

Walden's Ridge Civic League Report to the Town of Walden MAY 12, 2026

Thank you for allowing us to report on recent developments at the Walden's Ridge Civic League (WRCL.)

We are honored to host the entire mountaintop on June 13 for a celebration of *America 250* – the 250th birthday of the United States AND the 105th anniversary of the construction of the Walden's Ridge Civic League Auditorium. The Birthday party begins in the Auditorium at 4:00 PM. Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) in Revolutionary uniform will present the colors. Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will tell interesting stories about our local patriots. Local actors will give a 10-minute play, "Story of Walden's Ridge Civic League," by Dr. Peggy Douglas. After a special surprise presentation, the party moves outside (rain or shine) where everyone is encouraged to leave their marks on a steel sculpture representing the Liberty Bell.

Fun continues with BBQ ribs and beverages under a big tent, plus *free* ice cream and birthday cake while Bluegrass Bands offer entertainment. There will be the traditional Birthday Bash fun of balloons, hayrides, games for all ages, jump house, and of course, the playground.

Musket firing demonstrations by the SAR will be an exciting way for children to understand and appreciate the meaning of America 250. Booths with folks in period costume will provide interesting information. The evening concludes at 8:00 PM with a musket salute.

Volunteers have finished the new siding on the Auditorium front and are continuing on the south side. We expect that section to be completed by the America 250-Birthday Bash celebration.

Inside the Auditorium, the same volunteer team removed the old seats which had been in place since they were recycled from a movie theater in the late 1940's. New seats, a gift from the Tivoli, are in place, and two of the historic seats are exhibited in our History Room. The new seating prompted praise from the audience for *Tell It on the Mountain* on March 27.

The Boy Scout Eagle project to construct a floor over the old scout cabin foundation is about 99% completed with only a bit of handrail and stair rail to finish.

The white concrete block TN Highway Patrol radio/communications station, built in 1953, served as the original Walden Town Hall when the Town took a ten-year lease from WRCL @ \$1.00/year after the Town incorporated and before the current Town Hall was built in 1993. Volunteers have built woodworking benches around the inside walls so they can craft Adirondack chairs to sell. The chairs will be made from the white oak that is too short for siding, turning otherwise unusable lumber into another asset. We are asking for donations of woodworking equipment such as table saws, joiners, planers, etc. to further this fundraising project. To donate or for more information, please go to our website www.waldensridgescivicleague.org.

Karen Stone, WRCL Interim Secretary