

Short-term rentals, for or against

Letter to the Editor

July 24, 2025

There is a misconception that short-term rentals generate income to the local community. However, the reviews I have read online of unauthorized short-term rentals in Lake Township tell me otherwise. When they rent on the water, they want to enjoy the water, via boating, swimming, kayaking, fishing, etc. They do not go into town and spend money on those businesses. Most likely, the only businesses they visit are the local party stores.

When these unauthorized short-term rentals advertise through multiple sites, they have no regard for the current ordinances on file and blatantly continue to rent. Some even continue to rent after their notice of “ceasing all rental operations” and have openly discussed at a board meeting the number of times they have rented, without any further ordinance enforcement follow up, such as civil infraction citations and fines that are supposed to result for failure to comply.

As a permanent resident, I do not want short-term rentals, especially in the waterfront areas. Our property values will drop and once-known neighbors will no longer be living in the single-family residential homes, but conducting a business renting to groups of people with no regard to boundaries, property, parking, etc.

It's time to become involved in what is happening in our own backyard. Attend township board meetings. The next Lake Township meeting is scheduled for Aug. 12.

Jayne VanNess