

Walden's Ridge Civic League Report to the Town of Walden

March 14, 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to report on activities at the Walden's Ridge Civic League, and thank you for the Town's generous support.

To ensure that the funds donated to the Civic League are reserved for replacing the auditorium's deteriorated siding, treasurer Joe Clawson is placing \$51,000 in an account designated for that expenditure only. Facilities chair Mark Dwyer has presented a preliminary proposal to the Board of Directors outlining plans for acquiring the wood from regional suppliers, for using local sawyers, and for applying the siding using local craftsmen. Since the wood is still to be cut, sawn and seasoned, the siding effort will not be accomplished quickly. The Board is determined to take steps slowly and deliberately to adhere to requirements for achieving National Register of Historic Places status. What this means is that you will not see anyone tearing off siding immediately. That will come after all the materials are on hand and we are ready to complete the job once it is begun. We intend to replicate the look of the Civic League when it was constructed in 1921 using rough-cut, oak, board-and-batten siding.

On March 31, storytellers will return to the Civic League to present a concert, as storytelling in-the-round is called. Kids of all ages are invited to come and hear tall tales, jokes, legends, riddles, Jack tales and other family-friendly stories on the stage. The fun begins at 5:00 when the Clever Ale House food truck arrives. A bonfire will welcome all to make s'mores for dessert after sampling good eats from the newest restaurant on Signal Mt. Renowned storytellers of Cleveland and Chattanooga are back by popular demand from last year. The concert begins promptly at 6:30. When it wraps up at 8:30, the audience is encouraged to stay a bit and explore options for storytelling workshops to be organized later.

We are happy to announce a budding relationship with Scriptorium Hall, a program in classical education. They are renting the auditorium first on March 17. Approximately 20 students will hold "Shakespeare Day" when they will read and act out a Shakespeare play and eat a Renaissance snack. On Monday, April 3, 12:00-9:00 pm about 30 students will hold Scottish Highland Games and conduct a historic battle reenactment, followed by a potluck supper, Scottish/Celtic music performance, and folk dance. Thursday, May 11, 4:00-10:00pm is "Defense Day" with student end-of-year presentations, a short graduation ceremony for the seniors, a potluck supper, and folk dancing. Roughly 75 students and family members are expected.

As a reminder, the 200-seat auditorium, the soccer field, the pavilion, and the grounds are available to rent for activities of all kinds.

A volunteer bought us paint recently, and another volunteer undertook to paint the concession area. Unfortunately when he pulled out the cabinet to paint behind it, he found the floor badly damaged. Tonight, as we meet here, more volunteers are working to repair the floor and make improvements. Barbara and Clyde Womack were kind enough to give us a dishwasher. We are taking advantage of the floor repair to install the dishwasher and a new sink. These features, along with new countertops and storage units, will upgrade our concession area and make our place more attractive for tenants and more useful for our own activities. Donations are very welcome to help pay for all this activity.

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