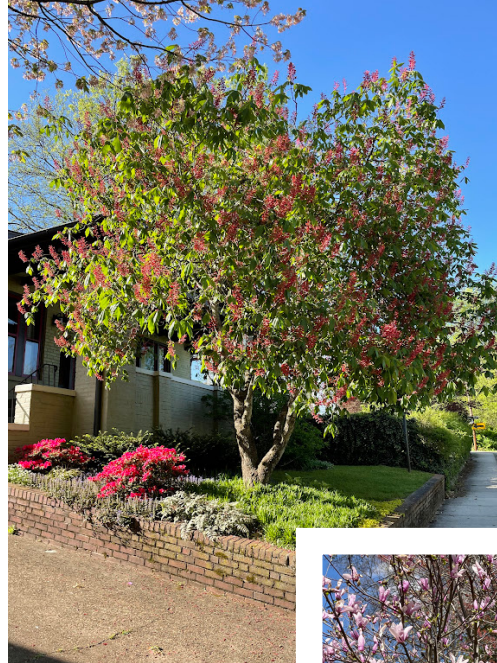


Neighborhood Arboretum in the Works

If you attended any of the community meetings for Knoxville's Urban Forest Master Plan, you learned that Fourth & Gill is on the lower end of tree canopy coverage, at roughly 16%. That means our canopy has plenty of room to grow (pun intended). In recent months, the City has helped out by planting eight new trees in the Fourth & Gill park area. Other areas of opportunity include vacant lots, back yards with no trees, and asphalt covered areas along Broadway.

Evan Tishuk and Gordon Coker (Knoxville Tree Board member), both Eleanor Street residents, are avid tree lovers. They don't even mind being called tree huggers. A couple of years ago, they identified trees in the neighborhood, and Tishuk developed a very cool app, <https://fourthandgill.arboretum.site/?tree/>, to identify trees in the neighborhood and create a tree walk. The app includes information like type and size of tree, sidewalk visibility, public property, and a link to Wikipedia for more details.

After taking a breather, the two are back at it, working on the next step. "Why don't we create an arboretum?", they asked themselves. There are only three arboretums in Knoxville: Lakeshore Park, Sequoia Hills and North Hills. After going through some hoops, like getting a permit from the City, they ordered identification plates and labels and began tagging trees. The final step is an official inspection and certification from the State of Tennessee via its Arboretum Program.



LEFT
Red Buckeye tree in Sara and Sean Martin's yard on Eleanor.

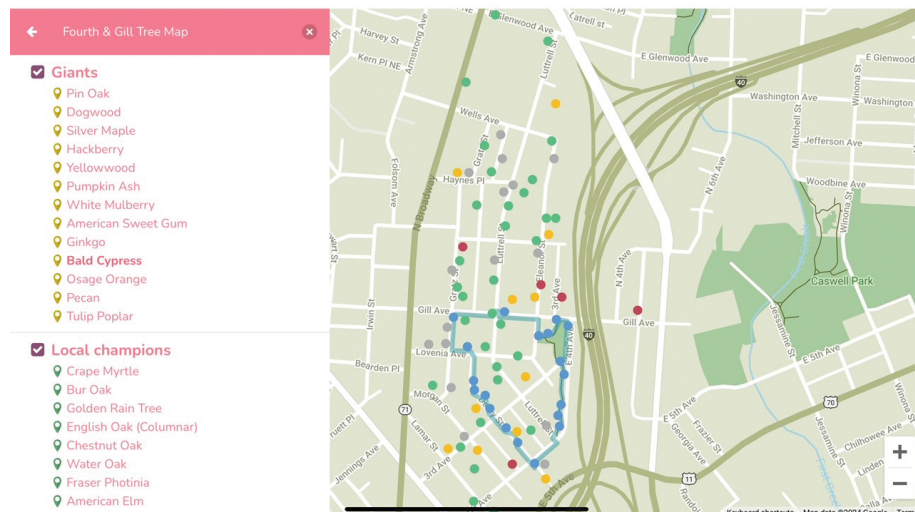
Why an arboretum? Tishuk and Coker want to increase awareness of the importance of having a vibrant urban canopy. Trees not only add beauty and shade to our neighborhood, they help counter urban pollution, reduce wastewater runoff, and create healthier air for all of us. Hopefully, added awareness will spur more neighbors to plant a tree in their yard or vacant lot (the right tree in the right place, of course!). With Fourth and Gill already such a wonderful pedestrian-friendly neighborhood, the arboretum is a good fit. This arboretum is comprised of public trees only. Its boundaries coincide with the tree walk outlined in blue on the tree map (see graphic



BELOW
Evan and Gordon in action tagging a tulip tree.

below). Hopefully, the arboretum will expand into other parts of the neighborhood and include private trees.

So, grab the kids, a neighbor, or a friend and explore the tree walk. The route begins and ends at the Fourth and Gill Park. At the kiosk, you'll see a QR code posted that takes you to the site with information on all the tagged trees.



