

Walden's Ridge Civic League Report to the Town of Walden April 9, 2024

Thank you for allowing us to report on recent developments at the Walden's Ridge Civic League.

For *TELL IT on the MOUNTIAN*, last Friday, the WRCL hosted five renowned Storytellers who presented a round-robin storytelling concert to an appreciative crowd. President Mark Dwyer cooked brats and hot dogs on the grill as a special treat for our guests. The kids played with the increasing supply of toys donated by the public for the playground, and everyone enjoyed making s'mores.

Merry Mountain Christmas on December 15 brought the community together for the third year. Many expressed happiness with the old-fashioned atmosphere, the colored lights, traditional music, crafts, and Gingerbread houses. Singing carols at the Christmas tree by the light from votive candles topped the evening.

Preparing food for events has become much more pleasant in our new kitchen with its beautiful big new refrigerator and professional grade popcorn machine. Volunteers are always welcome to join and make new friends while they work, laugh, and chat together as they prepare and serve the concessions.

About three-quarters of the lumber for siding on the building is air drying in a controlled dehumidification kiln in the basement. Thanks to the dedicated labor of many volunteers, two walls were added there, and the area was encapsulated. As more oak logs are procured, they will be sawn into boards and dried. If anyone knows of land that is to be cleared of white oak trees, please let the Civic League know. We need more lumber. A major point is that we are being very judicious with donations toward the project by sawing our own lumber, encapsulating the drying area ourselves, and doing everything we can to conserve our resources.

The pace for installing the new siding is controlled by those considering our application for the National Register of Historic Places designation. No changes to the building will be made until that process is completed, even though the replacement siding will replicate the original building which was sided with board and batten.

We continue to improve the grounds. Brush and debris around the old Boy Scout cabin foundation is being cleared away. Keys to the cabin were handed to Troop 51 by the president of the Civic League on August 12, 1944. The Civic League contributed a large part of the construction costs with funds raised at their annual carnivals. Ideas for use of that area of the property are under consideration.

Continuing the tradition established by the forward-thinking founders, we hold a community-wide anniversary celebration every summer to commemorate construction of the auditorium in 1921. This year the Birthday Bash is Saturday June 22. The Signal Mountain Lions Club will be displaying their cooking skills, and we will give free birthday cake, ice cream and balloons to guests.

Next Thursday, April 18, is our next Quarterly Membership meeting at 7:00 PM in the auditorium. The meeting and membership are open to all residents of Walden's Ridge. Those who are not yet members can join that evening so they will have voting privileges and help decide the future of the League. We invite everyone to attend a meeting, attend a function, or volunteer to join our team. We need volunteers, and volunteering provides a great opportunity to make new friends and have fun while preserving and growing an important part of our community.

Karen Stone, WRCL Publicity & Membership Chair