Santa at the 2017 Luttrell Christmas Parade which will begin at Tazewell Pike and Park Road at noon on Saturday, December 2. For information about participating, please call 865-992-0870 or 865-363-4752.

The Halls Christmas Parade is Saturday, December 2, 2017 beginning at 2 p.m. Lineup starts at 12:30 p.m. at Halls High School. For questions contact Travis Woody at the Halls Food City or at 688smgr@foodcity.com.

The Powell Annual Christmas Parade will be Saturday, December 2, 2017 at 5 p.m. The parade route begins at Powell Plaza and travels to Powell High School. Participants must be present and registered by 4:15. If you want your float judged for "Best in Show", you must register float to participate. Registration cost is \$5 onsite. The winning float receives half the pot. For more information email: tnpowell-lions@gmail.com.

The Rocky Hill Business District is proud to announce the 4th Annual Christmas parade here in our community on Saturday, December, 2 at 6:00 p.m. For more information please visit [www.rockyhill-christmasparade.org](http://www.rockyhill-christmasparade.org).

### DECEMBER 9 PARADE

The 24th Annual Seymour Community Christmas Parade is December 9, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. Registration is now open. Visit [www.seymourtn.org/events/christmas-parade/](http://www.seymourtn.org/events/christmas-parade/) to register.

### NOTE

Due to safety concerns on Broadway, there will be no Fountain City Optimist Christmas Parade this year.

## Short-term rentals approved for ALL residential zones

By Mike Steely  
steelym@knoxfocus.com

Despite continual opposition from some neighborhood groups the Knoxville City Council passed, on a split vote, a short-term rental policy for every residential neighborhood. Only two council members,

Duane Grieve and Nick Della Volpe, opposed the final 6-2 vote. Councilman George Wallace was absent from Tuesday's meeting.

Larry Silverstein, representing the Community Forum, told the council that the organization

has opposed STRs in R-1 and R-1E neighborhoods since November of last year. He said that since then, ten neighborhood organizations have voiced similar opposition. Silverstein urged the council to approve Councilman Duane Grieve's motion to

prohibit rentals in those zoned areas.

"The overwhelming consensus is against this," he said, adding that the council "has not listened."

Several current STR owners spoke and asked the council to grandfather those current non-owner

operated rentals.

Debra Olsen, a South Knoxville STR owner, said that over the past year more than 8,000 visitors have stayed in short-term rental homes without a major complaint from neighbors. She said

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## OFFICIALS OPEN FOREST HEIGHTS POCKET PARK



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN GIBL

Mayor Madeline Rogero, Vice Mayor Duane Grieve, City Council At-Large member Marshall Stair and City staff members assist in cutting the ribbon to officially open the new Forest Heights Pocket Park.

## Knoxville 1st Tennessee city certified as wildlife habitat

There was more than the opening of a new park to be celebrated last Monday, as City officials cut the ribbon on the recently acquired and renovated Forest Heights Pocket Park, located at 411 Highland Hills Road.

Until last week, the 0.8-acre park had been split into 32 parcels owned by the Forest Heights neighborhood residents. The park, adjacent to the City's Bearden Village Greenway, was transferred to the City so that Public Works Department crews could upgrade its amenities to meet safety standards and

maintain it on a regular basis.

The park features a paved walking loop, picnic tables and play equipment, including new swings and a natural playground installed by City crews.

During the ceremony, Mayor Madeline Rogero announced that Knoxville has just been named the first city in Tennessee to be certified by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) as a Community Wildlife Habitat.

"We have to preserve our wildlife habitats so that our future generations experience the beauty that is

East Tennessee's trademark," said Mayor Rogero. "Whether it be the 1,000-acre Urban Wilderness or a smaller-than-an-acre pocket park like Forest Heights, it's a win for our kids and our grandkids."

To achieve the city-level certification, a city is required to first certify 312 sites at homes, schools or common areas that provide the four basic elements that all wildlife need: food, water, cover and places to raise young. Knoxville currently has 344 sites (322 homes, 16 common areas, and six schools).

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## City begins streetlight retrofitting in East Knoxville

By Ken Lay

The City of Knoxville is changing its streetlights. It became official recently when Mayor Madeline Rogero hosted a ceremony where the first LED light was lit.

Rogero and city councilman and former mayor Daniel Brown were on hand when Angel Pena of Siemens turned on the first new light in East

Knoxville on the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. and Olive Street.

That ceremony began the retrofitting project to replace the old inefficient lights.

"I'm very pleased that Knoxville is the first of Tennessee's four major cities to begin retrofitting. Knoxville is taking a leadership role in this," Rogero said. "Improving visibility

at night and exceeding our sustainability is a win-win.

"Also, we're especially pleased that Siemens has hired local subcontractors to do the bulk of the work."

The ceremony on Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. was the first of nearly 100 demonstration LED's. Those will be installed at 17 locations throughout

Knoxville.

These pilot demonstrations will aid both Siemens and the City of Knoxville to determine the best fixtures and bulbs for different types of streets and locations.

The 16 other pilot locations will be at Union Ave. near Market Square; James White Parkway near

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Three opponents to the designation and two supporters spoke to the council last week.

Kim Trent and Jenny Mesnick spoke for the historic designation. Mesnick called the plan a way to "encourage affordability" and said she welcomes Mayor Rogero's offer of cooperation.

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