

Fourth & Gill Tour of Homes Is BACK!

After a long two-year hiatus, the neighborhood will host its 32nd Tour of Homes fundraising event on June 25. New features of the 2022 Tour include a VIP Champagne Brunch and tours of neighborhood secret gardens.

The Tour of Homes and Secret Gardens will be from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. The tour will feature the beautiful Gothic Revival architecture of Central United Methodist Church along with seven historic houses, including the 2017 HGTV Urban Oasis, and eight meticulously designed gardens. Adding to the celebration, the church's organist will be presenting concerts at 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. in the church's sanctuary.

Thank you to the neighbors who are opening their beautiful historic homes and gardens to the public.

We need everyone in Fourth & Gill to spread the word to friends and family so we can make this year's event the best! Share the Tour of Homes information on our website on your own social media pages.

It takes a village to pull off such an event, and we ask for your help in staffing a variety of activities:

- check in at the Central United Methodist Church
- bus guides
- brunch set up, wait service and tear down
- assistance to homeowners on tour

To volunteer, please contact 4g.hometours@gmail.com.

Monies raised by this event fund FGNO committees, necessary operating expenses, and community outreach. Thank you for your support!

Gillbilly Garden Club

It's that time of the year again; time for planting, mowing, weeding, mulching, or just letting it go. If you love to garden or you've never even had a houseplant in your life, then the Gillbilly Garden Club might be for you. There is no membership. I try to have a few interesting meetings during the spring, summer and fall months, if they sound interesting to you, please join us. It's that easy! We meet seven times a year, April through October. Usually on a Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm at the Neighborhood Center. A few meetings may be at different



The fairies have expanded their Eleanor domain

locations: nurseries, flower farms, etc. They may be on different days or times, but I'll be sure to let you know.

If you're new to the neighborhood, lived here for years, want to meet some people, just want to get out of the house—whatever the reason—please join us.

Some recent events included a Plant and Seed Swap, where neighbors brought plants and extra seeds to share. We discussed ideas for the upcoming year, and had a presentation on how to plan annual and perennial beds.

In mid-May we visited Fountain City's Flourish Flower Farm. There we received a tour of their cutting farm and learned how they keep their beautiful cut flowers coming all summer long.

If you have a green thumb, know a lot about growing something, are an expert composter, or any other knowledge you would like to share with the group, the Club would love to hear from you.



For details on the VIP Brunch, Tour of Homes and gardens, visit FourthandGill.org

Spring Golden Shovel

Thank you to all who voted for the Spring Edition of the Golden Shovel Award. Congratulations to Kaye and Allen Osborne of 1202 Luttrell Street! Below is the happy couple as well as the list of the other nominees, in no particular order.

724 Deery
1008 Luttrell
1104 Luttrell



Kaye and Allen Osborne



The 4th & Gill Neighborhood Center, photographed by Brett Burdick

Spring Board Highlights

The Fourth & Gill Neighborhood Board met in April and May. To follow are highlights from those meetings.

1. In April and May we heard informative reports from Officer Seth Blaine, our KPD officer who you may have met patrolling the neighborhood. Officer Blaine shared info on recent calls and reports in our area. He helped rescue two lost dogs in danger on Hall of Fame Drive (the dogs were reunited with their family). More recently, Officer Blaine conducted traffic-calming efforts along Gill between Eleanor and Luttrell. He plans to do more traffic work in the Gill Avenue area as his calls allow.



Officer Seth Blaine

2. On Monday, May 9th the Board hosted a neighborhood-wide meeting. Over refreshments, we shared information on what's on the horizon in the neighborhood, heard from neighbors on many issues, and received updates



Project architect Jared Hueter of Ally Architecture

from Officer Blaine on neighborhood crime and safety.

3. Architects and a representative from the developer briefed the Board on preliminary plans for the development of eight one-bedroom condominiums on the corner of 4th & Gill (adjacent to the interstate and across from the Neighborhood Center). Currently, the project team is working with Historic Zoning on approvals.

4. Our Neighborhood Committees have been meeting and are hard at work. Each group offers an opportunity to get involved. At our May 9th meeting we collected neighbors' names on sign-up sheets to participate. If you missed the meeting and would like to get involved, please email a Board member.

