

Tour of Homes: A Tradition Continues

*"The answer was: Show it off!!
Let the world know what has been
happening here in the inner city,
right beside the freeway. And Voila!!
A tour of homes!"*

This is a blurb from an article written by Melynda Whetsel regarding the first Tour of Homes, which was a weapon in the arsenal to battle TDOT's freeway expansion.

Thirty-two years later, while the answer still holds true, the questions changed. In early February 2022, after a two-year hiatus due to a global pandemic, the Tour of Homes Committee met to weigh options. Will it be safe to have a tour? With dwindling neighborhood funds, can we afford a tour? Will there be enough people willing to open their homes for a tour? Will enough guests attend to make the event worthwhile? Should we even plan knowing the tour could be canceled, yet again, due to the virus?

After much deliberation, the committee decided to "soldier on" with planning. Considering and closely monitoring the direction of the virus, forced changes were made to enhance the event and hopefully make it more appealing to the public. One such change, likely the most rewarding, was the Tour of Homes and Parks and

Beautification Committees joining forces. And Voila!! A Tour of Homes and Gardens!

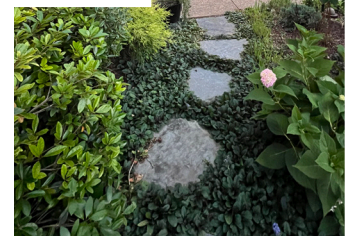
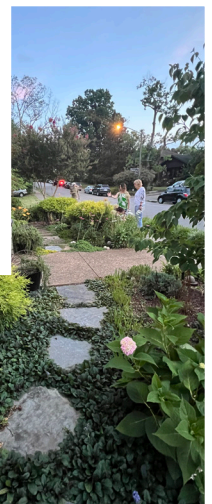
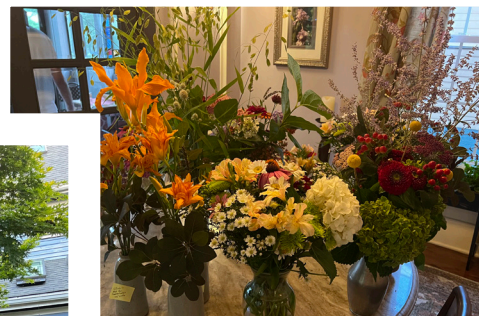
You can't have a tour without homeowners. You can't have a tour without volunteers. And you can't have a tour without sponsors. When all three come together, it's a beautiful thing. Thanks to the homeowners who opened their homes and gardens to almost 600 guests. Thanks to the volunteers — long-time residents and a few who have not yet moved into the hood — who logged in over 380 recorded hours. And thanks to an overwhelming response from local businesses, especially those business owners and employees who live in the neighborhood. A large portion of the event revenues came from sponsorships. Please frequent these businesses and tell them how grateful we are for their participation.

We would be remiss if we did not send deep heartfelt thanks to Chris Griffin and Jeff Johnson for their marketing savvy, project and financial management, untold hours of time, and leadership as co-leads of the Tour of Homes Committee.

This tour, as with the first, and all others in between, is this historical neighborhood's testament of diligence, camaraderie and perseverance by not only the people who live here, but also those who visit.

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 are working with our police to help in these situations.
- 2 To stay up to date on what's going on with neighbors and in the neighborhood, join the Fourth and Gill listserv. To be added, please contact Jen Mowrer at jen@mowrerpower.com.
- 3 If you've recently moved to the neighborhood, we'd love to welcome you! Please let us know by contacting Emma McAfee at mcafee.emma@gmail.com.
- 4 If you want to hold an event or meeting at the Neighborhood Center, contact Catherine Abbott at fgnc.booking@gmail.com.



2022 Tour of Homes and Gardens

Fall Board Highlights

The FGNO Board has eleven members, each of whom, in addition to attending our monthly Board meetings, leads committees. The work of these committees is behind much of what we value in this neighborhood. Our active committees include Communications, Social, Tour of Homes, Parks & Beautification, Traffic Calming, Development and Codes, Welcome, and the Neighborhood Center. If you want to get more involved in the neighborhood and meet new neighbors, consider helping one of these committees.

The Board hears reports every month from our KPD officer Seth Blaine, and we take this opportunity to communicate neighborhood concerns. We know that KPD increased patrols in our neighborhood following a rash of car break-ins that continued for a few weeks last month. Please report any potential crime to the police

(even if nothing was taken) because it is helping them. It's also been helpful to get immediate reports via our neighborhood listserv including footage from porch cameras. Officer Blaine is on our listserv.

Last month the Board voted unanimously to create an endowment through the East Tennessee Foundation that will maximize the return on our funds and promote long-term financial stability and viability of the FGNO. Our goal is to put the neighborhood in a good financial position even in lean years when our fundraising may not meet our goals, as was the case during the COVID pandemic.

