

Windy Hills

Spring 2011

A City of Historic Homes

www.cityofwindyhills.com

Rudy The Bear Sighted On Windy Hills Green

By Councilman Jim Ising

Who would have thought two years ago when the City began our Strategic Planning process, that Windy Hills would now own the property at Brownsboro and Rudy? Based on citizen comments, the property was the #1 issue for your city officials to address. Now that the property has been cleaned up, Rudy the Bear is its current occupant thanks in part from donations by Councilman Mike Skelton and his wife Wendy and Councilwoman Kate Greer. There was even a picture and article in the Courier Journal and Louisville Magazine about Rudy--more positive identity and recognition for Windy Hills. The City has received numerous compliments about "Rudy" and the holiday decorations on the Green.

Other recent accomplishments from our planning process include:

- The City held a Town Hall Listening Session and mailed a questionnaire to all residents seeking input on what to do with Windy Hills Green. Thanks for your comments. (See results of Windy Hills Green Survey article for more details.)
- Branding and raising the visibility of Windy Hills. The City now has stationary and has completed an automobile window decal with our logo. Decals are available and are free to residents. To request a decal, e-mail or call City Hall. Signage at the major entrances to our City is still on our agenda.



- Two very nice benches have been installed along Westport Road, and one will be added to Brownsboro Road in front of Windy Hills Green, thanks to our efforts working with TARC and METRO Councilman Ken Fleming.
- We are providing Windy Hills brochures to realtors who have listings in our City so that prospective buyers will know of the advantages

of living in our great City. We have also received requests from residents who are interested in selling their own homes for additional brochures.



Thoughts / Ideas For Windy Hills Green

At our February 14, 2011, City council Meeting, Council Members and residents in attendance offered their thoughts/ ideas for the use of the Windy Hills Green. These range from a formal garden to selling the property for residential use. They will be bulleted in our February Minutes, which will be available on line after approval at our March 14, 2011 meeting.

All of these ideas have been assembled in a file at City Hall and are available for your review. Some are very good with explanations, photos and sketches.

It would be worth your time.

community pride tradition shady lawns great neighbors

Windy Hills Garden Club News & Holiday Decorating Contest Winners

First place for Best Overall decorations went to residents at 6306 Windygo and second place to residents at 1623 Keith Springs. The winner of the Best Door was 2510 Windy Way; runner-up was 311 Chelsea. A \$25 dollar gift certificate at Shady Lane Café was given to the first place winners and a \$20 gift certificate to the second place.

EDUCATION MEETING: The club hosted a panel of garden experts who gave advice concerning Windy Hills Green, December 2, at Calvin Presbyterian Church. The panel consisted of Paul Capiello from Yew Dell, Liz Juckett-DeHart from the Olmsted Conservancy, Mike Hayman, representing White Hall, and Hal Warheim, who created Warheim Park in the Highlands.

PLANT SALE: The Club will have a plant sale Saturday, May 21, at 2514 Windy Way (northwest corner of Rudy Lane and Windy Way). It will begin at 8:00 A.M. Coffee, baked goods and garden objects will be sold in nearby yards. Perennials, herbs, and shrubs will be dug and/or propagated from members' yards to be sold. Last year's money went to purchase and plant the Tenby daffodils throughout the City.



YARDS OF APPROVAL by Tish Moore: Last December, the Garden Club selected Margaret Howard of 4746 Brownsboro Road as our first recipient of "Yard of Approval." Her property abuts Windy Hills Green. For several years we all noticed the line of demarcation separating the over-grown weeds of that corner lot from the lush green grass next door. This yard was, and is today, elegant and tasteful. Bob and Gail Poe, who live at 1012 Windsong Way, were selected in January. It's very hard to make a yard attractive and elegant in the dead of winter, but the Poe landscape does just this. They have combined a variety of shrubs and plantings with just enough ornamentation to make it interesting. We love their knickknacks peeking out at us! You may have passed a house on Rudy Lane that has an eye-popping, purple front door. This is the home of Robert and Janice Sheehan at 2415, our February "Yard of Approval." The yard has an informal, whimsical quality with its garden beds neat and lovely. The Sheehans took advantage of the WHHAG tree program to replace one lost in the ice storm. Spring is right around the proverbial corner and nowhere is it more obvious than the yard of Alan and Elsie Atherton, our March selection. The Athertons, who probably have a wider variety of perennials/annuals than anyone else in the City, live at 702 Antrim Road. The front yard is pretty, but the back yard will leave you breathless! What probably started as a few beds and a generous border around the back has morphed into. . .well, you almost have to see it to believe it. Elsie says it's all right for us to walk into and around the backyard. Congratulations to all these homeowners who have graciously allowed the Garden Club to display a green "Yard of Approval" sign in the front yards. Look for them as you drive or walk throughout the City.