5. The Tour of Homes Committee has moved into high gear and they're already selling tickets for both the Home and Secret Garden Tour as well as the first-ever pre-tour brunch. Please mark your calendar for June 25th and buy your tickets at FourthandGill.org

6. Our Neighborhood Center reopened on Saturday, April 11 with a party honoring Thomas and Lindsey Boyd. An article in the *Knoxville News Sentinel* was published featuring the party and highlighting the reopening efforts. We had great attendance by neighbors of all ages. Entertainment included musicians, and many of the children had a chance to try out instruments on the porch. The Committee gathered donations to commission a lovely stained-glass piece as a gift of thanks to donors Thomas and Lindsey Boyd, and this was presented during the party.

We've worked intensively the past month, cultivating pilot programs and activities such as family and kids' yoga, and continuing to make improvements to the building and operations of the center.

7. Parks and Beautification had a very successful neighborhood clean-up day and is working with the Tour of Homes Committee to incorporate "Secret Garden Tours" as part of this year's home tour. They also created an impressive walking tour for the Dogwood



Check the Neighborhood Center calendar for family and kids' yoga

Festival highlighting our neighborhood trees.

8. Social Committee held a successful neighborhood-wide yard sale in mid-May, and is gearing up for the next event, the Porch Hop on June 11. If you're interested in hosting a stop along June's Porch Hop or the Holiday edition, please contact Mike Holden (mikeholden37917@yahoo.com) or Julie Braude (juliebraude@gmail.com). Please also save the date for July 31 for a gathering with music, food, a school supply drive for Beaumont and more.

7. Our Government Safety and Codes Committee is investigating traffic calming and anything that might promote safety in the neighborhood.

8. Our Communications Committee has expanded, and is gearing up for the upcoming website renovation and future newsletters.

9. The Welcome Committee is planning to celebrate new neighbors with pint glasses filled with coupons from our generous local businesses.

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

President: Gabrielle Boudreau
 Vice-President: Celia Lawren
 Treasurer: Chris Griffin
 Secretary: Dan Howett

BOARD/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communication: Jen Mowrer
 Government Relations, Safety, and Codes: Lacy Mellon
 Neighborhood Center: Jamey Dobbs
 Parks and Beautification: Melynda Whetsel
 Social: Julie Braude
 Sustainability & Community Wellness: Open
 Tour of Homes: Chris Griffin
 Welcome: Emma McAfee

An Interview with Gordon Coker of Cokerbowl

Talk about your work featured in the Luttrell Street Art Gallery.

The pieces in the art galleries are of various types of wood. I don't remember all of them, but there is red bud, hackberry, catalpa among others. And all the wood came from neighborhood trees—an added touch. Celia and I intentionally picked out small pieces, so they would fit.

When did you start woodturning?

I started woodturning about 15 years ago. I had just finished building a “storage building” for all our crap that we had accumulated over the years and wanted a place to put the mower, tiller, etc. One spring break Sam, our son, took a woodworking class out at Woodcraft. He came home and said, “Dad, we need to get a lathe.” I said, “What the hell are we going to do with a lathe?” I knew nothing about woodturning. Well, we got a cheap mini lathe and at the time, we were both turning. A couple of neighbors, that I had no idea were turning, lent me some tools. I got hooked. Now I am on my third lathe, one that will last me forever. I took four classes at Arrowmont that were invaluable and have become a member of some woodturning guilds.

What did you do in your “past life,” pre-woodturning?

In my past life before woodturning, I did several things, among

some of them landscaping and construction work in Louisiana. After moving to Knoxville, I was part of a clown troupe for a few years. That was a lot of fun *and* I was fortunate to meet Gabrielle while we were both clowning—a long story. I owned a landscape contracting company for 15 years, where we did installation and design. I eventually moved to construction management with a local architect and landscape architect firm for the next 15 or so years. We did design/build projects as well as large landscape design and installations. When my end of the work phased out, I retired and spent more time doing woodturning.

For those neighbors who aren't familiar with woodturning, would you describe your process?

I gather local wood, usually by word of mouth. I usually have to cut the wood into chunks that I can haul in my 1/8th ton pickup truck, otherwise known as my Prius. I then look at the wood and cut pieces out according to what I see in the figure and/or what I think I'm going to achieve with it. I use a bandsaw to round it out, put it on the lathe, and begin carving out the piece using bowl gouges and hollowing tools as the lathe is spinning. Depending on the piece, I either turn it thick (about 10% of the diameter) and let it dry in my homemade kiln for a few weeks or turn it thin (about



3/16”) and let it air dry. After drying, I sand the piece and finish it using a food safe finish. I try to use only local wood for philosophical reasons.

