



*Loblolly Times*

Newsletter of

**The Friends of Bowie Nature Park**



November 25, 2021. Happy Thanksgiving!

## Playground Funded! Next Project: Playground Fence

**T**he Treehouse Playground is funded! The Friends and the Playground Committee are planning to hand over a giant check to the City of Fairview at the BOC meeting on December 2. City Manager Scott Collins has placed the order to Great Southern Recreation for the playground equipment, with payment due on delivery, which will be sometime in early 2022. The fence that will surround the playground was not included in the plan from Great Southern because the Playground Committee wanted more community involvement, along with an opportunity to fund the fence. Please see the article, "Playground Fence" below.



**Fundraising Update:** As of November 18, the funds raised by the community totaled **\$173,880**. This includes \$136,046 in the Friends of Bowie Park's Playground Fund, plus \$37,834 in the City of Fairview's Playground Fund. This is in addition to the **\$600,000** pledged by the City from the upcoming bond re-issue, for a total playground budget of **\$773,880**. This will pay for all equipment and installation, benches, rubberized paths, and mulch, with some left over to pay for site prep and sidewalk work.

There have been several significant contributions to the Treehouse Playground recently, which are included in the above amount. The Friends' Playground Fund received a check for \$1,300 from Apex Bank to sponsor 2 benches on the playground, and another check from the Hanchey family for the same amount to sponsor 2 benches in memory of their son Austin Hanchey. The Friends voted at our October meeting to donate \$2,500 from our treasury to the playground, and we got a significant donation from Fairview's chapter of the FCE (Family and Community Education), the amount of which is not specified at their request. The Chamber of Commerce has pledged a \$500 donation from the recent Furry 5K, plus a \$250 donation from Nature Fest. The View Community Resource Coalition donated a check for \$21,000 directly to the City of Fairview's Playground Fund. Please see article, "The View's Sippin' Water Sales Help Treehouse Playground" below.

**Timeline.** The City's fundraising deadline is **December 29**. At that point, whatever money has been turned over to the City for the Playground Fund, plus \$600,000 from the City's bond issue, will be the playground budget. The Friends plan to turn over all money we have collected to the City at the

**December 2** BOC meeting. Any money donated to the Friends' Playground Fund by November 30 will be included in that check. If we get donations after November 30 we will turn them over to the City separately. Equipment has already been ordered, with delivery expected early in 2022. Personalized pickets for the playground fence will be available as soon as the City sets up a link on their website. Ground breaking is expected in early spring. It should take 12-14 weeks to build. The fence will be installed after the playground is built. The Grand Opening is planned for **Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022**.

\*\*\*

## Friends Seeking New Board Members

**A**re you passionate about Bowie Nature Park? Are you a member of the Friends? Would you like to help the park meet the challenges of a growing community? Volunteer to run for the Friends of Bowie Park Board of Directors (BOD). If you are interested, please email [eileen.brogan@comcast.net](mailto:eileen.brogan@comcast.net) or call 615-799-9666. The organization's officers are chosen by the Board from among all Board members. Board members do not necessarily have to be officers, and can specify a preference.

Two current members of the BOD are completing their current 3-year terms as of the end of 2021. President Eileen Brogan and Treasurer Al Tarolli will finish their terms when the new Board of Directors takes control at our January meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, January 15. According to the Friends' bylaws, if the group takes in more than \$50,000 in a year, no Board member may serve more than 9 consecutive years. This is Brogan's 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year as a Board member, and she will therefore rotate off the Board for at least a year. Tarolli is completing his 3-year term, and would like to turn over the treasurer job to a responsible new treasurer. He is not required to rotate off the Board at this time, and he intends to stay involved and will train his replacement. He also intends to help with the reporting requirements the Friends have taken on as a result of collecting money for the Treehouse Playground, assuring proper accounting and reporting to state and federal tax agencies.

\*\*\*

## Playground Fence



A fence similar to this is planned for the Treehouse Playground.

**C**hris Grayson, who was the chair of the original Treehouse Playground Committee in 1998, has taken the initiative on the fencing project. She did some research and found a company that makes fences for playgrounds out of recycled plastic lumber. They will also engrave names on fence pickets. This will give people in the community the opportunity to have their name or the name of a loved one, or even the name of a business, engraved on the playground fence. It is also an opportunity to have the fence pay for itself.

At the November 18<sup>th</sup> BOC meeting, City Manager Scott Collins pointed out that by law, the fence project has to be put out to bid. But regardless of which vendor is eventually chosen, the City can begin soliciting donations to have fence pickets engraved with names on them. The commissioners did some figuring based on the cost estimates, and settled on \$50 for the amount to ask people to donate per engraved picket. The City will set up a link on their website so people can specify what they want on the picket they pay for. All money raised in this way will go toward the cost of the fence. So stay tuned for your opportunity to become part of this project.

