



June 2018

## Useful Community Development... quick notes

**Inside: Tourism and the Sharing Economy, Hope and Well-Being, Walking, Forgotten Communities**

Visit us and explore at <https://www.useful-community-development.org>.

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New Website Content This Month: New page: [driverless cars and city planning](#), an informed speculation about the future, as are the new articles on [autonomous vehicles and transit](#) and [driverless cars and sprawl](#). It's time for planning commissions to start thinking about these technologies.

Significantly updated: [bicycle sharing](#). New visitor submission: [City of Delray Beach alleyway cleanup](#). New visitor questions were answered: [church in R1 zoning to be a house](#), [church sold lots and now cannot meet parking requirement](#), [impact of developer's out of business status on deed restrictions](#). Of course we also have a new [privacy policy](#), as does almost every site trying to comply with new European Union rules.



## **Summer Brings Tourists...and Communities Scrambling to Keep Up With the Sharing Economy**

Short-term rentals, including but certainly not limited to AirBnB and other digital platforms, have been generating plenty of discussion and neighborhood conflict around the country. To understand the range of community responses, we liked this [example-filled article](#) from the National Association of Counties for a concise introduction.

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## **How Communities Are Addressing Public Health Crises with Hope and Wellbeing Discussions**

With opioids and suicide in the news, we took a look at how notions once considered too "touchy-feely" for public policy, such as hope and well-being, are being addressed by more and more community collaborations and governments. For example, Tulsa's [10-year plan to improve mental health and wellness](#) establishes a goal of decreasing the 27 year life expectancy gap between those suffering from mental health and substance abuse issues compared to the overall population. The premature deaths occur due to suicide, overdose, homicide, and accidents.

For a broad community wellbeing initiative, see the interesting [example from Santa](#)

[Monica, California](#). Wellbeing now is tackled on a national scale in the United Kingdom.

To see how a public health topic such as the actual rise in mortality among less educated whites in America is being tied to abstract notions such as hope, check out this [blog from the Brookings Institution](#).

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## Summer Also a Good Time to Encourage More Walking

To help encourage walking for improved neighborliness, sense of safety, and health, you can mount a temporary or season-long Walk [Your City] campaign. Research shows that many people overestimate the time it would take to walk to popular spots in your town. Some good places to walk may be going undiscovered too.

A [social venture](#) using the Walk [Your City] motif supplies attractive plastic or metal signs that identify a destination, a directional signal, and an estimated walking time. Signs are color-coded to help people catch on to the type of destination, and you can provide exact directions by means of a QR code that can be used with smartphones. Signs are as little as \$28. Note you will have to create an account before you can start investigating costs and creating content.

If your organization can't afford that, you can make your own. Of course you will need city permission to mount these signs on street light, traffic signal, or utility poles.

Rural places and towns may want to plan now to participate in a July 11 webinar about [walkability issues geared to their needs](#).

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## Inspiration for Forgotten Communities

While not a brand-new article, this week we brought some real encouragement by sharing this 2016 story about how to work with a neighborhood racked with poverty and violence. Sometimes there's no substitute for door-to-door outreach followed by neighbor endorsement. Read about [Glenda and the \\$8 transformation](#).

Been meaning to order our ebook about how to start a neighborhood association? Summer is a good time to talk with a few friends and acquaintances, and to plot an autumn kickoff. [Full information here](#).

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