Holly Collins earns her "Walk the Loop" T-shirt



Holly Collins lives with her kids, Don and Mary Dennison in Windsong. Holly was 91 years old February 20. She has a smile on her face for everyone she meets on her daily walks with her little dog Bailey. Her friends and neighbors know what a wonderful baker she is because she shares with all of them. Holly has earned her "Walk the Loop" tee shirt.

2011-2012 Council & Mayor



Left to Right: Suzanne Spencer, Kate Greer, Mike Skelton, Cheryl Cooper, Jim Ising, Marianne Rademaker, Lou Phillips.

Results of Windy Hills Green Survey

We received surveys from over 475 residents which gives us a 40% return which is high for a City-wide survey. This indicates considerable interest in the use of the property.

Of the 360 returns where all seven options were ranked, the results follow. There was a large numerical spread between 1 and 7: considerably more respondents wanted a passive park than those wanting to return to residential.

- *Passive Park*
- *Green Space as currently maintained with park-like area*
- *Green Space as currently maintained with signature entrance*
- *Enhanced park*
- *Professionally designed formal park/garden*
- *Collaborative venture*
- *Return to residential*

Of this group of 360 returns, 174 said “yes” to a City funded feasibility study while 137 said “no”. Eighty-nine said “yes” to added taxes while 227 said “no”. Of the “yeses” a reduction in our 30% tax discount was preferable.

We received 115 returns where all seven options were not ranked and only the first choice was considered on these. The results follow and again there was a large numerical spread.

- *Return to residential*
- *Green space as currently maintained with signature entrance*
- *Passive Park*
- *Enhanced Park*
- *Professionally designed formal park/garden*
- *Green space as currently maintained with park-like area*
- *Collaborative venture*

Of this group 33 said “yes” to a City funded feasibility study while 66 said “no”. If both groups are totaled on this option it is virtually a tie with 207 “yeses” and 203 “no’s”. On added taxes 23 said “yes” and 76 said “no”.

Between the two groups “Passive Park” and “Green Space as currently maintained with signature entrance” were high in both.

This is a summary of the results and more data is available if you are interested.

Recycling Center

At the 2009 Strategic Planning Meeting, several participants requested a recycling pickup. The Council investigated the request and met with a Waste Management representative. He informed us that only 40% of the people in a recycling neighborhood actually participate in recycling but every household is charged. As the recycling center is so near to us (*Hubbards Lane near Brownsboro Road*), the Council decided that it was not economically prudent to include this service. You can contact Waste Management and have them pick

up your recycling for a reasonable monthly fee.

However, it is so simple to take your recycling items to them. Divide your recyclables into three categories:

- (1) papers and periodicals,
 - (2) cardboard, and
 - (3) glass, metal and plastics.
- The workers will come to your car and take the material from you. Our recycling efforts will keep some things out of the landfill.



Windy Hills City-Wide Yard Sale

The City will sponsor a city-wide yard sale on Saturday, May 21, 2011, from 8:00 A.M.-Noon. Several residents requested that we hold the yard sale about the same time every year. Last year it was on May 22. We will advertise the



event in the Voice-Tribune and the Courier Journal. The Garden Club will have its annual plant sale on the same date. Should you be interested in participating, consider displaying some balloons.

Holiday Children's Party

Windy Hills held a Children's Holiday Party on Sunday, December 12, at Calvin Presbyterian Church. In spite of a snow storm, children and their parents battled the elements to attend the event. They made Holiday decorations, played a game, were entertained by Mister Magic and received gifts from Santa.



