



News

HISTORIC FOURTH & GILL NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2008

The 2008 Covenant Health Knoxville Marathon Comes to Fourth & Gill

The Fourth Annual Covenant Health Knoxville Marathon is just around the corner—Sunday morning March 30, 2008. We are very lucky and proud to have this event come through our neighborhood and really need everyone to pitch in, one way or another. You see, Sequoyah Hills, Fourth & Gill, Park Ridge and Island Home neighborhoods are all on the course route for the full marathon, and the runners vote on the neighborhood that was the most enthusiastic, welcoming and supportive of their efforts to complete the 26.2 miles. This speaks volumes about our neighborhood and could provide some great promotion ... in addition to a \$250 dollar prize!

Fourth & Gill Volunteers Needed

- Work the H2O/Gatorade stop @ Luttrell and Caswell
- Work the neighborhood's banana and orange stop
- Be a course monitor – Email Anne ASAP at avictori@utk.edu (Course Monitors receive a free volunteer t-shirt!)
- Be responsible for purchasing fruit (for runners), coffee and donuts (for our volunteers) and /or noisemakers for our residents (neighborhood will reimburse)
- Neighborhood Greeters needed at course entrance and exit
- Lots of people to cheer on the runners at lots of locations along the course in Fourth & Gill!

To volunteer for all but the last bullet (cheering does not require sign-up) contact Jonathan Wimmer at jonathan@alamosteakhouse.com or 865/548.7498 or Brett Burdick at bburdick@yahoo.com.

Remember:

- We expect the first runner in our neighborhood about 8 a.m. and the last runner to exit around 11 a.m.
- The course will be blocked off to traffic Sunday morning through sometime in the early afternoon
- *Move your car off the course on Saturday night please to keep the course fluid and open*

Marathon Keen Idea #417:

Party at your house? Have friends over for a marathon party. Sip libations in your front yard and cheer on the runners!



Kids of All Ages!

Get our your sidewalk chalk and join us as we decorate the course entrance to the neighborhood on Saturday, March 29 at 4:30 p.m. Snacks and juice will be available! Meet in front of the Third Ave. entrance to Central United Methodist Church and let your child or your own inner child, express their creativity!

Knoxville Marathon Get Your CHEER On!

- Use a noisemaker (supplied by the neighborhood at the Luttrell and Caswell drink stop that morning starting at 7:30 a.m.)
 - Use a pot from your very own kitchen with a spoon
 - Use your own voice with reckless abandon
 - Dust off the instrument in the closet...even if you don't know how to play it
 - Make posters that you hold that day to show support
- Whatever your method, be extra supportive of the runners ... they need you at this 14 and 15 mile marker of 26.2 total! And, we want to win the neighborhood contest!

News is published four times a year by the Fourth & Gill Neighborhood Organization.

Please call 865/310-0379 with comments or suggestions or email cheryl@curvededgeconsulting.com.



The historic Fourth and Gill Neighborhood is located just north of downtown. Visit our web site at www.fourthandgill.org Our address is P.O. Box 3845 Knoxville, TN 37927-3845.

Neighbor News



Please send your noteworthy news to cheryl@curvededgeconsulting.com.

Welcome To: The **Madisons**, the family renting lovely house at 813 Deery St. Dave recently relocated his family from Montana and is a supervising producer for Jupiter Entertainment. His wife, Katie, is a retired midwife and at-home mom. Their two lovely daughters are Mae, and Lily. They also co-habit with a cat and two dogs. Welcome!

Welcome to Karma Inc. Mr. Brent Farwick's production studio is moving into 614 Luttrell St. Brent plans to live in the studio apt. side, and house his high-tech staff next door. Welcome!

Downed Tree on Luttrell In a late January windstorm, we lost one of the neighborhood's oldest and most beautiful trees. The fence was crushed, but luckily, no people, animals or houses were harmed . . . and there was plenty of firewood to go around!



Our neighbor and friend **Mr. Albert DeGroat** passed away February 7, 2008. He lived in the neighborhood his entire life, 95 years, originally on Third Avenue and then on Eleanor Street beginning in 1919 when his parents built the house. He graduated from Knoxville High School and attended the University of Tennessee and was the oldest living member of the "Pride of the Southland Band." He worked in his father's law office and then the Employment Security Office as head of the claims division.

He was member of Fourth Presbyterian church. He is survived by a number of family members and by longtime companion Jane Parker, an Old North Knoxville resident at 400 E. Scott Ave., Apt. 4.