LEFT
Fourth and Gill Tree Map with tree walk and proposed arboretum outlined in blue.

Gillbilly Garden Club is Back in 2024

After a year-long hiatus, the Gillbilly Garden Club is back in action with fun and helpful sessions starting in April and ending in October. Meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Birdhouse Neighborhood Center unless noted. All are welcome to join any or all sessions; no membership required. Below is the 2024 schedule. Two months are still open; if you have ideas of places to visit, want to open your garden for a tour, have a gardening craft, or know a garden topic expert to invite as a speaker, please message Kimberly Lukacz directly at kimberlylukacz@gmail.com. And a big thanks to Kimberly for organizing this year's events.



Tulips in front yard of Caldwell-Weddig's home

APRIL 11: Henley Baugh, an arborist from Consultrees Knoxville, will talk about the blight affecting our crepe myrtles and answer any tree or shrub questions we have.

MAY 9: Our neighbor, James Newburn, Managing Director of UT Gardens, will take us on a private tour of the gardens. We will meet at UT Gardens for this session. There is a nominal fee of \$6.00 per person, which helps fund the gardens. If you missed the tour two years ago, you'll want to go this year with the roses in bloom.

JUNE 13: Melynda Whetsel, national flower show judge, will give us a lesson on flower arranging. This is the perfect opportunity to learn from a pro. (Hint, hint—its great practice for the flower arrangement you'll be making in July for the flower show!)

JULY (*day, time and location TBD*): We will hold a neighborhood flower show, showcasing the amazing talents and creativity of our neighborhood. Yes, that's you! Everyone who comes should bring a flower arrangement from plants in your garden or foraged from the neighborhood.

AUGUST 8: This date is available for a tour or speaker. Let Kimberly know if you want us to tour your garden or if you have a special gardening skill or knowledge to share.

SEPTEMBER 12: Guest speaker Rich Gettings of the Smoky Mountain Orchid Club will teach us all the basics about orchids.

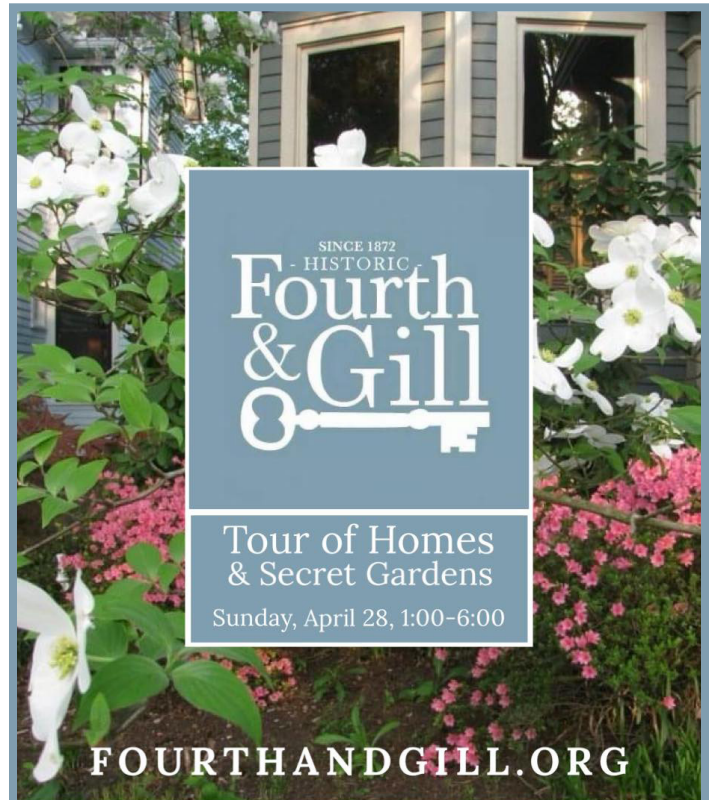
OCTOBER 10: This date is our last meeting of the year and is available for a tour or speaker. Let Kimberly know if you have an idea for the meeting.

Notable Events in April

While the Spring issue of the Fourth & Gill newsletter has arrived midway through the month of April and the kickball tournament, the citywide marathon and spring cleanup have already passed, two notable events remain. The Dogwood Arts walking trail through the neighborhood has occurred since 2011. Follow the pink arrows on the sidewalks to enjoy this self-guided tour along with visitors from other neighborhoods. There are three Open Gardens to view as well: 1026 Luttrell, 605 Caswell and 610 Caswell. If trees are your thing, open the interactive map in

the app Evan Tishuk created (see Arboretum article on page 1) and take the tree walk of notable trees.

April would not be April without our Tour of Historic Homes and Secret Gardens, which takes place on Sunday, April 28, 1-6 pm. This year's tour features two new homes, four historic homes and four open gardens. Tickets are still available at fourthandgill.org at \$20 through April 27, \$25 day of tour. This is the neighborhood's only fundraiser, which supports our annual budget every year. Bring your friends and check out the beautiful interiors and gardens of our neighbors.