Out On A Limb

By Kate Kirwan Greer

At the January Master Gardeners' meeting, Major Waltman of the Olmstead Park Conservancy addressed the problem of invasive plants in the Parks. The number one culprit was Bush Honeysuckle (*Lonicera Maackii*). Although this was introduced to the U.S. from Asia in 1897, and planted in the Olmstead Parks, no one realized its long-lasting adverse effects on native plants. The organization has spent a great deal of money (using no tax money) and with the help of numerous volunteers, is finally getting a hold on the problem. You might ask, how does this affect my yard? It may or may not. You may not even realize that you have some of it growing on your property.

Bush honeysuckle has dark green leaves that end in a sharp point at the top. The leaf underside has hair along the veins. It blooms profusely in Spring with non-fragrant white blossoms. (This is not the vine-growing honeysuckle, which is also invasive.) In August, red berries appear, which are high in carbohydrates and low in fats. Birds need fats. They eat these berries when all other sources of food are depleted. And this is the main way the plant is spread. The invasive has advantages over our natives—It leafs out earlier than most of them and retains its leaves longer. It will grow in shade or sun and wet, dry or compacted soil. It shades out natives and even hurts the growth of trees. Some species release chemicals into the soil to inhibit other plant growth (allelopathy).

There are several ways for the homeowner to eradicate this obnoxious plant. If the plants are small, pull them up by hand when the soil is damp. If it is in bush form, cut it to the ground and then use Roundup on it within one hour. Do not do this until after the plant has leafed out. This may have to be repeated several times. Another way is to dig up the entire plant. Make sure you leave no roots as they can sprout from the stump.

Other invasive plants include privets, burning bushes, winter creeper *Euonymus*, and Japanese barberries. A good web site for a list of invasives is [Ky. Exotic Pest Plant Council](http://Ky.ExoticPestPlantCouncil.org) or [Ky.eppc](http://Ky.eppc.org).

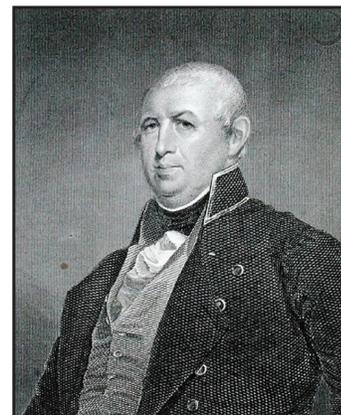
Although the August berries are attractive, there are alternatives. Consider Inkberry (*ilex glabra*), red chokeberry (*aronia arbutifolia*), spicebush (*lindera benzoin*) and/or arrowwood (*viburnum dentatum*).



Blooming History

By Lynn Renau

In 1792, Isaac Shelby, the son of Welsh immigrants, became Kentucky's first governor. He and his father fought together at the 1774 Battle of Point Pleasant. Then, with his brothers, Shelby fought in the Revolutionary War. After one term as governor, he retired to become a Kentucky farmer, but when the British and their Indian allies again threatened the frontier, "Old Daddy Shelby" (as his political opponents derisively called the 61-year-old statesman) left his farm and ran for governor again, easily winning a second term. Then, with his 28-year-old son James, Shelby led Kentucky troops all the way to the Canadian border, avenging the post-battle atrocities Kentuckians suffered at the Battle of the River Raisin with a resounding victory less nine months later at the October 5, 1813 Battle of the Thames. After completing his second term, he retired again. He died on July 18, 1826, two weeks after Presidents Jefferson and Adams



and the 50th anniversary of the July 4, 1776 signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Although Isaac Shelby never lived in Jefferson County, he was the original owner of 200 acres south of Brownsboro Road, bounded by Rudy Lane and what became Hubbards Lane. In honor of Shelby, the Windy Hills Garden Club planted 200 Tenby daffodils along the Rudy Lane sidewalk. Wexford Place residents planted another 50.

Well over 200 years ago, the small sturdy Tenbys were cut and carted from Tenby, Wales to the flower markets in London—quite a trip! We



love daffodils because squirrels won't eat them—always a consideration here. To extend the spring growing season, the Tenbys have been paired with white *Thalia* daffodils, late bloomers on the daffodil calendar.