In 2000 the neighborhood organization staged an essay contest asking people to share their thoughts on why they love living in Fourth & Gill. Mr. Albert DeGroat, Jr, who must love it since he has lived here since 1918, was the essay contest winner. In memory of Mr. DeGroat and his love for our neighborhood, we have reprinted his essay in the next two columns.

I have lived all of my 88 years in Fourth & Gill and intend to spend the rest of my life here.

During my 88 year tenure in Fourth & Gill (7 years at 823 N. 3rd Ave. and 81 years at 935 Eleanor St.) a metamorphosis occurred about halfway through this time. In the early 20's this neighborhood was a serene area with residents of note residing here. They included

former Mayor Fred Allen, City Manager Carlton Karns, and C.S. Rader an official of the Standard Knitting Mills.

Then a trend occurred when many left to move west to live in new developments. The result was that several of the larger houses were converted to apartments.

In recent years with the influx of government loans and a renewed

desire of property owners to update their properties, the pendulum has swung back to the positive side. The main reasons I like to live in Fourth & Gill are contained in two main categories:



Why I Love Fourth & Gill
by Albert DeGroat,

Convenience: Near to churches, hospitals, and only about a mile from downtown Knoxville. Receive your mail right up to the front porch. Also get delivery (if you pull the right strings) of your newspaper on the front porch.

Power outages at a minimum as compared to other areas such as Kingston Pike and Sequoyah Hills where there are lots of trees to interfere with power lines.

Spiritual: Fourth & Gill is an area where the neighborhood watch has reduced crime to a minimum, where there is practically no racial or labor unrest and where you may converse with your neighbors over the back fence.

If an emergency arises there is always someone nearby to lend a helping hand. There are many churches of all denominations where you may worship.

Finally, those potluck suppers at Central United Methodist church at which time you enjoy great camaraderie with your friends and have an opportunity to listen to public officials outline future plans that will affect Fourth and Gill is really icing on the cake.

I look forward to spending the rest of my days in the Fourth & Gill Neighborhood.

We'll miss You Albert!



From the President—*Hello Neighbors and Friends!*

It seems hard to believe that it is already March and we are thinking about Easter bunnies and, if you are like me, anxiously anticipating spring green and being able to work in the yard! Your neighborhood board has been hard at work during the first quarter of the year setting goals, and planning and organizing events and activities. We have tweaked the organizational structure this year by having board meetings every other month, requiring that each board member chair a committee, and that each committee meet in the alternate month. This structure, in addition to some very hard working board members has generated a tremendous amount of energy and enthusiasm, as I'm sure you noticed in the Fourth & Gill 2008 Calendar (each household should have received one in early February or you can find it on www.fourthandgill.org/news/neighborhood calendar). I am very impressed with the work of the board and am equally excited about the coming year.

Unfortunately, we have lost three board members due to do extended family and work obligations, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the time, talent, and service they have offered to our neighborhood. Doug McDaniel has served for two years being our communication guru and producing the neighborhood newsletter. John Jacobs has served for two terms doing a plethora of jobs but his crowning achievement would be chairing the last five home tours. Barbara Simpson has been a board member for more years than I can remember, serving as treasurer during most of her tenure. Thanks to each of you for your commitment to Historic Fourth & Gill.

We also welcome two new board members: Susan Schottin and Gavin Luter. Susan, her husband and two dogs live at 924 Eleanor Street, and she brings an incredible amount of energy to the group. Gavin is at 405 E. Fifth Ave., and works at the Howard Baker Center at the University of Tennessee.

Regretfully, the neighborhood will not be having a tour of homes this year. A 2009 Tour of Homes Committee has already been formed (still room for interested folks to join). Look for more information later, and remember that many of the successes of Historic Fourth & Gill can be credited to our Tour of Homes, and please be willing to help in any way you can!! Our neighborhood still gets to show itself off during March and April as we support the Covenant Health Knoxville Marathon and host the Dogwood Arts Festival's only Walking Tour.

Here's hoping your spring is one of beauty and renewal—here's looking forward to seeing you strolling on the sidewalks, jogging through the streets, scrubbing those front porches, and chatting with neighbors!

Melynda Whetsel

The 2nd annual Knoxville By Cycle summer bike ride series kicks off Sat., May 17th in conjunction with the Get Outdoors Festival at World's Fair Park. Details TBA on www.knoxtrans.org along with additional information. Also keep up to date on bike events with the new blog at www.bikeknoxville.blogspot.com. You can also email kelly.segars@knoxtrans.org.

