

Fourth & Gill Neighborhood News

SPRING 2013

<http://shootsnladders.wordpress.com/>



Save the Date

JUNE

Monday 10
Potluck, 6:30pm
Central United
Methodist Church

Monday 17
Board Meeting, 7pm
Baumgardner Home,
906 Luttrell

Friday 21
Porch Hop, 6pm–9pm
(see right for details!)

JULY

Monday 8
Potluck, 6:30pm
Central United
Methodist Church

Monday 15
Board Meeting, 7pm
Neff Home, 811 Gratz



<http://dorkiecottage.files.wordpress.com/>

It's Time for a Porch Hop!

One of Fourth & Gill's most popular events over the past two years has been the addition of an annual Porch Hop. This relaxed gathering gives residents a chance to amble around porches where kindly neighbors have volunteered to shelter them from late afternoon sunshine and other hardships. We share a delicious glass of lemonade, a refreshingly cold beer, or—if you're John Neff—a Tom Collins!

June 21 will bring another summer Sunday of hanging out on various porches, catching up on

summer plans, and relating to friends about the neighborhood news. We've got four houses on Luttrell and two on Eleanor offering up their fine porches. Some homes are specifically prepared to entertain children of all ages, but all will have something for everyone.

Join us! It's never been easier! Make the rounds with us on Friday, June 21, beginning at 6pm. To access a map featuring Porch Hop locations, go to: <http://goo.gl/maps/rBaLA>.



WHAT:

Fourth & Gill
2013 Porch Hop

WHEN:

Friday, June 21
6pm–9pm

WHERE:

Scott Schimmel &
Lisa Sorensen
933 Luttrell

Margaret &
Steven Baumgardner
906 Luttrell
kid friendly

Bess Connally,
Gordon Coker, &
Gabrielle Boudreau
1003 Eleanor

Nina Phalen &
Edgar Smith
705 Eleanor

Kay Newton
1006 Luttrell
kid friendly

Kaye &
Allen Osborne
1202 Luttrell

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Meet the New Board Members by Judith Neff

The Fourth and Gill Neighborhood Organization has new board of directors members, who were elected to the board at the February 2013 Annual Meeting. Liz Upchurch, Luttrell Street, agreed to serve as secretary; she replaced Melynda Whetsel, who rotated off the board. Laurie Meschke, Gratz Street, agreed to serve as Finance and Development Chair, which has been an unfilled position for two years. Liz and Laurie have already contributed greatly to the neighborhood by increasing the alignment of board activities through careful management of board actions, both verbal and financial. Judith Neff agreed to serve again as president. Calla McNamee moved from Co-Chair of Parks and Beautification to vice president. The board meets at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of every month, except December. Meeting places vary and are listed on the neighborhood calendar, which is available on our website: <http://fourthandgill.wordpress.com/>.

Neighbor

Judith Neff
 Calla McNamee
 Margaret Baumgardner
 Bess Connally
 Lisa Hollis
 Laurie Meschke
 Bill Murrah
 Tim Parker
 Robert Rogers
 Daniel Sanders
 Liz Upchurch

Position

President
 Vice-President
 Welcome
 Communications
 Social
 Finance and Development
 Neighborhood Center
 Parks & Beautification
 Treasurer
 Codes
 Secretary

Contact

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 llmeschke@tennessee.edu
 billmurrah@gmail.com
 tparker1025@gmail.com
 robertwrogers@gmail.com
 4th.gill.codes@gmail.com
 lizupchurch1@gmail.com



May Potluck at Eleanor Street Park



CONGRADUATIONS!

Kathy Parker graduated with honors from Clemson University on Friday, May 10, 2013 with a bachelor of science degree in bio-engineering. She will begin work at the end of May with DeRoyal Industries. Mom, Dad, and siblings are very proud.

Jackson Whetsel received his degree of doctor of jurisprudence, magna cum laude, from the University of Tennessee College of Law last December. He also received the Outstanding Pro Bono Service Award. In February, he passed the Tennessee Bar Exam. Congratulations, Jackson!

Did You Know? Parking in Fourth and Gill by David Massey, Neighborhood Coordinator

In response to a request from the Fourth & Gill Neighborhood Organization, the City of Knoxville's Office of Neighborhoods provides the following highlights of city ordinances that apply to on-street and off-street parking, front-yard parking, and abandoned and inoperable vehicles. These rules are particularly applicable to older, in-town neighborhoods, such as Fourth & Gill.

