

Other than a 14- year period from the mid-70s to the late 80s, we have always lived on the property adjoining 5307 E. Emory Road since my parents first bought it in 1967. This has always been a nice, peaceful single-family residential area of Halls, and we have been blessed to have very good neighbors on both sides of our home. It has been a place I could count on to retreat to for relieve of the stress and pressure from my work usually in the form of working in my yard or in my wooded area behind my home.

This has already changed dramatically with the purchase of this property by this business even before they have even built any structures on what was adjoining woodland which has been completely decimated, except for a portion of woods still left standing on the north side of the property, allowing some degree of privacy for those neighbors. It is true likewise for those neighbors on the west side. For whatever reason, this business has chosen to clear out all the woods right up to and even crossing over 12 feet onto my property (at the northern end where they meet), pushing the very aggressive (Oriental Bittersweet) vines I have been trying to eradicate from this area of my wooded property for the last year. They even knocked over a small tree in the process, which has since died.

My concern for turning this residential home into a business is the noise level that is to be expected with all the dogs on this property. There is an intimidation factor that I have already experienced as well. I don't know how many dogs they currently have, as I have heard many barking every time they open a door, but every time I would go outside in my back yard or wooded area to work and because it is so open now, two large German Shepard dogs would bark very aggressively toward me, making it anything but a relaxing time on my own property. Apparently, this did not bother the business owner and it wasn't until I filed a complaint with Knox County Codes Enforcement did it stop.

Please do not misunderstand me, I have nothing against pets, I've had both dogs and cats and I've taken in strays that come to my back porch. I'm even now trying to domesticate a feral cat that desperately needs a home. We've all been in veterinarian's offices, kennels, or other areas where a number of animals are congregated. It can be very noisy and chaotic at times.

I would like to close by posing a question to each of you. Would you want to live in what was once a peaceful quiet neighborhood that is going to become a noisy, disruptive business enclave?

Respectfully submitted,
James F. Koren

