

# Doing Business in a Historic Building: Interview with David Harman

Did you see the crane lift the giant window in place at 800 Luttrell a few months ago? It looked precarious at first, but the window was perfectly in place by the end of the day. Bet you also heard a big sigh of relief from the recent building owner, David Harman. Before David had even closed on the sale of the building, he had applied for a city historic preservation grant to fund the new front window as well as windows along the Lovenia side of the building (yes, they're coming). This work is phase one of a long list of improvements David foresees for the 1927 building, which began as a church, then morphed into a photography studio, then transitioned into a collection of art studios and design-related businesses. Today, the building is home to Pop Fizz Photography, Open Door Architecture, Native Maps (David's business) and studio rentals by individual artists.

By the way, 800 Luttrell is on the Tour of Homes. We spoke with David about doing business in a historic building.

**Why did you decide to buy this historic building in Fourth and Gill?** My family and I have lived in neighboring Oakwood-Lincoln Park for the past 10 years. A neighbor told me about a vacancy in this building when I was looking for space for Native Maps. I'd been here six years and started looking for a studio building of my own to buy about three years before this one became available. I always thought that owning the building where you have a business would offer more financial stability. This building got my attention because of all the space and opportunities for rentals.

**What is your vision for this space?** I do a lot of work with the Knoxville Entrepreneur Center and am committed to having adequate affordable spaces for artists. I will continue to fill my available spaces with artists and hope to include a co-working space here.

**Are there advantages to being in Fourth and Gill?** I love being in the middle of a residential neighborhood. It's quiet and there's more privacy. Being in Fourth and Gill has already helped us become eligible for a historic preservation grant, which I hope to obtain more of so I can continue upgrading the building. Down the road, I want to offer art markets and have open studios that tie us to Fourth and Gill and neighboring communities. Right now, there aren't enough artists in the building to do those things but I plan to capitalize on these opportunities for connection in the future. In the meantime, feel free to knock on the front door and say hello. You can also buy a map as a gift while you're here!

I look forward to being on this year's Tour of Homes and opening up some of the space to the public. Pop Fizz, Native Maps and a few of the artist studios will be open. Please come and say hello.

**We in Fourth and Gill understand that you've got to love old buildings to have one. What improvements do you plan to make?** In addition to windows, I want to re-apply for another historic preservation grant to do general clean-up of the façade: redo the mortar and fix the front steps and upgrade the architectural wood elements on the outside of the building. Inside, I want to update flooring and paint walls. Quirky things have been done to the building that really need to be undone. Near term, I'm excited to plant the garden bed along Lovenia so neighbors can enjoy spring and summer flowers.

David and his business, Native Maps, was featured in Inside of Knoxville in October 2022, if you want to check out the article. <https://insideofknoxville.com/2022/10/knoxville-rooted-native-maps-buys-building-now-sunday-studios-and-grows-the-business/>



David Harman (above), owner, Sunday Studios (left) and Native Maps



Pop Fizz Photography

ESTABLISHED 1870  
**Fourth & Gill**  
NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION  
*33rd Anniversary*  
**Tour of Homes & Secret Gardens**  
**2023**

# The Tour of Homes and Secret Gardens is Here

The Historic Fourth and Gill Neighborhood Organization is excited to host the 33rd anniversary Tour of Homes & Secret Gardens on Sunday, April 30, 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. We have quite a lineup for the tour: seven homes, two historic buildings and eight gardens.

Did you know that, included in the tour, there are:

- ✿ three first-time homes on tour on Gratz Street?
- ✿ twin homes with identical floor plans on Luttrell Street?

- ✿ a home, cottage and Golden Shovel award-winning garden all in one location?

To spot them and answer the quiz, purchase tickets and join the tour! You can buy tickets here, <https://www.fourthandgill.org/2023-tour-of-homes>. Your purchase contributes to the success of this fundraiser, which provides about 70% of Fourth and Gill's annual budget including parks and beautification projects, social events, and communications like this newsletter.



The Mini Art Gallery on Luttrell Street is delighted to present works by artist Maria Paz Valenzuela, one of our visiting neighbors from Chile. On display are collages Maria Paz has created while living here in the neighborhood. Her compositions burst with layers of color and texture and focus on the beauty and importance of relationships.



Officer Blaine, Gabrielle Boudreau, and Jeff Johnson with Mayor Kincannon at the Knoxville Good Neighbor Awards dinner

## Fourth and Gill Honored at City Awards Dinner

In March, the City of Knoxville, through its Office of Neighborhood Empowerment, celebrated outstanding people and neighborhoods in the city. Fourth and Gill won honors in all three categories.