Also, these are just a few of the provisions governing parking and motor vehicles. Check the full ordinances for more details. To view the City's Charter and Code of Ordinances, browse to: <http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=11098>

On-Street Parking Knoxville Code of Ordinances, Chapter 17, Article VI

The City of Knoxville regulates on-street parking to ensure traffic flow and to guard public safety. In the city, it is illegal to park a motorized vehicle:

- On a sidewalk or crosswalk, in an intersection, or in an alley
- In front of a ramp or curb cut for persons with disabilities, so as to obstruct access to the ramp or curb cut
- Within 5 feet of a public or private driveway
- Within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection
- Within 30 feet in either direction of a stop sign, yield sign, or traffic signal
- In the exact same spot on a street for more than 24 hours; in other words, the spirit of the law is to discourage long-term "storage" of a vehicle on city streets—vehicles not meant for driving on a frequent basis should be parked somewhere else, such as the back yard off of an alley.

Cars must be parked in a certain direction. On streets where parallel parking is permitted on one or both sides of the street, the vehicle must be parked parallel to and within

12 inches of the curb... facing in the direction of authorized traffic movement.

Within the zoning ordinance, it is illegal to park a car in a vacant lot in a residential neighborhood.

Because city streets are public rights of way, no one can "claim" or "own" a parking space in front of his or her home. If there are too many vehicles competing for a limited number of on-street parking spaces on a block, it is up to the residents on that block to work out a solution.

Front-Yard Parking Knoxville Code of Ordinances, Section B, Zoning Regulations

Generally speaking, it is illegal to park a car or other motorized vehicle in the grass or dirt in the front yard of a house. Parking in the front yard is prohibited except on parking surfaces (driveways) approved by the city's Engineering Department. The ordinance does not apply to households with up to two vehicles with a current disabled license plate or placard.

Temporary front-yard parking is permitted: (1) When construction, remodeling, maintenance, or repairs are being performed on the property with a valid building permit. (2) For isolated, non-recurring gatherings, parties, or visitors. This exception is not intended to provide permanent or semi-permanent parking for extra cars.

A front yard is defined as the area between the street and the front building line of the house. For a corner house, the side yard facing the side street is also considered to be a front yard.

Abandoned and Inoperable Vehicles

Knoxville Code of Ordinances, Chapter 17, Article III

It is illegal to keep and maintain abandoned or inoperable vehicles on



public property, such as a street. Such vehicles are also prohibited on private property unless they are enclosed within a permitted structure. These vehicles are deemed a nuisance and can be taken into custody by the city.

Inoperable Vehicles: A vehicle is classified as inoperable when the vehicle lacks major or essential mechanical or body parts, is junked or partially assembled, has been burned or flooded throughout, cannot be driven legally on public streets, does not comply with city and state codes with respect to license and registration, has one or more tires that are missing or not fully inflated, has more than one broken window, is in any way incapable of moving under its own power, or is economically impractical to restore to operating condition.

Abandoned Vehicles: A vehicle is classified as abandoned when the vehicle (1) is over four years old and is left unattended on public property for more than 30 days; (2) has remained illegally on public property for a period of more than 48 hours; or (3) has remained on private property without the consent of the owner or person in control of the property for more than 48 hours.

If a motor vehicle has remained on private property without the consent of the owner or person in control of the property for more than 48 hours, the city may remove the motor vehicle and dispose of it according to the procedure set forth in city ordinances.

Reporting Violations

Suspected violations of these city codes can be reported to the city via the 311 information and complaint line.



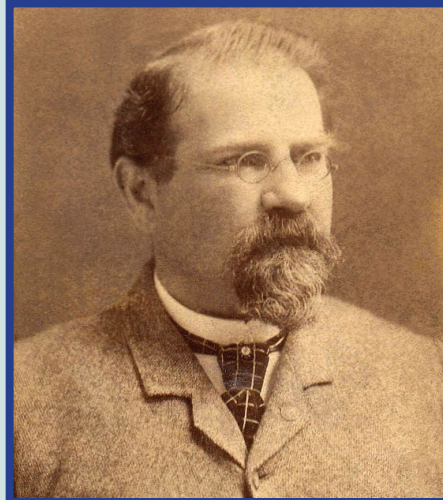
Our First Mayor (Part 1) by Arin Streecher

