



West Hills Neighbors



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026

West Hills Community Association **Neighbors Helping Neighbors**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Time to elect WHCA leaders

It's football time in Tennessee! And it's also time to elect the next president, secretary and 10 board members to lead our community association.

The nominating committee chair will present the slate of nominees — listed in this newsletter — at the Oct. 19 community meeting. All current West Hills Community Association members are eligible to vote. If you want to join or renew your membership, you can easily do so online at the WHCA website, westhillsknoxville.org. The next board and officers will be a cordial mix of new faces and seasoned veterans. All 23 members of this leadership team are committed to serving our community and keeping West Hills a destination neighborhood, as the association has since 1964.

The officers and board members share their time and talents in the spirit of

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READY TO RIDE

Did you know Healthy West Hills has a bike club? Rides are typically at 10 a.m. the third Saturday of each month. At left, the group's September ride was in Townsend. October's ride will be along the Maryville-Alcoa Greenbelt. For info, contact Anne Crais at anneccrais@gmail.com.

VOTE!

WHCA community meeting, annual election set for Oct. 19

The West Hills Community Association will have its annual community meeting, along with the election for board members and officers for 2027-2028, at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 19, in the sanctuary of Knoxville First Church of the Nazarene, 538 Vanosdale Road.

Karri Hobby, new principal of West Hills Elementary School, will speak and take questions from the community.

The association will present new executive board member nominees for the vote, which is in person only.

Nominees are:

President: **Tyler Mottern**

Secretary: **Barbara Faircloth**

Board: **Anne Marie and Khalid Abdulrahman; Lisa Adkins; Tyler Bailey; Matthew Bratton; Matt Davis; Kay Fecher; Larry Graves; Alice and Brian Hester; Joel Johnson; Bob and Chris Meansly; Roger Nooe; Robert Schoenfield; and Kayla Smith.**

Returning board members are **Kristi Bumpus, Jeremy Coffey, Michael Moore, John Rosson, Andrew Schumudde and Elisa Theile.**

Divina Morgenstern returns as treasurer. **Emerson Breeden** has been serving as interim vice president.

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“neighbor helping neighbor.” WHCA advocates neighborhood quality-of-life issues through a variety of activities, including zoning, property development, health, beautification, traffic, communications, collaboration with the Dogwood Arts Festival, and holiday events.

West Hills comprises 1,400 single family homes and hundreds of apartments. The 23 members of the leadership team love volunteers! Contact any officer or board member directly, or send a message through westhillsknoxville.org.

And, a friendly reminder: State and federal elections are Tuesday, Nov. 3, preceded by two weeks of early voting. What better way is there to celebrate our nation’s 250th birthday than to exercise the privilege of voting? Please pause from the daily grind to become informed and cast your vote. You’ll be glad you did.

Have a wonderful fall, come to the October community meeting — and go, Vols!

Lee Hume

WHCA President, 2025-2026

Batter up! Walk on to WH wiffleball

The City of Knoxville Office of Neighborhood Empowerment’s Ninth Annual Wiffleball tournament is coming up, and West Hills needs YOU for the neighborhood team.

The tournament will be 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 31, at Caswell Park, 620 Winona St. in East Knoxville.

Since it’s Halloween, teams can compete in a costume contest as well.

Each team needs between six and 11 players 12 years or older, and at least four must be female. Donnie Ernst has signed on for a repeat year as coach.

Ernst was the coach when the WHCA team took home the trophy at last year’s tournament — besting multiyear winners Westwood Homeowners Association and Oakwood-Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association.

We can win again! To get involved, email Anne Crais, anneccrais@gmail.com



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Remembering Susan

WHCA VP to be memorialized with park bench, tree planting

Susan Huskisson served in President Gerald Ford's administration. She lived in Europe for 20 years and was fluent in multiple languages. She founded a global communications company, coached executives and delivered presentations all over the world, held multiple academic degrees and wrote a book.

And yet, when she talked to friends and neighbors, she had a gift for making them feel like *they* were the interesting ones.

