

Hola y bienvenidos a nuestro vecindario!

On October 1, Centro Hispano of East Tennessee celebrated a ribbon cutting and opened its new office on the newly renovated 3rd floor of Central United Methodist Church (CUMC). This office will house over 40 full and part time staff members and will bring many more people to the community for classes and special events. Centro Hispano's mission is "to promote empowerment and civic participation through education, workforce development, youth and family engagement, and community-strengthening initiatives" in the Latino community.

The seed for this partnership was planted at a birthday party in early 2023 at 1018 Eleanor Street when CUMC member Bob Whetsel learned from German Valenzuela of Fourth and Gill and David Bocangel of Old North Knoxville that Centro was actively looking for new office space to accommodate their growth. Bob invited the organization to look at the church building's top two mostly vacant floors.

Shortly thereafter, Claudia Cabellero, Centro Hispano's President & CEO, visited Pastor Jimmy Sherrod to explore the idea and look at the space. There was an immediate connection between the leaders of the two organizations, and more folks from Centro came to look at the space. At the same time, the congregation of CUMC began to think through how this potential partnership might affect the life of the Church. By the summer of 2023, both groups had agreed that the partnership was a concept worth developing.

Work then began to put together a renovation and financing plan to make the 3rd floor of CUMC, about 8,500 sq ft, the new home of Centro Hispano. By Spring 2024, a concept plan was in place. Architectural plans were developed by COPE and Associates, pricing solicited, and permits pulled. In August 2024, BESCO began construction on the project, and in October, Centro moved into Fourth & Gill.

This project helps solidify CUMC as an anchor in the south



ABOVE
Centro Hispano entrance at CUMC



RIGHT
Centro Hispano ribbon cutting: Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon, Centro Hispano CEO Claudia Cabellero, UCMC Pastor Jimmy Sherrod, Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs

end of our neighborhood. First occupied in 1927, the neogothic building is listed as an individual structure on the National Register of Historic Places. It will celebrate its Centennial in 2027. This partnership resonates with CUMC's mission of "Making Christ Known by extending hospitality, serving the community, pursuing justice, and embracing all."

Centro staff and clients are happy in their new space. You will see them out and about in the community more frequently, walking during their lunch hour, taking children down to the park and holding events on-site. Please welcome them as we continue developing our great Fourth & Gill neighborhood we call home.

GOOD INFO TO KNOW

- 1 Always call 911 if a crime is being committed. If you feel someone needs help or intervention, 311 is the community support number. Social workers and police work together to help in these situations.
- 2 To stay up to date on neighborhood activities, join the Fourth and Gill listserv. To be added, contact Jen Mowrer at jen@mowrerpower.com or go to www.fourthandgill.org, top of homepage, [click here to get neighborhood updates](#).
- 3 New to the neighborhood? We'd like to welcome you with a gift. To let us know, please contact Nina Reineri at ninareineri@gmail.com.

Fall Bulletin Board

SEPTEMBER PORCH HOP

A BIG thank you to Larry and Megan Brown, Patrick Grzanka and Joe Miles, and Ryan Williams, who graciously hosted the Fall Porch Hop at the Eleanor Street cul de sac. Our porch hops let neighbors meet new neighbors and converse with people we may not see often.



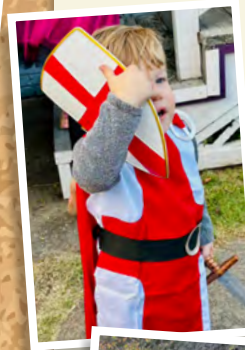
Porch Hop in full swing



Neighbors in conversation at the cul de sac

HALLOWEEN PARTY

A wonderful turnout for the annual Halloween Party, complete with hot dogs and chili and an exciting costume contest. Congratulations to the winners (pictured) and a big thank you to Kay Newton who opens her yard and porch for the gathering year after year.



(Clockwise from left) Under 5 costume winner, Knight; Teenage costume winner, Fellini Kroger; Adult costume co-winners, Flamingo and Marsha Blackburn.



NEW NEIGHBORS WELCOME

The Welcome Committee elves make and deliver beautiful gift packages to welcome residents new to Fourth & Gill. Thank you to Amy Boling, Gabrielle Boudreau, Kimberly Lukacz, Jen Mowrer, Dawn Nichols, and Nina Reineri (chair).