On February 4, 1889, Fourth & Gill elected its first mayor. Or something like that. In 1889, the northern boundary of the city of Knoxville rested half a block north of Third Avenue, cutting diagonally through several houses in what is now Fourth & Gill. North of this line had been incorporated the month before as the City of North Knoxville. Decidedly suburban, but still desirous of some level of those institutions and benefits that a city could provide—local governance, schools, police, road maintenance, sewers—the voters of North Knoxville elected as their first mayor Louis Alexander Gratz. For several reasons—Gratz was a German immigrant, had been born a Jew, and was a Union veteran—to modern eyes, this seems a peculiarly progressive or at least unlikely choice. But in the contemporary reality, things were much more complex.

Louis Gratz was born in 1843 in the Polonized German Province of Posen, and was raised by his uncle Aron Kurtzig in the town of Inowrazlaw. His was a well-known family—he was related to Heinrich Gratz, the classical Jewish historian—and his uncle was a well-respected merchant, but life in Inowrazlaw was religiously orthodox and conspicuously free of luxuries. A common story tells of how the children of the town once came into possession of an orange. Rather than eat it, they kept it under glass so that they could lift the lid a sliver and inhale its perfume.

America, as the trope says, really was viewed as a land of opportunity, where a young man who spoke no English and with only \$10 in his pocket could find success. In a very literal sense, that's exactly what Louis Gratz set out to do, arriving in New York in early 1861. A cousin Gratz had hoped would help him find a job turned him away. His money immediately proved inadequate. Taking the example of a fellow immigrant, he invested all he had left in a basket of shoelaces, stockings, thimbles, needles, and pins and sold them door to door, eking out barely enough profit to feed himself. Gratz determined to go to Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, where there was another large population of Germans, and

may very well have ended up a coal miner but for being swept up in the larger course of history. On April 12, 1861, Confederate artillery opened fire on Federal Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor, and the Civil War had begun. Suddenly, there was employment



Mayor Louis Alexander Gratz

for all young men; Louis Gratz took a 90-day enlistment in the 15th Pennsylvania Infantry.

By this time, he had only the rudiments of English, but Gratz had one peculiar advantage. The Union Army had only 642 officers at the outset of the war. With the intention of recruiting an army of 500,000, officers were in severe shortage, and Gratz had been educated in a German military school. When he reenlisted in July, with the 9th Pennsylvania Cavalry, he was made a first lieutenant, and was soon promoted to major. In 1863, his regiment fought through Knoxville and down to Chickamauga, where Gratz's regimental chaplain was shot and killed standing beside him and his orderly was shot off his horse next to him. At the end of 1863, Gen. Samuel "Powhatan" Carter made Gratz a member of his personal staff. When Carter was appointed provost marshal of federal-occupied Knoxville, Gratz served as pro tem whenever Carter was out of the City on other military matters. Effectively, Gratz had become the head of the military police administering occupied Knoxville.

Was it so unusual that a German immigrant and a Jew could have risen to such a position of authority in such a short period of time? The first, it seems, was a matter of fortuitous timing; the second, to be fair, seems to have been more a matter of pragmatic adaptation, but more on these later.

The most obvious impediment to Louis Gratz's advancement in Knoxville after the war was his previous association with it in his Union military capacity—a position that would inspire resentment even among those who happened to be on the same side. Living under military authority is never a comfortable existence. Knoxville prior to the war was certainly not wholly Confederate, but the old merchant families who controlled business and politics in the city, for the greater part, were. While general animosities between old Confederates and old Unionists faded, personal animosities tended to last longer. And Gratz had not been much loved as provost marshal—rebel citizens had considered him petty and rude, and he was generally viewed as imperious. Dr. J.G.M. Ramsey, author of the 1853 "Annals of Tennessee," derisively referred to him as "Detective Major Gratz," writing, to describe Gratz's order to search Ramsey's teenage daughter Sue's trunk as she was being sent south, "But his patriotic vigilance and his soldierly zeal in detecting treason, stratagem, and spoils were doomed to an inglorious failure." Ellen Renshaw House, in her diary, labeled him "the dutch Major," "Old Gratz," or "my particular friend," writing, "How those Yankees do pry into ever little thing, things that a Gentleman and Confederate would never think of, or if they did would never stoop to." In the face of such predictable animosity, what brought Louis Gratz back to Knoxville at all? The answer to this apparent deficiency in judgment may also have been his social salvation: Elizabeth Trigg Bearden, daughter of Marcus DeLafayette Bearden, and a scion of one of those old Knoxville merchant families.