Huskisson died July 8, 2026, after battling cancer.

Huskisson grew up in West Hills and attended Bearden High School, where she was a runner-up Miss Teen USA. She graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1972 and began her career in Washington, D.C., later moving to San Francisco, where she taught at Golden Gate University. There she found her true calling: teaching the art of communication. She founded Speech Works International to

help others learn compelling communication skills and traveled the world, living in Paris, France, and Marbella, Spain. She shared lifelong lessons in her book, "Easy Eloquence: The Ultimate Guide to Creating and Delivering Winning Presentations."

But after two decades abroad, she returned to her home neighborhood, settling on Sheffield Drive with her beloved Chow Chows, and cats. She reconnected with lifelong school friends, reached



Longtime West Hills resident Susan Huskisson, who died in July, founded Speech Works International to help people communicate.

out to neighbors who became friends, and became heavily involved with WHCA. She was serving as vice president when she died.

A group of Huskisson's friends and neighbors came together to purchase a park bench bearing her name in West

Hills Park. In spring, WHCA plans to plant a dogwood tree in the park in her memory.

Donate to Huskisson's memorial fund at <https://westhillsknoxville.org/memorial-fund>.

Any funds not needed for the bench will be donated to an animal shelter.



WHCA to have tent at YMCA Fall Fest for families

Ready for some fall fun? The West Hills Community Association will have a table at the **Pilot Family YMCA's annual Fall Fest, noon-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, at the YMCA, 400 N. Winston.**

WHCA will provide face painting, cornhole, water bottles and West Hills neighborhood info at the free

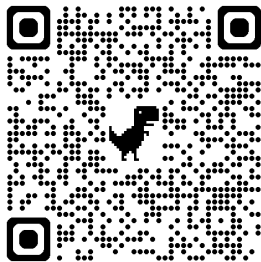
family event. Other festival activities include inflatable bounce houses and carnival games; a popcorn machine; a fire pit and snacks; airbrush tattoos; and representatives from the Knox County Public Library and Knoxville Fire Department.

Come celebrate the change of seasons with your neighbors!

WOLF PACK WORLD

The school year is off to a great start at West Hills Elementary. We have welcomed our new principal, Mrs. Karri Hobby, and the PTA has many fun community events planned for the next few months! Mark your calendars for **Hoedown in the Hills** from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15. This fun-filled evening is for students, families and neighbors to enjoy games, activities and WHES school spirit.

The PTA always welcomes volunteers to support our **Pack Pantry**, a weekly effort that helps provide food and support to students in our school community. It's a



wonderful way to lend a helping hand and make a meaningful difference! If you'd like to volunteer for Pack Pantry or other PTA events, scan this QR code to find the volunteer interest survey on the WHES PTA newsletter.

BRUIN NEWS

Bearden Middle School PTO will once again collaborate with West Hills Elementary PTA for a schoolwide **clothing drive and sale**.

All sizes — adult and child — of clean clothes in good condition (no stains or holes), as well as hats, shoes and belts, can be dropped off at either school during school hours between Oct. 12-Nov. 12.

The public sale will be 5-7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13, and 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Nov. 14, in the Bearden Middle School Commons.

Clothing will be sale for \$5/bag (bags will be provided). There's no limit on the number of bags you can buy. All proceeds will be donated back to the schools.

There will be a presale for Knox County School employees from 3-5 p.m. Nov. 13.

Volunteers are needed for sorting. This is a great opportunity for kids who need service hours! To volunteer, please call Elizabeth Evola at 865-307-0969.

