

Walden's Ridge Civic League Report to the Town of Walden August 9, 2022

Thank you for the opportunity to report on activities at the Walden's Ridge Civic League.

The *Second Annual Birthday Bash & Music Festival* on June 18 was quite a success. We experimented with the idea of charging admission to see how that would be received, since all previous events have been free of charge. The community responded, we had a great crowd, and we are very grateful for the results. The Board of Directors also acknowledges and appreciates the Town of Walden for pushing us to begin fundraising in earnest. With donations from sponsors and our friends who came to celebrate our 101st birthday, the Civic League cleared almost \$4,500.00

As a result, we were able to order microphones, cords, speakers and stands to supplement miscellaneous donated pieces of sound equipment. Though our system is not exactly state of the art, we now have operating equipment again, so the Auditorium can attract performers who would not rent the facility until we had a sound system in place.

On July 30, the WR Civic League brought Nu-Blu from North Carolina for a benefit concert to honor our country's veterans and active service members. Nu-Blu is winner of Country Band Of The Year at the Carolina Music Awards, has 5 Albums on the Top 10 Billboard Charts, and the #1 most played song on Sirius/XM radio. Their dynamic performance of Americana and bluegrass music and down-home comedy was a big hit with the audience, who would like to have them return.

During the event, Quilts of Valor[®] were presented to five veterans: Joshua Botts, Birchie Moore, Brad Hennessee, Stephen R King, and John W. Glass, III. Both King and Glass live on Walden's Ridge. The gift quilts were hand crafted by the local group, *QOV Belles*, all volunteers from the Chattanooga area and NW Georgia.

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the addition of two new board members. Libby Goodman, who has extensive experience serving with other nonprofit organizations, has accepted the position of Secretary. Joe Clawson, who brings many executive and leadership skills in addition to an accounting background, will serve as Treasurer. The addition of these two highly qualified members to the Board makes an even stronger and more capable team to lead the organization forward.

If all goes as planned, we will have "Smoke on the Mountain" October 21 and 22. Chairman Mark Dwyer is bringing in an expert to help us set up an organized Bar-B-Que Cookoff contest along with an "Anything but..." bar-b-que contest. Invitations to enter the contests are posted on social media, and we are distributing flyers wherever possible. Please help pass the word.

We expect BBQ cooks to begin setting up in the morning on Friday, October 21. They will cook all day while, beginning at 5:00, music plays on an outdoor stage. Crafters of "Anything but..." bar-b-que will share their specialties on Friday evening, and everyone will be able to taste and vote for the best of Anything. On Saturday the music continues with judging of the Bar-B-Que in the afternoon. Bar-B-Que will be for sale by the contestants all day long Friday and Saturday. We will let you know more details as things develop in the coming weeks.

As you can see by this progress, the Board of Directors continues to implement plans for offering the Walden's Ridge Civic League as a benefit to the residents of Walden and the whole mountaintop. If you have any suggestions for programming or improvements, we are always glad to hear them.

Karen Stone, President