

Walden's Ridge Civic League Report to the Town of Walden June 8, 2021

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

Our outdoor open spaces are an asset appreciated by many. Not only do families have lunches at the picnic table under the pavilion, or play on the swings and slide, but also young people are using the soccer field for practice. **Lloyd Turley** with his son, **Sanders**, daughter **Henley**, and three friends, **William Cross**, **Hutton Whatley**, and **Blevin Johnson** have painted the goal posts in preparation for installing the new nets generously provided by the Town of Walden. Signal Mountain Christian School held their Field Day on May 21. Next week, June 14-17, a STEM day-camp, directed by **Ashley Narramore** and **Jennifer Cisto** for elementary school aged kids, will be principally outside.

Inside the auditorium, Randy **Henry** of Henry Electric donated his time to install modern EXIT signs equipped with LED emergency lights. **Steve Daugherty**, of the Folk Music Store of Red Bank, and Piper (as in bag-pipes) **Al Kaschimer** came to jam. Afterwards they stayed to replace some ceiling lights with new LED bulbs.

In the past several months I have opened the door for inspectors, tradesmen, insurance agents, potential renters, etc. to evaluate one thing or another. I have been amused by the reaction of visitors when they enter the auditorium for the first time. They are usually interested in the authentic look of the building's interior. Then, as they begin to look seriously at the issue that brought them there, they might say, "Well, you Do need help. What can I do?" Next they often set about volunteering their time and expertise – something we appreciate very much since the dear old building is 100 years old and needs lots of caring attention.

Some exciting news from a long-lost friend of the Walden's Ridge Civic League is that yesterday **Marielle Ford** brought back the theatre curtains that have been missing for many years. She had retrieved them when they were taken down, had them cleaned and stored them carefully. The recovery of the curtains is especially significant because no one knew when they were removed or where they had gone. Now The Walden's Ridge Civic League can again provide the staging required for professional theatre productions. We will tell you about those theatre plans at a later date.

Back outside, in preparation for guests who will attend our Birthday Bash & Music Festival on July 26, **Tom Mills** has cleared stumps from our rear parking lot, and **David Dolan** is having the area graded and smoothed to accommodate the crowd we expect. We are asking friends and neighbors to help on a workday, **Saturday, June 19 starting at 9:00 AM.** We need to get our place ready for our big event to celebrate the building of the auditorium 100 years ago. To help, please bring a willing spirit and perhaps some yard tools.

Then that same evening, Saturday, June 19, the Walden's Ridge Civic League is happy to welcome *The New Mt. Opry* to our stage. Beginning at 6:00 pm, they will bring bluegrass bands to make the hall ring. If all goes according to plan, *The New Mt. Opry* will be providing performances in our auditorium on the fourth Saturday nights of the coming months. Mark your calendars now for July 24, August 28, September 25, and October 23. We are delighted that music is coming back, not just for our Festival, but also on a more regular basis.

Remember that at the Birthday Bash, pickin' stations will be set up in several locations on the property. We welcome all musicians to bring their instruments and jam with friends. While everyone enjoys the music, the kids can play on the field, take a ride in a hay wagon and pet a pony. Everyone can also learn art skills and visit craft vendors and artists.

The men of New Beginnings Baptist Church will cook hamburgers and hotdogs, or you can bring bring your own picnic basket and cooler. We will provide ice cream, birthday cake and balloons. There is no admission charge. Donations will be gratefully accepted to help pay for the bands, refreshments, and other expenses and to help repair and maintain the facilities.

The Birthday Bash & Music Festival will take place rain or shine. The advantage of having a big auditorium is that if the weather turns bad, we can just move inside.

Membership in the Civic League is \$1.00 per person per year for anyone who lives on Walden's Ridge, not just in Walden. If you would like to feel ownership of the 3.65 acres with its buildings, walking track, soccer field, covered pavilion and other assets, we invite you to join. Facilities at the Walden's Ridge Civic League are available for your use, so be sure to ask about renting.