Tour of Homes promo on social media

Springtime in the Fourth Avenue Meadow

You've probably noticed the whacky looking stretch of dead grass and perennials along Fourth Avenue across from Fourth and Gill Park. What may appear to be lifeless, and way past due for a mow, is brimming with new life! This area has been under restoration by Fourth and Gill's land stewardship group, the Woolly Bears, to establish a meadow comprised of plant species native to East Tennessee. This meadow provides much needed habitat for species that were once common throughout the ridge and valley of the Tennessee River, when grazing by large mammals and wildfire kept some habitats open and un-forested. By restoring the edges of our urban ecosystems to native meadow/prairie species, we can support not only these plants but also the insects, birds, and small mammals which depend on them.

The Woolly Bears has been collaborating with the City of

Knoxville on the restoration and maintenance of the Fourth Ave Meadow by selecting seed, removing invasive plants, and timing our mowing to benefit the critters utilizing the meadow. To that end, the group has scheduled the mowing of the meadow by early April to allow the insects which burrow into the dead stems of the plants time to develop and 'leave the nest.' Be on the lookout for the meadow expanding north and south towards Gill and Luttrell. The city has agreed to support the expansion of the meadow and the installation of an educational sign along the greenway discussing the importance of meadows. If you're interested in helping with the meadow maintenance or have any questions about it, please reach out to any Woolly Bear, email Jonathan Cox, jcoxbo@gmail.com, or contact City Horticulturist, Chad Weth, for more information.



Fourth Ave Meadow prior to City mowing



Snow accumulating on the seedpod of an Illinois bundleflower during our big snow in January!

4 & G UPCOMING EVENTS

April 1-30
Dogwood Arts neighborhood walk and Open Gardens

Notable Tree Walk

April 28
FGNO Tour of Homes & Secret Gardens 1-6 pm

May 20
Board Meeting

June 8
Porch Hop 6-8 pm

June 17
Board Meeting

July 15
Board Meeting

August 4
School Supply Drive 4-6 pm

August 19
Board Meeting

(See dates for Garden Club in separate article.)

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 with neighbors and in the neighborhood, join the Fourth and Gill listserv. To be added, contact Jen Mowrer at jen@mowrerpower.com or go to www.fourthandgill.org, top of homepage, [click here to get neighborhood updates](#).
- 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.

Celebrating Fundraising Success

In the third quarter of 2023, the Birdhouse Neighborhood Center held its first annual fundraiser and raised \$15,000 from 60 donors! Ninety-two percent of those donors were Fourth & Gill neighbors. The Birdhouse Neighborhood Center extends a HUGE thank you to everyone who contributed!

This fundraising campaign was crucial to achieving the Birdhouse's mission, goals, and objectives for the fiscal 2023-24 year. Specifically, the contributions help subsidize low-cost rentals, fund the Birdhouse's one employee, and improve the historic building.

Some examples of recent renters that benefited from these

contributions are: Socially Equal Energy Efficient Development (SEED), SpaceCraft (founded by our Fourth & Gill neighbor Jaleria Rivera), a 12-Step Recovery Group for women, yoga and meditation classes, A1LabArts, a Greene County youth group learning about hip-hop music, a mom and baby meetup group, and many bands and local musical talent.

In the upcoming months, the Birdhouse will be developing partnerships with Knox Pride and The Bottom; creating a Social Justice Task Force to increase social justice programming at the Birdhouse; holding a community summer party in June; continuing to hold

First Fridays featuring local artists; increasing our volunteer base; and building more programming for adults 26-45 years old.

Do you have an idea for an event, or do you want to help with an event at the Birdhouse? Let us know by emailing birdhouse.knoxville@gmail.com or talking to any of our subcommittee volunteers! Interested in renting the space for your next birthday party, baby shower, or poetry reading? Reach out anytime!

Thank you, again, to all the generous donors who supported the Birdhouse Neighborhood Center in the Fall 2023 Annual Fundraising Campaign!



Birdhouse Program Coordinator Catherine Abbott (left) with Mayor Indya Kincannon when she donated in November 2023.

Welcome New Board Members

Board elections took place in February at the Fourth & Gill Neighborhood Organization annual meeting. Four residents were elected to serve three-year terms: Kevin Brown, Roz Miltenberger, Brian O'Connor and Melynda Whetsel (second term). Please thank them for their service.

2024 FGNO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kevin Brown

Chris Griffin

Dan Howett

Chris Ivey, President

Celia Lawren

Roz Miltenberger

Jen Mowrer

Grace Novinger

Brian O'Connor

Melynda Whetsel

From Snowmageddon to Spring!



View up Gratz Street



Blooming Weeping Cherry in Kay Newton's yard