\*\*\*

## The View's Sippin' Water Helps Treehouse Playground



Label for Tennessee Sippin' Water

While the Playground Committee and The Friends have been fundraising for the Treehouse Playground, another organization in Fairview was raising money for the same project. The nonprofit organization called The View CRC (for Community Resource Center) has been taking donations and selling cases of

Tennessee Sippin' Water for \$24 each to help fund the new playground.

CRC's Executive Director Gary Darnell turned over a check for \$21,000 to the City for the Playground Fund. Individual donations and business participation helped bring the community fundraising effort over the finish line.

Helping to fund this community project is in keeping with their mission, which is stated in part on their website, "Our organization strives to strengthen communities across social, racial, economic, and generational boundaries."

The View CRC assists neighbors through their proprietary system which allows secure communication to address needs in our community. Mr. Darnell states that, "every situation is different and good communication helps us use our funds in a positive effort. We help in areas of education, food, health care, transportation, utilities, rent and any other way that will help our neighbors become self-sufficient." They plan to continue selling Tennessee Sippin' Water to help fund their mission.

If you are interested in volunteering or to learn more, go to their website at [www.theviewcrc.org](http://www.theviewcrc.org) or contact [info@theviewcrc.org](mailto:info@theviewcrc.org) if you have questions.

As Darnell put it, "We are all neighbors, and we never know when any of us will need some type of assistance. Taking the time to listen and plan will help ensure great things for communities. The participation and work of the Playground Committee and The Friends was just one example of what can be accomplished."

\*\*\*



# Veterans Honored with Quilts of Valor



Quilt of Valor presented to Al Tarolli

**A**t the November Friends' meeting, members of the organization Quilts of Valor (QOV) honored two military veterans who are also members of the Friends. Bobby McKinney and Al Tarolli were each presented with a Quilt of Valor by Simonne McElhiney, who represented QOV.

According to McElhiney, QOV was started in 2003 by a quilter named Catherine Roberts when her son was deployed in Iraq. "Since that time over 273,000 quilts have been awarded," she reported. "It is our mission to honor service members and veterans with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor."



Bobby and Rosa McKinney

As she made each presentation assisted by two military veterans, she told the recipients, "This quilt is an expression of gratitude meant to thank and comfort you. The top with its many colors and shapes represents the many individuals that make up our military, families and friends. The batting is the center of the quilt which gives it its warmth. It represents our hope that this quilt will bring warmth, comfort, peace and healing to you. The backing is the strength that supports the other layers. It represents the strength you hold within yourself, the support of your family and friends and our nation. Each stitch that holds the layers together represent the love, gratitude and sometimes tears of the maker...And finally, this quilt is meant to offer comfort to you and remind you of the love and support from your family and friends."

Immediately following the Friends' meeting, most members attended the Veteran's Day ceremony in Bowie Park, hosted by the Fairview Chamber of Commerce, with the Fairview chapter of the American Legion conducting the program.

\*\*\*

## Tribute to Lee McDaid

**F**riends' member Lee McDaid passed from this life on September 28, 2021. Lee and her family have been active members of the Westview United Methodist Church since they moved to Fairview from the Philadelphia, PA area.

Lee spent her career supporting medical research. She wrote grants and managed research projects at Jefferson University and Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia. When she moved to Tennessee, she began working at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, where she managed research compliance, and taught classes until she had to stop because of health issues.



**Dennis and Lee McDaid**

Lee and her husband Dennis were married 50 years. They have two sons, Jason McDaid of Fairview and Michael McDaid of Florida, and one daughter, Melissa McDaid-Dryer of Pennsylvania. They have 4 grandchildren.

The family is planning a Celebration of Life service in Pennsylvania later this month, and also plans to have a service in Fairview sometime in January. Lee is greatly missed by all who knew her.

\*\*\*

## P and L Board to Recommend Repairs and Improvements to Bowie Park

**S**cott McCoy, chair of the Parks and Landscaping Board, turned over a list of potential projects and needed repairs in Bowie Nature Park to the Board of Commissioners for their consideration. The list included possible funding sources for several of the projects.

Among the needed repairs are leaky gutters and insect damage on the Nature Center. Some funding for these repairs is in the current City budget. Another much needed repair is to the main restroom building. Several toilets are out of order, and repairing them will involve some extensive plumbing. Another needed repair is the vehicle counter at the entrance of the park. The last year we have park visitor numbers for is 2019. This was an issue when applying for grants for the playground, and could hamper future grant writing efforts. A new vehicle counter could cost anywhere from \$200 to \$1,000, depending on how sophisticated a model is purchased. It may be something the Friends could fund.

Some of the potential projects are:

- A picnic pavilion with restrooms adjacent to the new playground, possibly funded by a grant.
- A wheelchair-accessible natural playground, also funded by seeking grant money.

- Footbridge replacement along the perimeter trail near the end of Bowie Hollow Road. This would replace a bridge that was damaged in recent floods and removed by the City early this year.
- Small trail shelters for people who get caught in the rain while hiking
- Hiring a program director and assistant. A program director is in the current budget. A program director would plan and conduct summer camps, weekend and evening programs for the general public, and weekday programs for preschoolers, home schoolers, and retirees. S/he could also organize work parties to remove invasive plants, repair and maintain trails, plant trees, etc.

