



News

HISTORIC FOURTH & GILL NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2008

It's Summertime... So Let's Have A Pool Party

The Annual Fourth & Gill Neighborhood Pool Party is set for Monday, June 9th at the Inskip Pool. This is the usual date for the neighborhood potluck which will be held in conjunction with the pool party beginning at 6:30 p.m. For directions or details on the pool visit <http://www.cityofknoxville.org/parks/inskipool.asp>.

As usual, the neighborhood will provide drinks, paper products and set up materials. So, come out, bring your dish with a serving utensil and enjoy some added fun of a dip in the pool!



Business Spotlight—Tennessee Valley Bicycles

Tennessee Valley Bicycles is now a neighbor-owned bicycle store on Magnolia Avenue. Eric Ohlgren and Tina Rosling (of Deery St.) partnered with Scott Smith in January to purchase the business from Bill Dillenger. (Mr. Dillenger originally started the shop on Chapman Hwy. and later moved the business downtown.)

Scott and another employee, John, run the shop and are both excellent mechanics--very knowledgeable with all types of bikes. TVB has a collection of new and used bikes and its main brands are Kona, KHS, and Breezer. The shop has sponsored several Alley Cats races and is currently giving away a Breezer Cruiser in a raffle at an upcoming Sundown in the City.

TVB is on the way downtown: going down Central, turn right on Magnolia, and you will see a tandem mounted on the wall. (This fall, the shop will move two doors west, in order to expand.)

Congratulations to Tina and Eric on their new venture.

Tennessee Valley Bicycles
204 W. Magnolia Ave.
865/540-9979

www.tnvalleybikes.com
Mon. – Fri. 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Sat. & Sun 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Monthly Potluck Dinners

This month the neighborhood has a festive and seasonal pool party planned in conjunction with the pot luck. Who doesn't want to kick the summer off with dip in the pool?

In July and August, join us for Summer in the City as we are back to our traditional date and location for the neighborhood pot luck dinners. 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!

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

Please call 865/385-9070 with comments or suggestions or email robsellsknoxville@gmail.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 Rob Howard at robellsknoxville@gmail.com

Congratulations To:

Erin Frost for being named one of three parents of the year at Beaumont Magnet Elementary School where the Frosts child Sonny is in first grade.

Doug & Faith McDaniel as their home on East Glenwood Avenue is featured in the "Family Album" section of the summer issue of American Bungalow Magazine. (Available at Barnes and Noble or at <http://www.ambungalow.com>.) If you are a bungalow owner, contact Faith at faithmcdaniel@comcast.net for more info about a (not-so) secret society of bungalow owners. It offers no officers, no by-laws, only food, wine and bungalows.

Claire Coker's competitive cheerleading team for taking second place at the National Cheerleading Championship in March. As a result, the team won a "paid bid" to the World Championship in April. Teams from all over the world competed and were featured on ESPN.

Melynda Whetsel, Fourth & Gill neighborhood chair, as she won Best of Show at The Dogwood Fine Arts Show for her piece entitled "Trust" in as a Collage/Mixed Media.

The juried art show featured works by 67 local artists on exhibit April 4-18. All 102 pieces in the exhibit, including the award winners, were chosen by juror Neely Hyde, Director of Exhibits for the Association for Visual Arts in Chattanooga. Hyde reviewed 324 submissions from 130 artists in 34 cities to select the show. "I'm incredibly impressed by the talent exhibited in all of the entries. This show was extremely difficult to jury. The Dogwood Arts Festival should take great pride in offering local artists the opportunity to compare their work to that of others throughout the region," she said.



"Trust" by Melynda Whetsel

A Special Thanks

After many years of service, **Barbara Simpson** recently resigned from the Fourth & Gill Neighborhood Organization Board of Directors. After trying to balance paid work (her "day" job is as an accountant) and increasing family obligations, Barbara decided to scale back her involvement in neighborhood business.

In addition to serving two rounds as Treasurer (the first from 1984 – 1988), Barbara has also been a member of the Social, Parks & Beautification, Neighborhood Watch, Freeway, & Codes Committees. She has been a tireless volunteer and powerful advocate on neighborhood issues, and we are truly in her debt.

Barbara became a Fourth & Gill resident in 1981, when she purchased and renovated 1023 Luttrell St. Later, in 1997, she tackled a more ambitious project with the restoration of 1003 Luttrell St. (the "Turret House" on the corner of Caswell). She helped form the LLC that bought the house and later went on to another project (with partner, Dwight Guinn)

in 2006: She's been living and working at 1302 Luttrell St. since 2002. [Any numerologists in the neighborhood who can analyze those three sets of house numbers?]

Even though we'll be missing her at board and committee meetings, Barbara has no plans to move. "I can't imagine going anywhere else," she says. When she and Dwight are not out sailing, she regularly attends and helps out with potlucks and parties.

Thank you so much, Barbara, for your experience, time, and energy! We hope you will be involved in neighborhood work again sometime soon. You are one of several brave "pioneers" who have made this community what it is today. Thanks again for lending us your talent, ideas, and commitment.

The Neighborhood Network/Watch has had a change in meeting date to the Fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Neighborhood Center. (at the corner Fourth Ave. and Gill) The group talks to the police who patrol our area and everyone is welcome. Virginia Douglas, phone 524-1462, and Rob Howard, 385-9070, Co-chair this group. Gavin Luter, dluter@utk.edu, is the communications coordinator.