Welcome gift packages

2024 CHILI WINNER

Created by Chef Chris Ivey

Spicy & Smoky Beef Chili Recipe

INGREDIENTS

- 2 lbs beef chuck, cubed
- 4 slices super thick-cut bacon, sliced into strips
- 1 yellow onion, diced
- 1 red bell pepper, diced
- 1 green bell pepper, diced
- 1 jalapeño, diced (adjust seeds for heat)
- 28 oz can diced tomatoes
- 1 can dark red kidney beans
- 1 can light red kidney beans
- 2 cups beef broth
- 3-4 chipotle peppers in adobo, finely diced
- 2-3 tbsp adobo sauce (divided)
- 2 tbsp tomato paste
- Chili powder and other spices to taste

DIRECTIONS

- 1. FRY BACON:** In a Dutch oven, fry bacon until crispy. Remove and set aside. Drain some grease, leaving some in the pot.
- 2. SEAR BEEF:** Sear beef over high heat until browned. Remove and set aside, leaving grease in the pot.
- 3. SAUTÉ VEGGIES:** Reduce heat to medium. Sauté onion, red pepper, green pepper, and jalapeño until softened, 5-8 minutes.
- 4. ADD SPICES:** Stir in chili powder, spices, and tomato paste. Cook 1-2 minutes until fragrant.
- 5. KEY FLAVOR:** Add diced chipotle peppers and 1-2 tbsp adobo sauce, mixing well. This is the key differentiator ingredient. The adobo sauce imparts that sweet smoky flavor that completes this chili.
- 6. BUILD CHILI:** Add beef broth and tomatoes. Return beef and bacon to the pot.
- 7. SIMMER:** Bring to a boil. Cover, reduce heat, and simmer for 2 hours, stirring occasionally.
- 8. FINISH:** Stir in 1 more tbsp adobo sauce and add beans. Simmer uncovered for 15-20 minutes to thicken.
- 9. SERVE:** Cover to keep warm. Garnish with sour cream and cilantro, if desired.

Meet Your Neighbor Arin Streeter

You may or may not have met Arin Streeter, a tall lanky guy with glasses, who lives on the 900 block of Eleanor Street. Arin has served as the 4th and Gill liaison—meaning he volunteers his time—to the City’s Historic Zoning Commission (HZC) since 2005 regarding its Certificates of Appropriateness that accompany the City’s permit application. Arin reviews plans and sends recommendations to the FGNO Board for comment when the project is of significance. He attends HZC hearings and speaks on behalf of the FGNO. Arin’s advice to people who get frustrated by the HZC’s process is to talk to staff who are trained in historic preservation and read the guidelines before submitting an application. Arin is also available as a resource.

Arin is not a planner by training

and is a historic preservationist mostly by experience. He attended the UT School of Architecture and, after graduating, worked for an architectural firm. Arin bought his house (built in 1907) in the neighborhood in 2002 and moved into it after a renovation that was so careful, it’s still ongoing. He was interested in historic homes since he was a child, but owning one was when he first experienced what they’re like to live in.

Arin left his first job at an architectural firm to work for the National Park Service’s (NPS) Historic American Buildings Survey, documenting park roads, mines, structures—you name it. He then returned to the private sector to a different architectural firm but left near the end of the pandemic to join NPS again,

working in the Southeast Region. He works remotely from Knoxville though his official office is in Atlanta. One of his focus areas is NPS’s Storm Recovery Program. The federal government is required to consider the historic nature of structures before repairs from storm damage can begin. Arin conducts the historic research to ensure the preservation of NPS’s cultural resources.

A member of the Tour of Homes Committee, Arin researches the history of the homes on the tour and has every year since 2013. He knows where to go and has shortcuts to find information. If you want to do your own research, Arin suggests the best place to start is at the McClung Collection, which has all the city directories and biography files, and deed research



Arin and his pup Zöe

can be done in the Knox County Archives in the same building.

When he not working or volunteering, Arin is usually at his small farm in Grainger County, where he and his partner, Greta Schmoyer, are experimenting with growing tea (*Camellia Sinensis* species).

Music abounds and thrives at the Birdhouse

The Birdhouse Neighborhood Center has been bursting with music. Some shows have been funded by grants from the City of Knoxville, the Arts and Culture Alliance, the US Department of the Treasury, and the Tennessee Arts Commission, for which we are hugely grateful! Other shows have been through Birdhouse rentals.

In September, the Birdhouse hosted a sold-out performance of Redd and the Paper Flowers,

who filled the space with their folksy melodies and unique tones. Another night, a Brooklyn-based band, Lizzie & the Makers, rented the space with other local bands. Local jazz keyboardist Wendel Werner has delighted Birdhouse audiences every month in 2024 in a partnered residency.