### Good Neighbor of the Year Award

Jeff Johnson was nominated for the Good Neighbor of the Year Award for leading two of the most influential committees in Fourth and Gill over several years: the Social Committee (2016-2021) and the Tour of Homes Committee (2015-present). He was named a finalist (for the second time) for this award. Jeff's organizing capabilities and prowess

at inspiring others to participate has resulted in many successes for our neighborhood. Aside from his organizational leadership, Jeff does a lot to promote good will among neighbors. We are so fortunate to have him in Fourth and Gill. Please wish him well next time you visit the 1026 Luttrell porch.

### Neighborhood Achievement Award

Fourth and Gill was among the honorees for the Neighborhood Achievement Award for connecting neighbors with one another and building the capacity of the neighborhood organization to better serve its community. Our

neighborhood won for the Tour of Homes and Secret Gardens. This activity raises money for FGNO and provides about 70% of the annual budget. Gabrielle Boudreau, FGNO President, accepted the award for the neighborhood.

### Officer Liaison of the Year Award

KPD Officer Seth Blaine, our former Community Liaison Officer, was nominated by FGNO for Officer Liaison of the Year Award and won! We are proud of Seth and wish him well with his new promotion and assignment in the Central District.

# One Step 900 Miles

The Great Smoky Mountains 900 Miler Club ([smhclub.org](http://smhclub.org)) was founded in 1995 and has 788 members. It's an elite group of people who have hiked every mile of every current official trail in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Ashley Pace, our neighbor, aspires to be part of that group.

## What motivated you to want to hike the approximately 900 miles in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park?

Growing up, our family had a cabin in Townsend, and I spent time hiking the trails in the mountains with my grandparents. A love of walking and hiking in nature is part of my DNA. Also part of my DNA is kidney disease. My father passed away from polycystic kidney disease (PKD) in 2019 and my sisters and I found out we have it too. It's an incentive to do as much as I can for as long as I can. I guess that's a goal many people have. I amped up my exercise program as part of a hiking trip to Machu Picchu in June 2022. Two lifelong friends and I did the Inka Trail – about 25 miles of hiking and camping. When I returned, I

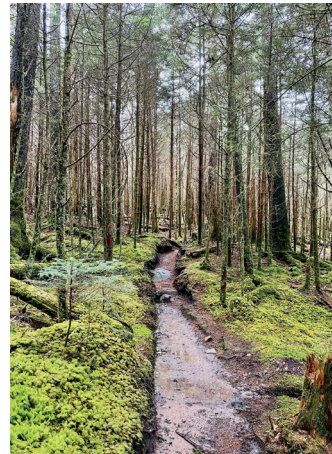
decided to keep going and hike all the trails in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

**How long will it take you to complete this goal?** Some people walk the trails quickly and repeatedly. Neighbor Sarah Johnson's dad, Jeff Woody, has hiked the 900 miles ten times and has the Fastest Known Time for solo male. I'm not Sara's dad. I'm on the slow path to complete in years, not months or weeks. I've been hiking the park trails for a year and have completed 168.2 unique miles, with a total of 242.5 non-unique miles. (The 900 Miler Club does not recognize repeat miles on trails, including out and backs; only credits for one way.) My goal is to finish 900 miles before I turn 50 years old. I have a few more years to go!

**You are an artist and an architect. Does being in nature inspire your work?** Absolutely. When I'm in the woods or forest, I see lots of beautiful things, grand and small, like wild mushrooms. I pull these images into my studio work, which currently includes textiles, collage and painting.



**Are you looking for hiking partners to help achieve your 900 miles?** Yes. I hike during the day when the kids are in school. Weekends, Brandon and I are usually busy with the kids' sports but I have more availability once soccer season is over. It will be better to hike when the days are longer – and warmer for those water crossings. If you want to join me for a hike, you can reach me at [apace@sanderspace.com](mailto:apace@sanderspace.com). And check out my Instagram account [@1step900miles](https://www.instagram.com/1step900miles). See you out there!



Above: Artwork in progress (above)

Top: The Pace family at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Left: Ashley Pace, on the trail



## GOOD INFO TO KNOW

- 1 Always call 911 if a crime is being committed (this is the case no matter who is involved). If you feel someone needs help or intervention, 311 is the community support number. Social workers and police work together to help in these situations.
- 2 To stay up to date on what's going on in the neighborhood, join the Fourth and Gill listserv. To be added, contact Jen Mowrer at [jen@mowrerpower.com](mailto:jen@mowrerpower.com).
- 3 If you're new to the neighborhood, we'd like to welcome you with a gift. To let us know, please contact Nina Reineri at [ninareineri@gmail.com](mailto:ninareineri@gmail.com).