It's not too early to start thinking about running for the Board this next year. If you haven't been to one of our Board meetings, come see what it's about. Our meetings are open and are held the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Central United Methodist Church.

4 & G UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 15 Gillbilly Garden Club

17 Board Meeting

31 Halloween Festivities

Nov 21 Board Meeting

Dec 11 Holiday Open House

12 Board Meeting

Big Steps for Neighborhood Center

Have you seen the Neighborhood Center recently? The recent renovations have completely transformed the upstairs by replacing paneling with drywall and raising the ceiling back to its historic height. Many thanks to all the volunteers who joined the workday on August 20 and polished off those walls with a new paint job. This makes the center's four upstairs office/studio spaces even more attractive to rent.

The downstairs area, beautifully restored, is now primed for many types of events. Recently we hosted a well-attended art show and kid-friendly family yoga, and our volunteer, Jaleria Rivera, has already booked events like a comedy night, private parties, and the recording of a movie scene. The center recently hired a new program coordinator,

Catherine Abbott (see introduction on the back page of this issue).

Thanks to the extremely generous gift from Thomas and Lindsey Boyd, the Neighborhood Center will serve the neighborhood and the surrounding area with educational, entertaining, philanthropic, and community-building programming and resources.

The Center ultimately must balance serving the neighborhood and keeping the bills paid. We're committed to making space available for Fourth & Gill residents at a discounted rate, while encouraging other groups to rent the space for public and private programming for a reasonable price. Remember that neighborhood clubs, the Board, and other groups have free use for meetings.



The 4th & Gill Neighborhood Center, above, and volunteers sprucing up the upstairs of the Center, right



An Interview with Jerome Robinson of @PlatesandAprons

Who or what motivated you to begin cooking? Growing up in Jamaica, my mom was a wonderful cook and sit-down meals with the whole family were important in our house. At a young age, I was very opinionated (no surprise) and would frequently offer suggestions about the food. My sister, who is six years older, got tired of listening to me and decided I should learn how to cook. This was when I was about 9 or 10. She began cooking lessons by teaching me how to prep the food, and then little by little until I reached high school, proceeded to teach me how to prepare the entire meal. I got a sense — and appreciation — of what needed to be done and how to do it. As a result, my sister was my biggest influence.

Where do you find inspiration or ideas for your creations?

Cooking in our house was not done by recipes but by ingredients. My dad had a commercial fishing business, so fish was a basic ingredient. To this day, I focus on fresh ingredients and what's available. Living on a farm in Virginia, I was fortunate to have an abundance of many fruits, vegetables and meats. That's how I got into preserving, fermenting and pickling. Zero waste is a goal on a farm. The foundation of my own cooking is Jamaican for flavor and spices even though I didn't really start cooking Jamaican food until I was in my thirties. In college, when I started cooking for myself, I did a lot of French cooking. Julia Child was an inspiration. I watched

PBS and loved seeing how much fun she was having in the kitchen. Now I'm inspired to feed family and friends with seasonal foods.

What is your favorite thing to make? I love making tomato juice to use in other things. It's simple, and I prevent waste. Right now (in August), I have 12 pounds of tomatoes in my kitchen, and I've made two gallons of juice that's waiting to be pasteurized. It will be used all winter and spring for a variety of dishes. I have a mill to run the tomatoes through that separates the seeds leaving pure juice, which I then flavor and pressure for the canning process.

Does cooking interact with your day job at all or is it a means of escape? After sitting at a computer for over 8 hours during the day, there's something to be said for standing up. I find cooking extremely relaxing. I live in two different worlds most of the time.

Some of us follow you on Instagram @platesandaprons, where you post gorgeous photos of your creations — food porn, for sure! Would you be willing to share a recipe with your neighbors?

Of course. Here's my favorite galette. Because we have several fig trees in our neighborhood, I make a lot of fig galettes, as pictured here. Bon appetit!



FRUIT GALETTE

FOR THE DOUGH:

1 ½ cups/165 grams all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon/15 grams sugar
½ teaspoon/3 grams fine sea salt
1 large egg
Heavy cream, as needed
1 stick/113 grams unsalted butter, cut into big pieces
2 teaspoons/10 milliliters lemon juice
½ teaspoon/4 grams grated lemon zest(optional)

FOR THE FILLING:

3 cups summer fruit of your choice, sliced or cubed
½ cup to ¾ cup/100 to 150 grams sugar, to taste
Pinch of salt
Juice and grated zest of 1/2 lemon(optional)
3 to 4 tablespoons/25 to 35 grams cornstarch

MAKE THE CRUST:

In a food processor fitted with a steel blade, or in a large bowl, pulse or mix flour, sugar and salt. In a measuring cup, lightly beat the egg, then add just enough cream to get to 1/3 cup. Lightly whisk the egg and cream together. Add butter to flour mixture and pulse or use a pastry cutter or your fingers to break up the butter. If using a food processor, do not over-process; you need chickpea-size chunks of butter. Drizzle the egg mixture (up to 1/4 cup) over the dough and pulse or stir until it

just starts to come together but is still mostly large crumbs. Mix in lemon juice and zest if using.