October brought local band Goodluck Shaman, and the Good Guy Collective, which together with the Birdhouse, held their first Hip-

Hop Mixer. This now-monthly event is an open-invitation meetup for local hip-hop artists and producers.

November started off strong with the Birdhouse hosting the local worldbeat music group Rica Chicha. Band leader Andrea Kukuly Uriarte also spoke about their experience as a queer immigrant. In addition, there was a sound bath, and numerous punk bands performed in three different rentals through Coffin Curse Records. Local band Nightjar, led by Melanie LaFoy who used to own Potluck in our neighborhood, with opener Roland Dixon, rounded out

the month with a stellar show of indie folk rock.

December is off to a busy start with an indie rock show, another sound bath, and a DJ listening party night. Jazz music will fill the space during the Birdhouse’s annual holiday party and cookie exchange, as well.

This is just a sampling of the many wonderful music events at the Birdhouse throughout the year. Local bands also practice at the Birdhouse, and WOZO radio station holds their DJ meetings in our community space. We hope you will join us for some melodic, creative, exciting live music in 2025!



Rica Chicha Band at Birdhouse

2024 FGNO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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FGNO President's Report

The last quarter was a vibrant and engaging time for our neighborhood. A standout highlight was the annual Halloween Party, which drew an incredible crowd thanks to the unseasonably warm weather. Neighbors of all ages enjoyed a fantastic evening filled with costumes, laughter, delicious food, and community spirit. Thank you to everyone who helped organize and participate, making it a truly

memorable event.

In October, we also hosted a community safety meeting with Officer Neil Marasigan, one of our Community Partnership officers. This meeting provided valuable insights into neighborhood safety and allowed residents to voice concerns about key issues, including unhoused individuals frequenting the park and motorists speeding along Gill Avenue. It was an important step in fostering

open communication between our community and local law enforcement.

Looking ahead, I highly encourage you to consider serving as a Board Member for the Fourth & Gill Neighborhood Organization. Being a Board Member offers a unique opportunity to be deeply involved in shaping our neighborhood's future. From addressing key neighborhood concerns and planning events to

fostering a greater sense of shared community, it's a meaningful way to contribute to the wonderful place we all call home. If you're interested, please send your nomination to me at clivey2@gmail.com by January 25, 2025. Let's work together to maintain and enhance the vibrancy of Fourth & Gill!

—Chris Ivey, Board President

Update from the Traffic Calming and Safety Committee

For the past year and a half, the Traffic Calming and Safety Committee has worked with the city's Vision Zero coordinator to slow traffic on Gill Avenue. The City placed a temporary radar sign on Gill, and now the committee is looking into whether FGNO can purchase a permanent one. Anything that signals to people that they are in a neighborhood helps promote safer driving behaviors. To that end, the committee applied for a grant under the Neighborhood Small Grants Program and received partial funding (\$2,500) for a mural greeting drivers to be painted on the I-40 overpass on Gill. The committee and Board will solicit neighborhood input on graphic elements that best represent 4th & Gill to include in the mural. There have been other efforts and a few accomplishments including relocation of the 25-mph speed limit sign that was obstructed by a replacement KUB pole, crosswalk striping (or re-striping), approval for several crosswalks (Spring 2025), and yellow curb painting. We are working on annual striping requests for 2026. Stay tuned and send thanks to Kevin Brown, Steve Lukacz (not pictured), Lacy Mellon, Roz Miltenberger (not pictured), Scott Schimmel and Brent Waugh for their work.



Traffic Calming and Safety Committee

More Street Trees on the Way



Street trees along Caswell

Earlier this year, the Parks and Beautification Committee and the FGNO Board worked with the City of Knoxville's Urban Forestry Division to identify sites for additional street trees in our neighborhood. Because studies show trees help calm traffic along busy corridors, thirteen additional trees will be planted along Gill Avenue. Pollinator and habitat-friendly species like oak, tulip, and black gum trees will bookend the 4th Avenue meadow. Additional shade trees will be planted along Gratz, Deery, and 3rd Avenue—in total, 42 new street trees. Plantings are expected to occur in early 2025 and will be welcome additions to our neighborhood.



4 & G UPCOMING EVENTS

(Details released on the Fourth & Gill listserv)

January 25

FGNO Board nominations due

February 12

Annual Member Meeting & Elections

FGNO Board meetings occur on the 3rd Monday of the month (except in February, on February 24) at 6:30 pm, CUMC 2nd Floor.