

Life next door to a STR?

August 07, 2025

Here is a small sample of our experiences living next a short-term rental for three years at Houghton Lake:

A poorly tied up rental pontoon. It got loose, scraped up our pontoon and then slid off and wedged into our dock and seawall.

Constant near-miss collisions and push-off contact with our docked boat by renters.

Constantly trespassing on our yard and dock. Private property signs helped but didn't end it. Calling the police helped, but didn't stop it. We then would have to deal with the renters having an attitude all week.

Renters with v-hulls tying off on other neighbors' longer docks because they couldn't get into the shallow, shorter dock on the rental property. Then, them being upset over the situation and not letting them use it.

Strangers feeling like the street and neighboring properties are a resort to use as they please was both offensive and a liability.

Weekly overflowing garbage roadside because of the volume of people and trash generated weekly.

Constant road obstructions due to the number of vehicles and trailers in an overcrowded lakeside home.

Loud, drunk groups having bonfires past midnight randomly every night of the week. Police helped a little, but wasted their resources. And, again, we then dealt with upset renters being obnoxious to us all week long.

Two drunk guys wandered into another neighbor's house in the middle of the night because they didn't "remember" which home was their rental.

Huge party groups creating chaos for days on end.

The list could go on, but the word count doesn't allow it. Needless to say, we and our other neighbors lived in weekly anxiety due to constant problems and disruptions to our lives on our own property due to a STR next door. Many others we have spoken to have similar experiences.

Please voice your opposition to short-term rentals to both the Lake Township Board (next meeting, Aug. 12 at 7 p.m.) and planning commission board (next meeting, Aug. 7 at 1 p.m.).

Jeff Smith