Fourth & Gill Neighborhood Founder...Found

A nationally-known author coming to our little school! I anxiously anticipated Alan Gratz' visit to Rush Strong School in Jefferson County (where I serve as the librarian). The American Library Association (ALA) recognized his novel *Samurai Shortstop* as one of 2007's "Top Ten Best Books for Young Adults."

During his presentation to the middle schoolers, he described his writing career and its relation to his home state—from TV scripts for A&E's Knoxville-produced *City Confidential* to the novel *Something Rotten* (an East Tennessee-based twist on Shakespeare's *Hamlet*).

Afterward, I spoke with him one on one. When I learned he attended Webb School, guessing his age, I asked if he knew a college friend that had also attended Webb; he had dated her! Okay, if he grew up in Knoxville, could it be a coincidence.... I had to ask.... "I live on Gratz Street in the 4th & Gill neighborhood. Any relation?" He excitedly replied that yes, L.A. Gratz was his great-, great- (times 5) grandfather who had, in fact, laid out this neighborhood! He sent me the following information and photograph to share with you:

In 1861, 19-year-old Louis Alexander Gratz, a German Jew, landed in New York City with ten dollars in his pocket and no knowledge of English. A few months later he heeded President Abraham Lincoln's call for volunteers to fight in the Civil War, and less than a year after arriving in America Louis Gratz was an officer in the Union Army. He fought his way south into Kentucky and Tennessee, reaching the rank of major and commanding a regiment in the Battle of Chickamauga. When the war ended, Louis found himself in Knoxville, where he earned a law degree, married Elizabeth Bearden (of the Bearden Hill Bearden's), laid out the street plan for the 4th and Gill neighborhood (naming a street after himself), and eventually became the first (and I think only) mayor of North Knoxville before it was incorporated with the city. L.A. Gratz still resides nearby, buried in Old Gray Cemetery.



Little Gratz Street represents an important history—not only of our neighborhood, but also of our city and The South. —Submitted by Alice Schoo-Jerger, 715 Gratz Street

The following article was a submission by a fellow neighbor and contains direct opinions of this particular family, not necessarily the entire neighborhood.

To whom it may concern:

There are leash laws in effect in Knoxville and in many other large cities to ensure safety to individuals, animals and pet owners alike. Recently, there have been a number of Fourth & Gill pet owners that choose to walk their dogs without a leash or any other form of restraint. Perhaps such pet owners believe they are above the leash law or that their animal is expertly trained or too elderly to ever run from their owner's side, but this type of thinking is what caused the death of the two ducks that lived in our yard.

We, the Evans family, raised two small, orphaned Mallard ducks from babies to fully-grown and beautiful adults. These ducks chose to stay in our yard, swim in our ponds and enjoy all that a city garden had to offer. They lived peacefully in the euphoria of our yard for months without a care in the world, until the day of May 8; when we came home to find

one brutally murdered by a loose neighborhood dog. Perhaps a dog could have gotten loose that day and we were the unlucky individuals to feel the effects of it's escape, but the following day brought the same results with the death of our other winged friend. We know that a dog killed our ducks because they were killed during the day, which leaves out any night animals and no cat could have carried their bodies to the field across the street, therefore, there is no other culprit but a dog.

We have reason to suspect the dog of a certain neighbor because we came home early one day to find the animal on our front porch and we happened to see where the dog ran after it realized the owners of the porch he was trespassing on had returned. We do not dislike dogs, in fact we have three of our own, but there is nothing to like about irresponsible owners. If you think that you and your dog are above the leash laws and that they do not apply to you, then you are an irresponsible pet owner. If you allow your dog to run rampant through the neighborhood without caring about what they are doing, you are an irresponsible pet owner. If you are the person who owns the dog that brutally murdered two beautiful and harmless ducks, then you are an irresponsible pet owner. Leash laws are in effect so that people can enjoy their pets and their neighbors without worry of injury or property damage. Leash laws are not in effect to punish an individual, so, for the sake of yourself, your pet and others, we implore you to respect all concerned and put your dog on a leash.

Still grieving, -The Evans Family 912 Eleanor Street

Things to Take Note:

- Sundown in the City is every Thursday evening on Market Square through the first week of July—Music, treats to eat, beverages, people watching and a great family event.
- Check out a variety of cultural and fun events in our own neighborhood at <http://www.myspace.com/birdhouse> laboratories or contact them at birdhouse.laboratories@gmail.com.
- Conserve with Smart Trips go to <http://www.knox-smarttrips.org/>
- The Farmers Market on Market Square is every Saturday morning and features a great array of organic fruits, vegetables, meats, plants and a wide variety of products.

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

June

Monday 9th – Pool Party with Potluck, at 6:30 p.m. at Inskip Pool

Tuesday 24th – Neighborhood Watch Meeting, at the Neighborhood Center, at 7:30 p.m.

July

Monday 14th – Potluck Dinner, at Central United Methodist Church, at 6:30 p.m.

Monday 21st – Board Meeting, at the Schottin Household, 1024 Eleanor, at 7 p.m.

Tuesday 22nd – Neighborhood Watch Meeting, at the Neighborhood Center, at 7:30 p.m.

August

Monday 11th – Potluck Dinner, at Central United Methodist Church, at 6:30 p.m.

Friday 15th – Deadline for newsletter Submissions

Tuesday 26th – Neighborhood Watch Meeting, at the Neighborhood Center, at 7:30 p.m.

Knoxville, TN 37927-3845

P.O. Box 3845

www.fourthandgill.org

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