If you're concerned about high gas prices or the upcoming closure of I-40 through downtown, the Smart Trips Program can help. There is a free online ride-matching database that shows potential carpool partners, provides information on transit service, and much more. In addition, \$10,000 in prizes will be given away between May 2008 and June 2009! You'll also be doing your part in the fight against climate change. To register for Smart Trips or for more info., go to <http://www.knoxsmarttrips.org/>.

Upcoming Birdhouse Events at the Neighborhood Center at 800 Fourth Ave.

March 7 – First Friday 7-10 p.m. – Sewn Together: New Work by Jessie Van der Laan and Jamie Alonzo – Van der Laan and Alonzo will open their installations at the house. Refreshments served. Free.

March 15 – Post Card Swap with Holly Briggs – 1-4 p.m. – \$1.50 covers postage and materials. Come snack and craft. Bring the family.

May 3 – BIKE CIRCUS – 3-7 p.m.—Bike games, maintenance, group rides and general fun for all riders. Learn to fix your braks, how to "bike joust," or get more information about Knoxville's Bike Collective.

MUSIC at the Birdhouse: All shows start around 9 p.m. and are free, but we solicit donations for out-of-town bands. Most shows are loud, please bring ear plugs to protect against hearing loss..

Sunday, March 2 - New Brutalism w/ Calabi Yau (Charlotte)

Tuesday, March 4 - Boxcutter Caberet (wild activism and puppetry!)

Friday, March 14 - Hudson K (Knoxville) (This show will be quiet!)

Friday, March 21 - Fecal Japan (Knoxville) w/ Naked on the Vague (Sydney, Australia)

Sunday, March 20 - Vampire Hands (Minneapolis)

If you have questions about events or are interested in being a curator for a show at the Birdhouse, please email birdhouse.laboratories@gmail.com.

Neighborhood Watch Meetings

Neighborhood Watch meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Neighborhood Center at 7:30 p.m. and the group is asking that dog walkers keep their eyes open for suspicious activity and report it to Susan Schott at schott10@comcast.net, Gavin Luter at dluter@utk.edu, Rob Howard at robsellsknoxville@gmail.com or Virginia Douglas, virginiadouglas@comcast.net. Obviously, if an actual crime is involved, call 911. Our group works with other neighborhood watch groups to coordinate efforts.

NEW! Monthly Potluck Dinners

Each family or household is asked to bring a dish with serving utensil and the social committee will provide drinks, paper products and set-up materials. Potluck events are listed on the calendar to the right.

After everyone eats, there will be a brief review of any neighborhood business for those who would like to stay for a short meeting. All neighbors are welcome to attend and enjoy the food and fellowship, even if you don't choose to stay for the occasional meeting. So, come share a dish and visit with your neighbors!

The Fourth and Gill Neighborhood Organization has received a grant from the East Tennessee Foundation's Neighborhoods Small Grants Program (NSGP) to help offset costs with producing and distributing our neighborhood newsletter. The Neighborhoods Small Grants Program is a community development program of East Tennessee Foundation with funding support from the City of Knoxville's Community Development Department. More information can be found by visiting <http://www.easttennesseefoundation.org>.

Neighborhood Calendar

March

- Monday 10th** – Board Meeting, at the Whetsel Household, 1015 Luttrell, at 7 p.m.
Tuesday 11th – Neighborhood Watch Meeting, at the Neighborhood Center, at 7:30 p.m.
Monday 17th – Potluck Dinner, at Central United Methodist Church, at 6:30 p.m.
Saturday 29th – Spring Neighborhood Clean Up, meet at traffic circle, at 9 a.m.
Sunday 30th – Knoxville Marathon Visits Fourth & Gill—see page 1 for opportunities to help

April

- 4th – 20th** – Dogwood Arts Festival, Walking Tour
Tuesday 8th – Neighborhood Watch Meeting, at the Neighborhood Center, at 7:30 p.m.
Monday 14th – Potluck Dinner, at Central United Methodist Church, at 6:30 p.m.

May

- Monday 12th** – Potluck Dinner, at Central United Methodist Church, at 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday 13th – Neighborhood Watch Meeting, at the Neighborhood Center, at 7:30 p.m.
Friday 16th – Deadline for newsletter submissions, send to cheryl@curvededgeconsulting.com
Monday 19th – Board Meeting, at the Whetsel Household, 1015 Luttrell, at 7 p.m.

Knoxville, TN 37927-3845

P.O. Box 3845

www.fourthandgill.org

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