More to come in Part 2...



It's Alive!!! The Saga of the Tree in the Circle and the Neighbors Who Will Not Let It Die by Melynda Whetsel

It was a beautiful Saturday in March when the sun was bright and warm enough for us to think spring was on its way. I headed to the traffic calming circle to finish weeding. There I found the Crepe Myrtle—not gracefully arching over the daffodils—but laid flat and torn to pieces, destroyed by a flying car that had driven through the circle. Apparently spring fever was in the air the night before and drunken celebration resulted in the demise of our tree.

It was heart breaking!!

But, the neighbors rallied. Chris Weddig was first on the spot with unkind words for the driver and a saw to cut branches and remove the remains. Word spread quickly around the neighborhood and, by the Potluck on Monday night, Betty Henault led the way for contributions to replace the Crepe Myrtle; Gordon Coker found a fabulous replacement tree; and Parks & Beautification Chairperson Tim Parker, Gordon, Steve Hancock, and Jackson and Bob Whetsel spent an afternoon planting the tree.

The circle was beautiful again!!

Lightning doesn't strike twice, but fast cars with crazy drivers do. One week later, another car plowed through the circle, laying flat the new tree. This time neighbors heard and witnessed the destruction and made calls, sent texts—I was traveling on an Alabama highway when Brandon Pace called to tell me the unbelievable news that our new tree was down. With speed, Gordon replanted and nursed the



Tree: 1 Car: 0

tree, the rest of us prayed over it. But it didn't look good: not a green leaf anywhere, the tree was stark and bare during our Dogwood Walking Trail and our Home Tour.

Parks & Beautification began again with fundraising ideas and looking for another new tree. The shovels were about to hit the dirt when, almost overnight, the Crepe Myrtle leafed out! Amazing.

That Crepe Myrtle is alive and beautiful. And it's a perfect symbol of the community spirit that lives in Fourth and Gill.



The Fourth and Gill Tour of Homes was a great success this year, especially considering the wet weather we had all weekend. Many thanks go out to the planning committee for all its wonderful efforts and to our generous hosts for sharing their beautiful homes.



Committee Updates by Judith Neff

Codes: Committee continues to monitor possible codes violations in the neighborhood and reports any concerns to the board. Parking concerns will be addressed through Codes. Vigilance and occasional action on codes are critical, ongoing services; we need neighbors to help with this work. If you can help, please contact Dan Sanders at 4th.gill.codes@gmail.com.

Communications: Committee has updated technology needed for board communications, the listserv, and the newsletter. It is currently working on upgrading signs within the neighborhood. Neighbors willing to serve on the committee by writing articles or contributing photographs of neighborhood events are needed. Please contact Bess Connally, Communications Chair at econnally@gmail.com

Finance and Development: Committee is finalizing computer (Quicken) records of all finances. It expects to generate guidelines for needed budgets and for needed fundraising efforts. The committee needs members to clarify and generate plans for spending in the neighborhood. If you would like to serve on the Finance and Development Committee, please contact Laurie Meschke at LLMeschke@tennessee.edu.

Neighborhood Center: Committee guided the Birdhouse (current tenant of the Neighborhood Center) through its completion of in-kind rent payments. It has completed a great deal of improvement on the first floor and expects to complete a kitchen renovation next. When you attend Birdhouse events, be sure to notice the excellent work. Notice, too, the garden now established across the street. If you would like to help with the maintenance of this wonderful neighborhood resource, please contact Bill Murrah at billmurrah@gmail.com.

Parks and Beautification: Committee organized another Spring Cleanup and many, many neighbors pitched in to spiff up the neighborhood for spring as well as in time for the 2013 Tour of Homes. During cleanup day, the committee members coordinated planting of new dogwood trees. They plan to improve Fourth and Gill Park, develop new streetscapes, and investigate traffic calming measures. Finally, the committee coordinated replacement of the crepe myrtle tree in the Caswell Circle, which has been runover twice now. Committee members have plans to increase visibility of the circle and its tree, for safety's sake. If you are willing to work with the Parks and Beautification Committee, please contact Tim Parker at tparker1025@gmail.com.

