

NEIGHBORHOOD ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Following a nomination and application process, six neighborhood organizations will receive Neighborhood Achievement Awards for outstanding service to their communities. Each group will receive a certificate and a check for \$100 to be used for the betterment of their community. Below is a brief summary of their achievements.

These awards demonstrate that, by working together, neighbors can accomplish great things for their communities.

Forest Heights Neighborhood Association

Pocket Park Fundraiser

In 2022, Forest Heights Neighborhood Association (FHNA) attempted the largest neighborhood project in their community to date – and it paid off! The FHNA began fundraising for new playground equipment in their neighborhood’s pocket park. Through tactics like a new website, donor recognitions, printed mailers, and in-person fundraisers, they were able to meet their goal of \$25,000. The new playground equipment was installed in November of 2022. Through community partnerships, and neighborhood teamwork, Forest Heights has showed us the power of fundraising. They celebrated in January 2023 with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Historic Fourth and Gill Neighborhood Organization

Tour of Homes and Secret Gardens

In the face of the lingering global pandemic, financial obstacles, and a two-year hiatus, the Historic Fourth and Gill Neighborhood Organization once again hosted their Tour of Homes. Originating in 1990, the Tour of Homes became a decades-long tradition, until the global pandemic put a stop to it.

In February, the Historic Fourth and Gill Tour of Homes Committee met and, despite the possibility of even more obstacles, decided to continue on with their beloved neighborhood tradition, and it proved to be worthwhile. Over 600 guests attended tours, while over 380 volunteer hours were logged by neighborhood residents. After all was said and done, the Historic Fourth and Gill Neighborhood Organization pulled off what proved to be their most successful Tour of Homes ever!

Parkridge Community Organization

Community Safety via the Traffic Calming Program

This past year, the Parkridge Community Organization took advantage of the traffic calming program offered by the City of Knoxville. It was through the hard-work and dedication of its residents that Parkridge was able to successfully install speed humps on roads in their neighborhoods.

Over 100 hours of volunteer work were logged, all in an effort to collect the signatures needed to proceed with the traffic calming program. Members of the Parkridge Community Organization led efforts to spread information and updates regarding the program throughout the neighborhood. Ultimately, through their efforts, 35 speed humps were installed in the Parkridge Neighborhood.

Timbercrest Neighborhood

Neighborhood Outreach

Throughout 2022, the Timbercrest Neighborhood Association proved time and time again what neighbors can accomplish when they work together. From collecting and sharing firewood amongst the community during cold weather, to hosting a clean-up and landscaping event for their neighborhood park and playground, Timbercrest organized a wide variety of events and activities, fostering an environment of teamwork and comradery. In addition, Timbercrest hosted an event for National Night Out, participated in the Office of Neighborhood Empowerment's wiffle-ball tournament, held their 4th annual chili cook-off and bake-off, and even caroled during the holiday season.

Western Heights Residents Association

Western Heights Resident Community Center

In 2022, the Western Heights residents came together to create a resident-led community center. The organization partnered with CAC to achieve this accomplishment, and since its creation, numerous events have been held to help residents get to know each other. From a wonderful Thanksgiving meal cooked by residents Pam and Fantasia, to a community clean-up event hosted in October, this resident center has proven to be a phenomenal resource that can be utilized to help residents get to know their neighbors and help their community.

West Hills Community Association

National Night Out/Bulletin Board Kiosk

Two events in 2022 solidified the West Hills Community Association as a stand-out organization in the Knoxville area. In August, the West Hills Community Association hosted its annual National Night Out celebration. This event was attended by a large diverse group of attendees, including Knoxville Police Chief Noel, Officer John Morgan, and officers from the Knoxville Fire Department. The event was catered by two food trucks, providing sandwiches and ice cream to attendees. Overall, over 150 neighbors attended, providing an opportunity for many to meet and get to know those who live in their community.

If that wasn't enough, the West Hills Community Association also partnered with the East Tennessee Design Center and the Knoxville Parks and Rec Department through a challenge grant to create a wooden bulletin board kiosk. Installed in November, the kiosk provided the opportunity for neighbors to come together through the joy of volunteer work and now provides vital information to community members in the West Hills Area.