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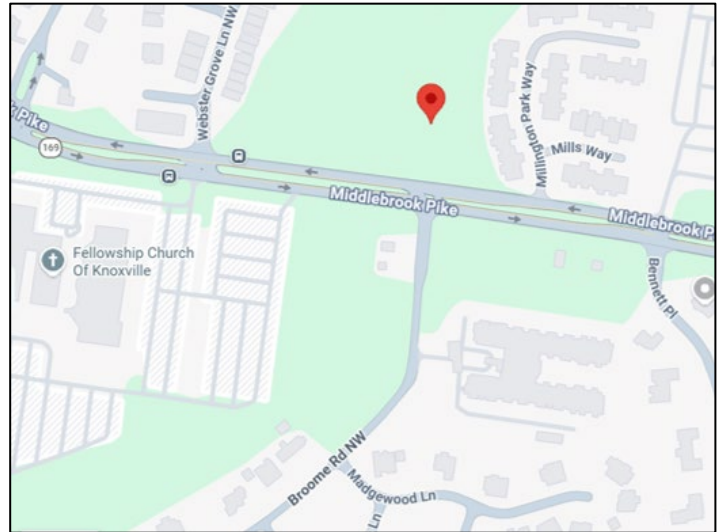
Developer seeks variance for new complex on Middlebrook

A plan to develop the 5.5 acres on the north side of Middlebrook Pike where it intersects with Broome Road has been reviewed by the Knoxville Planning commission, and the developer has requested a variance from the Board of Zoning Appeals.

The developer has applied for a lot width variance on property on the north side of Middlebrook Pike, between Millwood Park and Kirkwood subdivisions. The case number is BZA-26-0051.

The developer claims a hardship is necessitating the request for a variance in lot width yet could not identify the hardship to the BZA board members' satisfaction during the August hearing.

At the developer's request, the variance request was postponed at the September BZA meeting. Several members of WHCA and residents of Millwood and Kirkwood subdivisions attended,



prepared to oppose the variance request, which now will be on the agenda for the October BZA meeting.

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The property is in the 3rd Council District, represented by Doug Lloyd, but affects West Hills, within the 2nd Council District, represented by Nathan Honeycutt. Honeycutt met with representatives of WHCA and Millwood Park and Kirkwood subdivisions and provided feedback on WHCA's plan for opposing the proposed development and the requested variance.

The proposed development is for 82 units on about 5.5 acres, with about 2.5 acres within Hillside Protection and situated in the Ten Mile Creek Watershed. There are two proposed access points along the westbound lanes of Middlebrook. One is directly opposite Broome Road. The lack of a traffic light is likely to make that intersection more dangerous, as the 28 townhouses already under construction will add new traffic. Currently, many vehicles — including those from Millington Park — are compelled to make U-turns to access the eastbound lanes of Middlebrook.

WHCA members will attend the October BZA meeting to oppose the variance request.

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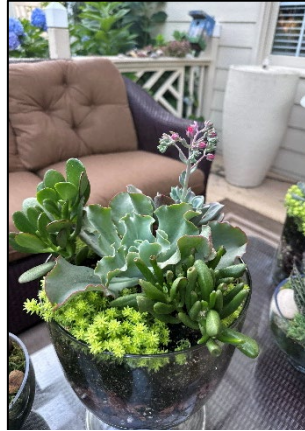
Let's get Dogwood Arts-ready together

As we look ahead to spring, now is a good time to start thinking about our yards and the Dogwood Arts trails and garden tours. This year, we invite West Hills residents to share the unique, inspiring gardens that make our neighborhood special.

Our weather can be unpredictable, so gardeners have learned to stay flexible: protect tender plants when frost threatens, keep beds well mulched, check drainage after heavy

rain, and water deeply during dry spells. The approaches that work best in your yard may help a neighbor, too.

We're planning garden walkabouts throughout the year — a chance to visit, exchange ideas, and share perennial plants. Trading divisions from established gardens can help everyone add something new while easing the rising cost of plant



material.

We're looking for suggestions as well as volunteers to start a garden interest group. Let's grow a more beautiful West Hills together!

*Michael Moore
WHCA Dogwood Chair
orran3223@yahoo.com*

Yard signs now available for Nov. Smokeout week

Healthy West Hills has yard signs available in advance of the Great American Smokeout, Nov. 15-21.

The signs read, "Thank you for not using tobacco products!"

The annual American Cancer Society event encourages giving up smoking, even if just for one day, as part of a plan to quit forever.

For a sign, contact Anne Crais, anneccrais@gmail.com.

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