

## **Walden's Ridge Civic League Report to the Town of Walden** **December 13, 2022**

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

First, we want to thank the Town for including the Nell Leslie Memorial Garden in the Walden beautification effort. Nell Leslie was President of the Walden's Ridge Guild and was responsible for establishing the playground at the Civic League. Garden Committee Chair, Johanne Albright, along with Sallie Ford, Sara Rush and Riley Alderman recently planted five oakleaf hydrangeas purchased from Signal Mt. Nursery, and five native azaleas (2 Flame and 3 *Pinxler*), three Goat's Beard, and six Penstemon (3 *Beardtongue Foxglove* and 3 *Beardtongue Smooth*) purchased from Reflection Riding. The gardeners also removed some Autumn Olive and Barberry bushes which are invasive. The new plants are native and are expected to thrive in the shade garden where our Blue Spruce tree is flourishing. A curving path through the garden will lead to the tree for lighting it at Christmas.

We would like to invite everyone to celebrate a ***Very Merry Mountain Christmas*** on Friday, December 16, starting at 4:00 p.m. and continuing until 9:00 p.m., come rain, snow or shine. We will have hot dogs and bratwurst to enjoy with a beer or soft drink by the bonfire. Santa Claus will talk with the children and hear last-minute requests. Have your portrait made by Amy Wetmore, or if you prefer to have your face painted, that is an option. The gingerbread house contest for kids 13 and under is always a joy for everyone. Prizes will be awarded the houses judged best by our guests. The kids will be able to make an ornament and place it on the little Christmas tree before the lighting ceremony at about 7:30. The youth choir of Signal Mt. Presbyterian Church will lead us in carols. To top off the evening, Blue Cumberland will play as an extra special treat even after the kids have tired themselves out and gone home to bed.

The Board of Directors strives to benefit the residents of Walden and the whole mountaintop. Four seasonal events are scheduled to coordinate with the other nonprofits on the mountain such as MACC and McCoy Farm & Gardens. In the spring at April Fool's Day, we will host Mountain Storytellers and Spinners of Tall Tales. June marks our summer Mountain Birthday Bash with free birthday cake, ice cream and balloons. The first weekend in October brings Smoke on the Mountain Bar-B-Que Contest and Music Festival, and winter brings an old-fashioned Merry Mountain Christmas. These four fundraisers will be our signature events when everyone can plan to have a good time together.

Other than these dates, the 200-seat auditorium, the soccer field, the pavilion, and the grounds are available to rent for birthday parties and socials of all kinds.

The Civic League is participating in *History Connections*, an initiative to promote cooperation among history-oriented nonprofits in the region. Five of our representatives attended the kick-off meeting. President Karen Stone was interviewed on WGOW 102.5 radio, and Board Member Patrice Glass is partnering with *Picnooga* to digitize our collection of historic meeting minutes dating back to 1921. Friend and advisor, Peggy Douglas, begins work in January on a play featuring the important people of the Civic League and the advancements they brought to Walden's Ridge through their dedicated service. Through *History Connections*, we also met again with Stefanie Haire who is pursuing our listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

*The mission of the Walden's Ridge Civic League is to preserve its history and to continue traditional and new activities.* Through working with others, and presenting four special events each year, we are striving to fulfill that mission. If you have any suggestions for programming or improvements, we are always glad to hear them.

Karen Stone, President