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The FOUNTAIN

THE LOCKELAND SPRINGS
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 39

NO. 1

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

New Neighborhood Resolutions

I was lucky to meet some very special people that I now call friends in 2014. They have inspired me to seek out more of you.

When we started the process of extending the conservation overlay into Little Hollywood, I only knew that this little pocket was architecturally unique. That was it. The Kearney family had been kind enough to open their spectacular home to us for The Celebration of Home Tour 2013, but I didn't understand how connected these neighbors are to each other, and to the history of their property, until I was invited to their block parties. Working with their coalition to include their homes in our overlay nurtured some relationships that I hope last forever. Todd Cantrell, for example, has joined our board and brought great ideas for bringing our entire neighborhood closer. He has also become the kind of friend that I can text with a quick question about where to plant the trees that NES is giving me, and instead of just advising me, he and Larry show up at my door and help me place the little orange flags in exactly the right spot.

Knowing and working with Brett Withers has expanded my understanding of zoning; but more importantly, reminded me of the kind of servant leadership that I have always valued. He has definitely made me a better neighborhood president. He is next door in Eastwood Neighbors but his concern for his neighbors does not stop at the border between us. Brett is just a phone call away when I have questions about process or protocol, and when I need to just get together for coffee and good conversation. Brett and I agreed to join the board of ReDiscover East!, and that decision has led us to call even more of our neighbors friends as we meet to talk about what value our organizations can bring to our community in the future.

Speaking of friends and zoning, getting to know Tim Walker has been one of my joys of 2014. As Director of Metro Historic Zoning, he is an important man to know. He cares deeply about applying the conservation overlay guidelines in our neighborhood not only because it is his job, but also because he lives here. Tim has become a trusted friend who also indulges my love of gabbing over coffee. Recently, I had some concerns

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THIS MONTH

Pg. 1-2: President's Corner

THE NEXT LSNA
NEIGHBORHOOD
MEETING WILL BE
THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 19TH,
6:30 PM
AT MAD DONNA'S
(CORNER OF
WOODLAND
AND 14TH)

about a decaying home and its potential for renovation. Tim answered my call on his way to his office Christmas party and personally went by the address on his way home to help me decide on the best course of action. Ultimately, we are not going to pursue change through codes, but through old-fashioned neighborliness. Getting to know the property owner is one of my goals for the first weeks of 2015, and Tim is helping me do that. I look forward to many more cups of coffee with him this year.

The Celebration of Home Tour Committee, even though I already knew these women, became much closer friends through the planning of our most successful tour in the history of the event. If you do not already know Jen Armstrong, Jenny Warren, Annie Neal, and Debra Geiger, you should make it a resolution to meet them. This year we had to make some changes to the tour that we feared would make it hard to sustain the growing attendance we have enjoyed over the last 4 years, but the talent and energy of this group made the tour even bigger. Jen's brilliant idea to make The Fountain our tour booklet was an "ah ha" moment for me. With her organizational ability, Jenny's exhaustive research of the homes and engaging interview techniques (I got to observe one of her talks with homeowners to get their stories for the booklet, and she has a charismatic personality that not only gets the story but creates new friendships.), Annie's eye for shooting the perfect photo, and Debra's massive network of generous friends, this tour was huge-and we forged bonds that extend beyond our work for the neighborhood.

We could not have been so successful without our newly minted Public Relations Chair, Kevin Wisniewski. Kevin joined our board when he and long time member, Mike Loyco, teamed up to represent our interests in regard to the AMP. Self-effacing at meetings, Kevin is a rock star when it comes to promoting our neighborhood. He reluctantly took this position, fearing that he might not know enough about the website to manage it, but he has driven more traffic to lockelandsprings.org than it has ever seen. He made connections for us with the Nashville Convention and Visitor's Bureau that we have never had. He also recruited his lovely wife, Barbara, to help us open Lockeland Design for ticket sales during the tour. This quiet man is a good one to know, and I am glad to have added him to my contact list.

Mrs. Sarah Fox has lived in Lockeland Springs longer than anyone else that I know personally. Meeting her this year has given me the perspective of over fifty years in the neighborhood. She has been here through the good, the bad, and the ugly and she still loves living in East Nashville. On a recent visit to her home, she told me all about the neighbors who live around her and make it hard for her to consider moving, even though her children live and work too far away to visit more than once a week. She told me about baking banana bread to welcome new neighbors over the last five decades and how her younger neighbors now bring her tasty cookies and come by to chat with her since she is house bound. She knows lots of stories that no one else can tell us, and I plan to hear as many of them as possible in 2015.

As Jen Armstrong has discovered when assembling The Fountain, I can go on and on and on....the President's Corner has had to move out of the corner and onto the front page because, although my articles barely make the deadline (and sometimes miss it completely), they are long. Given more space, I could continue to name a hundred more people who have made this year special for me and for Lockeland Springs. The upcoming year is going to be a great one as we get to know neighbors and deepen friendships. I still love walking in the neighborhood and invite you to join me as I meet new people and watch the children grow and see the changes happening around us. We are all lucky to live here.

Elizabeth Smith
President, Lockeland Springs Neighborhood Association



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