The list has been given to Commissioner Lisa Anderson.

\*\*\*

## Holiday Wonders at Bowie Park



The City is sponsoring a holiday event in Bowie Nature Park called Holiday Wonders, presented by a Fairview lighting company called ELS (Extreme Lighting and Sound.) The Show opens Friday, November 26th, and runs weekly from Thursday to Sunday, 6pm to 10pm. The show will close on January 9, 2022 at 10pm. According to the ELS website, “Holiday Wonders at Bowie Park is an immersive drive-through light, video, laser, and sound show. The show is an ELS production in partnership with the City of Fairview as a service to the people of Fairview and surrounding communities.”

Tickets are \$25 per vehicle, and can be purchased online at <https://www.elsnashville.com/>, at City Hall during business hours, or at the gate. Purchasing tickets in advance can help avoid long lines at the gate. Each ticket is good for one visit, and may be used any time the show is open. Tickets are good for regular sized cars, not for buses, RV's or other oversized vehicles. Passengers need to be inside the passenger compartment of the vehicle (not in pickup truck beds). Discounts are available for active duty and retired military, for law enforcement and first responders with a valid ID. Discounted tickets are \$15 plus tax, and are available at the event, one ticket per ID.

This production is financed by ticket sales. The City of Fairview receives a share of the proceeds to pay for traffic control and other expenses, so it will be cost neutral to the taxpayers of Fairview. ELS has pledged to make a donation to Bowie Park based on a percentage of the net profits from this event.



In conjunction with the light show, the City will set up Santa's Village complete with Santa Claus in the Nature Center. Because of this, the Nature Center will not be available for the Friends' holiday concert or for our December member meeting. Therefore we will meet by Zoom in December. A Zoom link will be sent out a few days before the December meeting, which will be on December 11 at 9:00 am.

Because of this event, Bowie Park will be closed to horses from Monday, November 15, 2021 through Monday, January 10, 2022. The park will close at 5:00 pm on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It will close at 7:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday.

For more information and for a peek behind the scenes, go to Facebook or Twitter [@holidaywondersatbowie](#)

\*\*\*

## Calendar Announcements

**Holiday Wonders:** Sponsored by the City of Fairview. **November 26 to January 9, Thursdays-Sundays, 6:00pm-10:00 pm, in Bowie Nature Park.** Admission is \$25 per car. See above article for more information.

**Memory Tree:** **December 1-December 31.** The Friends will provide a memory tree during the Christmas season at Joann's Outdoor Classroom. People can bring a Christmas ornament that represents a departed loved one and place it on the tree. The tree will remain on display until December 31. Please pick up your ornament by January 3.

**Fairview Board of Commissioners Meeting:** The Fairview Board of Commissioners is ultimately in charge of Bowie Nature Park. They meet at Fairview City Hall on the first and third Thursdays of each month at **7:00 pm**. The next meeting is **December 2**. Meeting agendas can be accessed at <https://www.fairview-tn.org/category/meeting-agenda-posts/> or at City Hall just before the meeting.

**Christmas Tree Lighting:** **Saturday, December 4.** The event starts at **2:00 pm**, and the tree will be lighted at **5:00 pm** at **Fairview City Hall**. There will be food and craft vendors and a petting zoo. Plus, the Chamber of Commerce will open its Tinsel Tree Trail, featuring Christmas trees decorated by area businesses.

**Fairview Parks and Landscaping Meeting:** This is the citizen's advisory board that deals with all of Fairview's parks including Bowie, as well as the tree ordinance and Fairview's Tree City status. They meet on the **first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in City Hall**. The next meeting is **December 6**. The public is welcome.

**Friends of Bowie Park Member Meeting:** Our next meeting will be on **Saturday, December 11 at 9:00 am**. We will meet by Zoom in December because the Nature Center will be in use as a Christmas village. The Zoom link will be sent to members a few days before the meeting.

**Fairview Planning Commission:** The Fairview City Planning Commission meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Its next meeting will be on **Tuesday, December 14, from 7-9 p.m. at Fairview City Hall**. You can download meeting agendas at <https://www.fairview-tn.org/category/meeting-agenda-posts/>

**Reverse Christmas Parade:** The Fairview Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Reverse Christmas Parade **Saturday, December 18, from 5:00-8:00 pm at Westwood Elementary School**. The theme is “Magic and Mayhem.” For more information or to sign up for a parade entry, please see the Chamber of Commerce Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/fairviewareachamber/>

\*\*\*

The mission of the Friends of Bowie Nature Park is to preserve, protect, promote and enhance Bowie Nature Park for use by the general public as a nature reserve and park. To become a member of the Friends or to make a donation, please visit our website at <http://www.friendsofbowienaturepark.org/> .

To unsubscribe, please email [eileen.brogan@comcast.net](mailto:eileen.brogan@comcast.net) with your request.