

## **Walden's Ridge Civic League Report to the Town of Walden September 12, 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.

Two important events are scheduled for this month in addition to Scriptorium Hall's Shakespeare Day that featured reading of a play followed by a period meal and dances by high schoolers on September 8.

*Rock the Ridge – Celebrate the Wild* will be this Saturday, September 16 from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. There is no admission charge. Come and buy native plants from vendors from GA, NC and TN. Over 20 environmental organizations can answer all your questions. Four experts will speak on important environmental topics. There will be music all day and food and drink for purchase. A special children's tent will feature fun activities and rescued animals to see.

*Smoke on the Mountain*, featuring a BBQ contest and an "Anything But BBQ" contest is the third of four seasonal programs this year. This event on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> offers something for everyone in the family - hayrides, games, face painting, s'mores by the bonfire and more for the children, while adults can listen to some of the best bluegrass music in the area, including: the Graysin Slade Band and the Owen Saunders Family Band Friday night, while on Saturday, Slow Fuze Blues, Blue Cumberland and Low Down Revival will play. The BBQ weekend starts at 5 PM Friday and closes at 9:30 PM Saturday.

"For an event of this scale, which last year attracted more the 500 attendees, we are always looking for volunteers and sponsors," says Co-chair JoDe Estes. "The WRCL is such an important part of Signal Mountain's history, and we love that events like this make it relevant to families making even more memories here."

Generous sponsors to date include Pruett's Signal Mt. Market, Walden Plumbing, Ascension Living Alexian Village, Superior Air Systems, Krispy Crunchy Chicken / Discount Smoke Shop & Grocer, H & H Flooring, and CMC Chris Martin Construction. There is still time to enter the BBQ contest. Contact Mark Dwyer by text at 423-402-6245 or by email at [bbqwrc@gmail.com](mailto:bbqwrc@gmail.com).

WRCL continues to share our parking lots with Wayside Presbyterian and Signal Mt. Christian School. The Soccer Shots program for small children uses the field Saturdays and Tuesdays, while other soccer teams practice for free on a first-come-first-served basis.

We are still working on rehabilitating the concession area located in what is known as the Mt. Opry Annex. Reconstruction of the structural members and floor is complete; safe GFCI electric outlets are installed, and we are researching shelving, countertops, and appliances. A new 3-compartment sink will be in place soon.

White oak lumber for residing the building is already being sawn and delivered to the property. Encapsulation of part of the basement is underway so the wood can be stored and dried inside. Once all the trees are harvested, and the wood is sawn and dried, the old, deteriorated wood shakes will be removed in stages. The building will be evaluated for any necessary insulation that will be added before house wrap goes up. Next comes the siding installation, and the historic building will finally be protected from the weather.

This is a very ambitious project, and we are grateful to the Town of Walden for providing the funds to accomplish it. We know you will want to watch and celebrate our progress.

The next quarterly membership meeting is Thursday, October 19 in the auditorium at 7:00PM. Join us for a free picnic, and greet Senator Bo Watson and Representative Patsy Hazelwood who will present the Civic League with a State Proclamation honoring the auditorium's Centennial. Stefanie Haire, of the Southeast TN Development District will update the membership on our application for National Register of Historic Places status. Members will also hear how Scriptorium Hall offers programming in the historic building. If you are not yet a member, you are invited to join when you attend an event or through the website [www.waldensridgecivicleague.org](http://www.waldensridgecivicleague.org). Election of officers is the most important part of the October meeting, and all members can vote. Nominations for officers are open now. Please consider running for office and supporting the Civic League.

Through working with others in the community, and presenting four special events each year, we are striving to fulfill our mission which is "*to preserve our history and continue traditional and new activities.*" If you have any suggestions for programming or improvements, we are always glad to hear them.

Karen Stone, President