

# West Hills Neighbors



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February 2024 Edition

West Hills Community Association

## HAPPY 60<sup>TH</sup> WHCA!

This year marks a milestone in the history of our neighborhood and the West Hills Community Association as it celebrates its 60th anniversary!

WHCA is Knoxville's oldest neighborhood association established in 1964 to challenge developers wanting to build enterprises that would compromise the young, peaceful, single-family neighborhood we cherish today.

Over the past 60 years, WHCA has earned a reputation as a consistent voice for neighborhood integrity, resisting developments that would harm our quality of life, and representing our community before elected local governing bodies, developers, and others. An example of what can be done as the community works together can be found inside this newsletter in the reprint from our October, 2015 article *West Hills History: Our Park* by WHCA past president Joe Fuhr.

Today's WHCA continues this long tradition of working together to preserve and enhance our wonderful community.

It brings neighbors together with a variety of events and activities for everyone. These include leading the drive to establish the West Hills Dogwood Trail, hosting the Dogwood Pickleball Tournament, the Easter Egg Hunt, the Summer Potluck Picnic, Holiday in the Park, Tour de Lights, Healthy West Hills' variety of activities, and more.

WHCA appreciates the value good schools bring to a community which is why it is both a proponent and active supporter of our elementary school, the Wolfpack Foundation, and other schools

serving West Hills families.

All these things happen thanks to neighbors who care and volunteer their time, energy, and talents as well as providing financial support through WHCA memberships and gifts to the association.

Your willingness to roll-up your sleeves and get the work done—whether a little or a lot—makes a difference in our community.

Volunteer an hour or two to help at one of these events. Let your voice be heard on pressing issues like zoning or traffic or a situation that may jeopardize you, your home, and your neighborhood.

Support WHCA financially. Become a paid member. Make a donation. Advertise. Be a sponsor.

There is a saying: "the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more."

Happy Valentine's Day!

—Lee

Lee Hume  
President  
West Hills Community Association

### INSIDE

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WEST HILLS  
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## COMMUNITY MEETING

ALL WEST HILLS NEIGHBORS INVITED!

7PM • MONDAY

FEBRUARY

19

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

538 VANOSDALE RD

### SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

NEWSTALK 98.7 RADIO PERSONALITY,  
AWARD-WINNING AND TENNESSEE RADIO HALL  
OF FAME MEMBER, SONGWRITER, AUTHOR AND  
OUR WEST HILLS' NEIGHBOR

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HILTON  
HILL**

For more information about Hallerin Hill or  
West Hills Community Association visit

[www.westhillsknoxville.org](http://www.westhillsknoxville.org)

## City Council to Vote on ADUs on February 20

An amendment to the existing city ordinance which allows the creation of a separate living quarters at private residences for personal use or to rent (identified by the law as Auxillary Dwelling Units or ADUs) would allow current or future such homes to no longer be owner-occupied.

For example if you decided you wanted to convert extra rooms in your home into a separate living space with its own access and isolated from the rest of your home or chose to build a separate structure in your backyard for either a member of your family or to rent out, under the current law you can—as long as you own the home and you live there.

Whether you like the existing law or not, there is value in the fact

the owner lives on the premises and in theory will be more responsible for the upkeep of the entire property and behavior of all who live there.

If the City no longer requires homeowners to live on the property that has an ADU, the adjoining neighbors and others in the vicinity could suffer from an absentee landlord owning the property.

Other parts of the proposed amendment address changes to setbacks for free-standing ADUs, etc.

This could ruin a neighborhood and lead to more homes becoming rental properties and make single-family housing even more expensive.

WHCA and other groups and individuals across Knoxville who are aware of this proposed change strongly oppose any such change and urge all West Hills neighbors to email City Council (via City Recorder office [wjohnson@knoxvilletn.gov](mailto:wjohnson@knoxvilletn.gov)) to express their

opposition to any change in the existing law.

## 2024 Annual WHCA Membership

Thank you to all the neighbors who have supported the Association throughout the years. Some of you have volunteered your time, provided various supplies, made donations, and/or paid your membership dues annually. Everything helps our community and the residents within it. It is time to renew or begin memberships for 2024. You can mail \$25 (plus any potential donations) with your name, address and email to the address in this newsletter or pay online at [westhillsknoxville.org/become-a-member/](http://westhillsknoxville.org/become-a-member/).

## Stay Healthy West Hills

Join WHCA's Healthy West Hills group and get healthy! Current activities to support mental, physical and social health include book club, virtual play readings, yoga, pickleball, bike rides, food meetups, etc.