Health and Fitness

by Councilwoman Suzanne Spencer.

During the month of April we will start a new season of healthy lifestyle activities. Watch your e-mail for notices and your paper boxes for flyers. Events include a Health Fair with body mass readings, blood pressure and bone density screenings in early April. There will be a Healthy Cooking Demonstration in May at Doll's Market. Coach Gate has offered its pool for Water Aerobics again this year starting in June or early July.



Senior Fitness will continue on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:00 A.M. in Calvin Presbyterian's gymnasium. Beginning Yoga will be held at Christ Methodist on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 A.M.



Some new events are in the works for those who work during the day. We are also planning a children's activity or two during summer vacation.

The cooking demonstration is free as are the first sessions (for newcomers) at the other physical active events.

Notify City of Windy Hills of Criminal Activity

Should you have the misfortunate experience of a home or car break-in or any other criminal action, please notify the Windy Hills office immediately so that other citizens can be warned via e-mail. Your name and house number will not be revealed. Your information could prevent further criminal activity in the neighborhood. Windy Hills residents who have registered their e-mail addresses with the City, receive up-to-date notifications of events that affect them. These vary from street closings, crimes, or coyote sighting. The Newsletter is published only quarterly. In this age of electronics, this is a practical way to stay abreast of happenings. If you have not yet registered and would like to receive any notifications, please e-mail the City. (info@cityofwindyhills.com).



Calling Our Neighbors

Your Windy Hills Team for Community Caring knows we are heading into the spring and summer storm season and want you to be prepared. It is important that we all understand the alerts issued by the National Weather Service on radio and television. You may want to post this Severe Weather Preparedness information with these important terms and safety information on your refrigerator as a handy reference.

For a Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado:

WATCH – Severe Thunderstorms and/or Tornadoes could develop

What to do:

- Continue your activities but stay aware of the weather
- Have a NOAA Weather Radio* set to alert and/or radio or TV on a local station
- Plan ahead where you would seek shelter if a warning is issued

WARNING – Severe Thunderstorm or Tornado reported by spotters or indicated by NWS Radar

What to do: When weather becomes threatening, seek shelter indoors immediately!!

Seeking Shelter at Home:

For Severe Thunderstorms:

- Get in the house or other sturdy building and stay away from windows

For Tornadoes:

- Go to the basement or lowest floor. Get in a small interior room, hallway or bathroom.
- If possible, get under heavy furniture or cover with a mattress, pillows, heavy coats, etc.
- Have a battery operated radio and/or Weather Radio with you. Wait for "All Clear".
- *NOAA Weather Radio – specialized radios that can be set to alert for Watches and Warnings issued by the National Weather Service

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 Windy Hills Team for Community Caring
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City Council meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month, 7:00 pm at Calvin Presbyterian Church, 2501 Rudy Lane

Emergency – Fire – Police

EMS 911
 Graymoor/Devondale Police 643-0691
 St. Matthews Fire District 893-7825
 (Business)
 District 7 Metro Councilman,
 Hon. Ken Fleming 574-1107
 Small Cities Metro Liaison,
 Mr. Stan Curtis 228-6385
 Metro Call 574-5000
 or 311
 Animal Control Protection 361-1318
 Dog or Cat Complaints 363-6609
 Recycling Center 896-1293
 Health Department 574-6520
 Jefferson County Clerk 574-5700
 (All branches can be reached at above #)
 MSD Customer Service 587-0603
 Planning and Design Services 574-6230
 St. Matthews/Eline Library 574-1771
 LG&E 589-1444
 (to report street light outages)

B I T S & P I E C E S

**Brightside/ UPS
 Community Cleanup**



The cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, March 26, 2011 at 9:00 am. We will assemble at Stockyards Bank parking lot where gloves and bags will be distributed. In addition, coffee and donuts will be available. It shouldn't take more than an hour or two. Please contribute. **Mark your calendar for MARCH 26, 2011!**

It's a lot of fun!!!

A Quote To Remember

“My idea of an agreeable person is a person who agrees with me.”

~ Benjamin Disraeli