## 2023 OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

President: Gabrielle Boudreau  
Vice-President: Celia Lawren  
Treasurer: Chris Griffin  
Secretary: Melynda Whetsel

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications: Jen Mowrer  
Government Relations: Bob Whetsel  
Parks and Beautification: Melynda Whetsel  
Social: Dan Howatt  
Traffic Calming: Lacy Mellon

## BOARD MEMBERS

Julie Braude  
Cody Farmer  
Grace Novinger

# President's Report: A Strong Start to the New Year

It's important to review what we do and why. The Board dedicated time in January to discuss our purpose, and what we hope to achieve this year. We agreed that building a strong community and sustaining the historic character of our neighborhood were important to us. We streamlined some of our committees so that they help support these goals.

In February we held our Annual Neighborhood meeting where you elected Grace Novinger, Celia Lawren, and Jen Mower to new 3-yr terms on the Board. We're excited to welcome Grace, who will be new to the Board. And we're grateful that Jen and Celia ran for second terms. In addition to electing our new Board members, the meeting

introduced Officer Lori Banks, who represents KPD's Neighborhood Watch city-wide. We also heard from Scott Schimmel on efforts of the traffic calming committee to improve safety on neighborhood streets. Bob Whetsel spoke to concerns about upholding processes when seeking zoning variances. Catherine Abbott, the new coordinator at the Birdhouse Neighborhood Center introduced herself and talked about what's happening at the Center. And Nina Reineri talked about the fun of welcoming new neighbors as she takes the lead of the Welcome Committee. We look forward to hearing more from neighbors and seeing you at upcoming events!



Spring came early this year, as evidenced by some February daffodils

## 4 & G UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 1-30**  
Dogwood Arts Walking Trail  
and Notable Tree Tour

**April 15-16**  
Dogwood Arts Featured  
Gardens

**April 17**  
Board Meeting

**April 30**  
Tour of Homes and Secret  
Gardens

**May 13**  
Kayak Paddle on  
Tennessee River

**May 15**  
Board Meeting

**June 1**  
Kayak Near-Full Moon  
Paddle on Tennessee River

**June 10**  
Porch Hop

**June 19**  
Board Meeting

## Mardi Gras Makes Its Mark

In February, the Birdhouse Neighborhood Center (BNC) held a successful Mardi Gras Party and Fundraiser. Guests enjoyed food from The Bistro, sponsored beer and wine from Lacy Mellon RE/MAX Tri Star Realty, Yee-Haw Brewing Co., and Barrelhouse by Gypsy Circus. Generous raffle gift cards were provided by Three Rivers Market, Boyd's Jig & Reel, and A Dopo. Thirty-five attendees enjoyed Cajun and Zydeco music, king cake, and plenty of beads! The event brought together neighbors and friends, including many new faces. Congratulations to the Mardi Gras King Gary McCracken and Queen MusuAhawa Hoffman.

Proceeds from the fundraiser allow the BNC to sponsor rental fees for mission-based groups requesting to use the space for a discounted rate or for free. Some recent examples of sponsored events include Keeping It Kwanzaa classes, Rooted East classes, a native women's group, and musical sessions by The Arc.

This Mardi Gras Party and Fundraiser will be an annual event. See you next year!

### Save the Date

- ✿ Neighborhood Yoga, led by Maria Paz Valenzuela, April 22, 3:00 pm–4:00 pm (tentative)
- ✿ UT Electronic and Gamelan Improv Sound Performance, May 4, Time TBD

### Call for Volunteers

The BNC seeks individuals with fundraising experience or interest to serve on a new Fundraising Subcommittee. Email Catherine Abbott at [fgnc.booking@gmail.com](mailto:fgnc.booking@gmail.com) for more information. New volunteers are also welcome on the Programs & Activities, Operations, and Building & Grounds Subcommittees.

### Rent the Space

Neighbors receive half off the already low rental prices for the first floor and outdoor space at the BNC! Learn more at [www.fourthandgill.org/birdhouse-neighborhood-center](http://www.fourthandgill.org/birdhouse-neighborhood-center).



Queen and King of the Birdhouse Neighborhood Center Mardi Gras