Social: Committee has reconstituted after losing members in the previous year. The group is off and running, starting with a spontaneously planned Easter Egg Hunt, which was a wonderful success. Though the committee is well established, there is a need for more help with the social activities that are critical to the neighborhood. If you can serve on the committee or just would like to pitch in on single events, please contact Lisa Hollis at lisahollis25@yahoo.com.

Welcome: Committee has continued to keep tabs on new residents in the neighborhood. The group delivered welcome materials to new neighbors in recent weeks. The committee needs new members as well as neighbors who can do specific tasks though they might not be able to agree to committee membership. If you can help, please contact Margaret Baumgardner at fourthandgillwelcome@gmail.com. Also, please send names and addresses of your new neighbors, so we can welcome them.



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Bee Swarm or Not? by Nancy Roberts

It is springtime in the city and you see a lot of bees buzzing around. Is it a swarm? Is it a hive? Should you be concerned? Using excerpts from www.bees-on-the-net.com, here are some questions you should consider.

1. Where are the bees?

When bees swarm, thousands of them leave and find a temporary home. If you see a lot of bees (a group about the size of a football) in a new location, this is not technically a *hive*. At this stage, they send scout bees out from the swarm in search of a new permanent home. These scout bees are looking for a new location for the hive and will fly back and forth from the main swarm. Once the scout bees have decided on a new place, the remaining bees will take off and fly to the new location. Bees can establish a hive inside an opening with a 3/8-inch diameter or larger.

2. What are the bees doing?

While you may not be able to see the bees building their honeycombs, there are some outward signs that they are establishing a colony. Watch the opening (especially during the warmest part of the day) and see if they form a continuous stream flying back and forth to the hole. If the bees are industrious—meaning they land and go straight inside the hole (as opposed to just looking about)—you may have found their new permanent home. You may notice pollen on their legs as the worker bees are building the hive by collecting nectar to build the honeycombs and feed their young.

3. How long have the bees been hanging around?

The website compares the transition from swarm to hive as *house hunting*. The bees wander to the door, look about, look around the neighborhood, and leave. Once this scouting phase is complete, the hive location is chosen; then the bees move in and take up residence. Once this happens, they typically do not leave on their own. Sometimes people will take the wait-and-see approach to bee swarms. The experts advise against this tactic, as the bee swarm may move from a tree into the roof of a nearby house. And the bees seldom leave an established hive, without the assistance of an experienced beekeeper.



Neighbors (l to r) John N. and Landon H. prepare to remove a bee swarm from a fence post. (Be warned, they are experienced beekeepers with protective clothing—do not attempt this procedure on your own!)



Neighbors (l to r) Tina R., Eric O., Landon H., and John N. after the swarm has been removed.

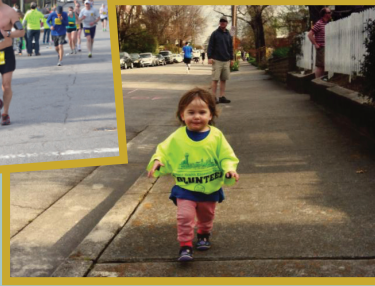
4. How easy is it to remove a bee swarm?

Bee experts say that a bee swarm problem in a tree or on a fence post is not really a problem. However, an established colony in someone's attic is a BIG problem! The sooner you consult someone experienced in bee hive removal, the easier it will be.

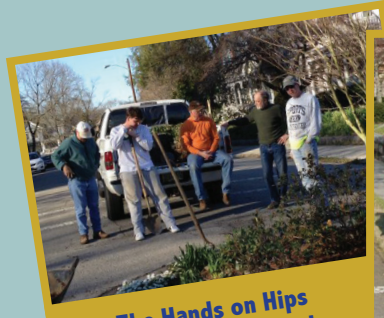
Go to www.bees-on-the-net.com for a list of Tennessee beekeepers who remove swarms and established bee colonies. According to the website, not all people will offer the same types of services. Beekeepers offer specialized procedures requiring skill and experience—you should be prepared to pay for this rather delicate work.



Marathon



Neighborhood Spring Cleanup



The Hands on Hips Committee surveys the traffic calming circle.



Some of the Dirty Two Dozen on Spring Cleanup Day!



Nancy R. plants a tree outside Brownlow with help from The Cooper House boys.

<http://www.fourthandgill.org>
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Knoxville, Tennessee 37927-3845



FOURTH
—AND—
GILL
* HISTORIC *