

## **Walden's Ridge Civic League Report to the Town of Walden March 10, 2026**

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

We are pleased to announce the addition of two new members to the Board of Directors. Helen Brell Miles has been a stalwart volunteer at WRCL and recently retired from the position of Compliance Specialist with the City of Chattanooga. Helen has assumed the duties of Treasurer from Neal Cox, and she is working diligently to prepare a funding request to the Town of Walden.

Hilda Mills Horton is an old friend of the Civic League, having lived on the mountain virtually all her life. She fondly remembers the years when the Mt. Opry made the Auditorium sing. Now Hilda is chairing our next community event, *Tell It on the Mountain* – Storytelling, coming up Friday, March 27, from 5:30-7:30 PM with stories starting at 6:00. Everyone is welcome to come, grab a snack, and settle down to listen to the stories told by experienced storytellers.

No longer are chirps of baby birds heard in the attic of the Auditorium as we reported this time last year. Volunteers have finished the new siding on the front and continued on the south side past the Mt. Opry addition. It looks very good. They are looking forward to resuming work as warmer weather arrives.

Inside the Auditorium, the same volunteer team has removed the old seats which had been in place since they were recycled from a movie theater in the late 1940's. Two of the historic seats are now exhibited in our History Room.

The floor was sanded professionally; then our fellows sealed it with a non-flammable, citrus-based product. The sealant gives a fresh appearance and will protect the floors in the future. With help from Kim Rackel of Bachman, the men have been working with the replacement seats to install them as soon as the Fire Marshall approves an ADA compliant plan. You can see pictures on the website.

The Boy Scout Eagle project to construct a floor over the old scout cabin foundation is underway. Concrete footers have been poured, the posts cut and set in position. Work will resume after the scouts return from spring break.

We have put a new steel roof on the white concrete block TN Highway Patrol radio/communications station built in 1953. It served as the original Walden Town Hall when the Town took a ten-year lease from WRCL @ \$1.00/year after the Town incorporated and before the current Town Hall was built in 1993.

The building now has woodworking benches around the inside walls for volunteers to use crafting Adirondack chairs to sell. The chairs will be made from the white oak that was too short for siding, turning otherwise unusable lumber into another asset. We are asking for donations of woodworking equipment such as table saws, joiners, planers, etc. to further this fundraising project. To donate or for more information, please go to [www.waldensridgecivicleague.org](http://www.waldensridgecivicleague.org).

Karen Stone, WRCL Interim Secretary