Do you have a favorite form and/or wood with which to work?

I don't have a favorite wood particularly. If I had to choose, they would be maple, cherry, box elder, dogwood, and red bud. All trees are different in that they each have a story to tell. As far as what kind of pieces, I'm all over the place. I turn regular bowls, natural edge bowls (leaving the bark on), platters, vases, hollow forms, etc. I try to use simple lines in my forms though. I think it adds grace to the piece.

Where do you find inspiration or design ideas for your work?

I find inspiration, as far as form, from my landscaping background. As I said before, I like using simple flowing lines. I try to look at the wood and see how I can possibly bring out the natural beauty. Each turning is a surprise once you get into the wood and no two are alike.

Any advice for neighbors who have to make the difficult decision about aging or diseased trees on their property?

As much as I understand that sometimes it is necessary to cut down a tree, it always kills me when I see it happen. We have lost so many trees in our neighborhood, to the point that we are on the low end of the scale in the city for percentage of canopy, less than 25%. Most of the time, it is



Above and below: a sampling of works by Gordon Coker

from improper placement of the tree. My advice is to let a certified arborist look at the tree before a decision is made to save or cut the tree down. Selective pruning can go a long way to saving a tree without cutting it down. And if you plant a tree, make sure it is appropriate for the space in your yard as far as height and canopy spread.

Is it helpful when neighbors contact you with “tips” about fallen trees?

Yes, my ears are always open to someone telling me about a felled tree. I'm like an ambulance chaser, chainsaw in hand.

Do you have aspirations of creating any larger works, perhaps off the lathe?

Right now, I do not have any aspirations for doing projects off the lathe. I'm pretty comfortable with what I'm doing now.



2022 Angie Warren Perkins Award



2022 Angie Warren Perkins Award winner, Sherley Cruz

This spring, neighbor Sherley Cruz received the prestigious Angie Warren Perkins Award from the University of Tennessee Commission for Women. “Named for the first dean of women at UT, the Angie Warren Perkins Award honors outstanding leadership in campus governance or administration at the level of department head, director, or below.”

Cruz began teaching at the University of Tennessee College of Law in 2019. She also supervises students in the Advocacy Clinic. Specifically, Cruz’s work explores access to justice, low-wage workers’ rights, and cross-cultural communications. Please wish her a warm, Fourth & Gill congratulations the next time you see her.

Spring Clean Up Day

Many thanks to the 20 neighbors who swept, raked, blew, and bagged trash at another successful—and beautiful—Clean Up Day.

Twenty wonderful neighbors cleaned sidewalks and alleys in preparing for the Marathon and Dogwood Arts Walking Trail. We

even cleared a camp from the top of the Meadow! Many thanks to each and all who participated.

Parks & Beautification Committee has employed Sam Tomas, the gentleman who has maintained the Gill Street garden beds for us in the past, to maintain the beds March through September.



MVP Chris Jerger, coffee and donuts guy



4 & G UPCOMING EVENTS

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|--|-------------------------------------|
| May 16 Board Meeting | Sept 10 Fall Cleanup Day |
| June 11 Porch Hop | 13 Gillbilly Garden Club |
| 14 Gillbilly Garden Club | 16 Porch Hop |
| 20 Board Meeting | 19 Board Meeting |
| 25 Tour of Homes and Secret Gardens | Oct 11 Gillbilly Garden Club |
| July 12 Gillbilly Garden Club | 17 Board Meeting |
| 18 Board Meeting | 31 Halloween Festivities |
| 31 School Supply Drive | Nov 21 Board Meeting |
| Aug 15 Board Meeting | Dec 11 Holiday Open House |
| 16 Gillbilly Garden Club | 12 Board Meeting |

Calling All Junior Gillbillies

Take a photo... Draw a picture... Write a poem or description... What is the thing/activity/place you like the most about summer? Submit it on a 4x6 index card with your name on the back to the porch at 922 Gratz Street by June 10. That gives you seven days to do this project after school ends. Let’s see how many kids we can get to participate. Go for it!

A BIG SHOUTOUT to Brett Burdick for redesigning the mini gallery on Luttrell Street to make it easier to load exhibits. For

people who don’t know, Brett designed, built, and installed our mini art galleries years ago and they continue to add beauty and surprise to all of us who walk by and look up.

The mini art galleries are located at 4&G Park and on Luttrell Street, just past the circle on the right. Enjoy!



A budding artist on Luttrell Street

