

**Walden's Ridge Civic League Report to the Town of Walden  
November 15, 2022**

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

"Smoke on the Mountain" held Friday and Saturday, October 21 and 22, was a big success. The Bar-B-Que Cookoff contest was the inspiration of Board member Mark Dwyer who led a very enthusiastic and hard-working committee. The Best BBQ on Signal Mountain title went to *Sweet Smoke Q* cooked by Jeff and Katelyn Elser and daughters Emma Elser and Zoie Denman, who came from Las Vegas via Florida to Tennessee. Everyone enjoyed live music both afternoons and into the night. The kids had a great time playing with all the toys and games in the playground area. Our guests ate lots of BBQ prepared by the Civic League and other great food prepared by Lone Oak Fire Department.

We had a large, generous crowd both days. Donations from our friends helped us pay for infrastructure improvements that supported the BBQ and that will not have to be financed next year. We now have electricity to an interior power pole and underground to stations for next year's contestants. The parking lot was graded, further enlarged, and graveled too.

A gift from a generous local foundation allowed the Civic League to install guttering on the auditorium the week following the BBQ. The gutters are a real blessing because they will help solve the problem of a wet basement. The siding is still in terrible shape, and we hope to tackle it soon. The cost is estimated to be about \$55,000 dollars and we are still hoping for help from the Town of Walden, since BBQs and Birthday Parties do not go very far when faced with such a huge need.

We are pleased to announce the addition of three highly qualified members of the Board of Directors: Patrice Glass, is currently Director of Advancement Services at Girls Preparatory School, and she will help us focus on the research, systems, and activities that organize our nonprofit's fundraising activities. Pat Clawson is talented in art, has worked with nonprofits her entire career, has written grants, and has already devoted many hours to helping with events at the Civic League. Rob Johnson is skilled in management and finances, having been a national and regional Audit Manager and Public Relations Manager who has served on several nonprofit boards. We are very privileged to have these professionals join in to make the Walden's Ridge Civic League a real asset to the community.

Karen Stone, President