For the most updated schedule, email Anne Crais, HWH committee chair, at [anneccrais@gmail.com](mailto:anneccrais@gmail.com).

Contact Anne if you would like to be added to the pickleball interest group.

All month – Track your Mileage/Minutes for Marathon in a Month at [bit.ly/HWHmarathon](http://bit.ly/HWHmarathon) for each month. All ages can participate. Try to get 26 miles in any way—running, walking, swimming, hiking, pushing a stroller, etc.



### REGAL PAINTING

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**West Hills  
Dogwood  
Trail  
Opens  
April 1!**

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## 2nd Annual Dogwood Pickleball Tournament

2nd Annual Dogwood Pickleball Tournament will be on **Saturday, April 20** at the West Hills Park pickleball courts. Noell Lewis Edward Jones Financial Advisor is donating reusable water bottles.

For more information visit [westhillsknoxville.org](http://westhillsknoxville.org) or contact Anne Crais at [anneccrais@gmail.com](mailto:anneccrais@gmail.com).

## West Hills History: Our Park

As one drives out of West Hills on almost any morning it is obvious that our park is popular, with many joggers, dog walkers, families enjoying the park and the greenway. West Hills has a real gem in its park.

But it was not always this way. Many years of discussion and planning within the community, and with Sam Anderson and Joe Walsh from the city's park department were necessary to achieve our current status.

In early 1994 the city was already behind schedule in presenting a promised overall park plan. John Bynon had completed 12 years as WHCA president. During Bynon's tenure the WHCA had already protected the park by forcing removal of a motorcross track for dirt bikes, which was astoundingly within a 100 yards for bordering homes. Apartments were also blocked on the west side of Winston Rd. These could be called merely 'blocking actions', but more importantly they protected the peace of the neighborhood, and preserved the opportunity for an outstanding park plan. Bynon was succeeded by Harry Harper, who was an active supporter of park development.

A major question had to be resolved before a plan could be put

forth. Was the park to be active or passive? An active park would be filled with activity areas including baseball, football, soccer fields, and tennis courts. Leadership in the city's recreation department was perceived to favor a position which leaned toward active. This was reinforced when it was realized they had already signed a 20-year lease for large parts of the park with Knoxville Recreation Group, a private group supporting organized youth sports. Large areas of the park were turned into playing fields. Those who sought a passive park envisioned a relatively quiet area with walking paths, and the opportunity to even hear the birds.

The issue came to a head when the sports group proposed increasing the number of fields, which would be closer to bordering homes. They also proposed to install flood lights to permit night play and practice. At this point, another group, Friends of the Park including Vince Melomo, a West Hills resident, objected and went to court to seek judicial relief.

In the following months the court's decision would impact the final park plan, and our Gazebo construction, our now defunct 5K run, and of course the Greenway.

And a whole new group of citizens joined earlier residents who fought for our park.

*Written by WHCA Past President Joe Fuhr and from October 20015 newsletter*

## Mark Your Calendar

**Tentative date : Staurday, April 23**  
**Easter Egg Hunt**  
Winston Road/Gazebo side of WH park

**Saturday, April 6**  
**Dedication of WHCA Outstanding Community Volunteers and Leaders Dogwood Trees**  
10AM, West Hills Park,  
Jean Teague Greenway  
Sheffield Drive entrance

Want to help with either of these events or something else to help our neighborhood, please contact John Heins at [johnheins@rbperryllc.com](mailto:johnheins@rbperryllc.com).



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## Farm-Fresh Produce for West Hills Residents

Sign up to order a Farm Share (CSA) subscription delivered weekly to the West Hills community.

It features:

- 22 weeks of a fully customizable, certified organic, seasonal vegetables and select fruits farm share
- Ability to put your weekly share on vacation hold
- Three sizes offered to meet your needs
- Delivered to the West Hills neighborhood (Church of the Nazarene) every Tuesday afternoon beginning in mid-May



Sign up at [sustainableharvestfarm.com](http://sustainableharvestfarm.com)



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 WHCA Online

Website  
[www.westhillsknoxville.org](http://www.westhillsknoxville.org)

Social Media



Log HWH activity  
[bit.ly/HWHmarathontracker](http://bit.ly/HWHmarathontracker)



**Join  
WHCA  
Today!**

Keep our neighborhood a great place  
to live. Join your West Hills Community  
Association **TODAY!**

[westhillsknoxville.org/become-a-member](http://westhillsknoxville.org/become-a-member)



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COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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