Put dough on lightly floured counter and pat it together to make one uniform piece. Flatten into a disk, wrap in plastic and chill for 2 hours, or up to 3 days.

Heat the oven to 400 degrees. Roll the dough out to a 12-inch round (it can be ragged). Transfer to a rimmed baking sheet lined with parchment paper and chill while preparing the filling.

MAKE THE FILLING:

Toss together fruit, all but a tablespoon of sugar, the salt, the lemon juice and zest, and the cornstarch. Use more cornstarch for juicy stone fruit and less for blueberries, raspberries and figs. Pile fruit on the dough circle, leaving a 1 1/2-inch border. Gently fold the pastry over the fruit, pleating to hold it in (sloppy is fine). Brush pastry generously with leftover egg and cream mixture. Sprinkle remaining sugar on the crust.

Bake for 35 to 45 minutes, until the filling bubbles up vigorously and the crust is golden. Cool for at least 20 minutes on wire rack. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Jerome is a professional accountant by day. He and his wife, Sherley Cruz, have a getaway in New Tazewell where he's planted 16 fruit trees.



Ramp pesto



Pikliz, a spicy Haitian condiment



Cheddar bacon biscuits



Fourth & Gill Neighborhood Center program coordinator, Catherine Abbott
fgnc.booking@gmail.com

Introducing Neighborhood Center Coordinator

Hi, I'm Catherine Abbott. As the new Fourth & Gill Neighborhood Center program coordinator and a fellow resident of Fourth & Gill, I am excited to work with the Neighborhood Center Committee (NCC) and volunteers to help build an engaging and successful community center and rental space.

As your program coordinator, one of my first tasks is to work with the NCC to ensure that policies and contracts are up-to-date and comprehensive. I am also starting to work on outreach plans for full-price events and other creative programming. I will work closely with the NCC's treasurer, Jerome Robinson, to set and track our financial goals throughout the year.

I'll also be increasing and enhancing the Neighborhood Center's social media presence.

Make sure to follow the Neighborhood Center on social media to learn about upcoming public events and to see what the Neighborhood Center has been up to.

Instagram: [@birdhouseknoxville](https://www.instagram.com/birdhouseknoxville)
 Facebook: [@birdhouse.knoxville](https://www.facebook.com/birdhouse.knoxville)
 Twitter: [@birdhouseknox](https://twitter.com/birdhouseknox)

If you have ideas for how you would like to use the space or for how others may like to use it, please reach out to me at fgnc.booking@gmail.com. I would love to hear your ideas and work with you on any prospective programming or events. I look forward to building a successful Neighborhood Center!

Summer Golden Shovel

Thank you to all who voted for the Summer Edition of the Golden Shovel Award.

Congratulations to Cindy Kenny at 515 Lovenia. Cindy's garden was also featured on the Tour of Homes and Gardens in June. It's truly a little gem!



Cindy and Dave Kenny

Fourth & Gill Little Free Libraries

Neighbors may remember our first Little Library on the 1100 block of Luttrell St. When this library fell into disrepair in addition to needing a new location, the neighborhood organization allocated funds for a new Little Library. Dan Howett and Gordon Coker took this challenge and ran with it. They worked for months on design ideas and construction. Dan proposed installing 2 libraries, side-by-side, one for children and one for young adults and older. Kimberly Lukacz used left-over paint to complete the

look of the two miniature houses built to store and display books.

Relocation was another initial obstacle. But Carol Nickle, on the corner of Luttrell and Lovenia, offered us the perfect spot. Thanks to Carol for letting the neighborhood install the new little libraries on the corner of her property.

Another source of help has been Bess Connally. A librarian by profession, Bess registered our Little Libraries on the "Free Little Libraries" website so they can be found. She also helped stock the

libraries and keeps them looking good (as only a librarian can!)

When you're out for a walk, stop by. You might find the perfect book for your next read. When you've finished a good book, or you need to thin out your bookcase, consider dropping off some books at the Little Libraries. (Note that neighbors Susan and Remy on the north end of Eleanor also installed a Free Little Library for children, so children can find books on either end of the neighborhood).



Gordon Coker and Dan Howett with the new Little Free Libraries

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
 Tour of Homes: Chris Griffin
 Welcome: Emma McAfee
 Cody Farmer