

Walden's Ridge Civic League Report to the Town of Walden October 21, 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to report on activity at the Walden's Ridge Civic League. Our quarterly **general membership meeting** will be this coming Thursday, October 21, at 7:00 PM in the auditorium at 2501 Fairmount Pike. We encourage all members to attend since we will hold election of officers for the 2021-22 fiscal year and will present proposed revisions to make the by-laws more inclusive. You will also get a chance to help organize *A Very Opry Christmas* coming up Saturday, December 11. Membership is open to anyone living on Walden's Ridge, so if you are not yet a member, you can join on Thursday and vote.

Probably our most important news is that we have installed a **new furnace** from local supplier, Superior Air Systems of Walden. This significant investment will ensure that the Walden's Ridge Civic League building continues to serve the community as it has for 100 years. For example, did you know that Walden's Ridge Utility District (WRUD) had its beginning here in 1948? For years, the auditorium was our area's polling place and the heart of activity in every election. It has sheltered folks in severe weather, like the ice storm of 1960, and it served as the first meeting place for the Town of Walden when it formed in 1976. The WRCL Executive Committee is proud that we are continuing to maintain the integrity of the building and to sustain its usefulness into the future.

A **new sign** with our logo and address is anticipated for the front of the building this month, if the permit application is approved by the Town of Walden. This sign will replace the one that was taken down last summer, and not only will it help visitors identify the site, but also it will freshen up the building's appearance.

In support of Mayor Davis' request that civic organizations and citizens send in pictures of their front doors decorated for fall, WRCL board members have jumped in enthusiastically to **dress our front porch for the season**. We are also helping to promote this symbol of community spirit by asking friends and neighbors to send pictures of their decorated homes to the Town Hall, so the photos can go on our Town website.

We are excited to announce the return of our successful **Family Holiday Photo Sessions** as a fundraising activity. This year the tradition continues in cooperation with McCoy Farm & Gardens where professional photographers will collaborate with you before the handsome fireplace in the McCoy home or on the beautiful grounds. Schedule your session November 6 from 8:00 AM to noon, or December 4th and 5th from 8:00 -10:00 AM or 4:00 - 6:00 PM. Reservations are necessary. There is no limit on the number or people or pets in a 15-minute session. Cost is only \$150.00 for a set of five digital photos. As an option, you can select from various templates and have WRCL manage printing your photo-cards. We will also mail your cards for you as an added service for a small fee. For more information and to sign up, go to our website www.waldensridgecivicleague.org or our Facebook page.

Mountain Opry performances resume this Saturday, October 23 at 6:00 PM. The Special Show supports "Real Men Wear Pink" to promote breast cancer awareness. All proceeds go to the struggle against cancer. Parking will be available only in the Civic League parking areas since Wayside Presbyterian Church will be holding an event simultaneously.

The concession stand will be open with hot dogs, chili, popcorn, soft drinks, coffee and more, so come hungry.

We are working on designs for upgrading the concession area to meet demand and to make the facilities more useful in case our building is called on in a weather emergency. We are consulting with experts on techniques to make our basement area drier, safer, and more usable. Both steps are in contemplation of future needs and are in the investigation stage. Current financial conditions preclude action on these issues now, but we are looking ahead. A representative from the board of directors attended the October session of the Walden Finance Committee to learn more about the proper way to prepare a request for funds from the Town of Walden. We are beginning to look into applying for grants for help with replacing the deteriorating siding, among other things. We are confident the new officers along with WRCL's outstanding Executive Committee will continue to pursue these initiatives.

Committee Co-chairs **Gary** and **Amy Slovak** are working enthusiastically with Events Chair **Carolyn Longphre** on *A Very Opry Christmas* scheduled for December 11. Volunteers **Angela Cassidy**, **Margha Davis**, and **Michele McNeill** will decorate the grounds with **Roxie Thornton**, Committee Chair. They have asked Mayor Lee Davis to light the Christmas tree at sundown, and Santa will be there for pictures with the children. Musicians from different genres will play in the auditorium, while outside a toasty bonfire blazes. Folks can roast hot dogs and melt s'mores at a safe smaller firepit. Kids can make Christmas crafts, and everyone can visit sponsors' booths. Come to the general meeting Thursday at 7:00 to join in the fun of planning and producing this joyous celebration at the Walden's Ridge Civic League.

Karen Stone
President