Wesley Heights Community Meeting Set For Thursday

BY LORELEI GOFF
STAFF WRITER

The proposed closure of a section of Wesley Avenue requested by Holston United Methodist Home for Children will likely be a topic of discussion at a Wesley Heights community meeting Thursday with Greeneville Mayor W.T. Daniels and 1st Ward Alderman Jeff Taylor, said Joan Stover, the meeting's organizer.

Stover, along with several other Wesley Heights residents, spoke out against the proposed closure at the July 18 meeting of the Greeneville Board of Mayor and Aldermen. The board tabled the issue pending further study and discussion.

Stover spoke again at the Aug. 1 meeting, pressing for a meeting between Wesley Heights residents and Holston Home representatives to resolve the issue.

After Taylor responded that it was in Holston Home's court since they introduced the request,

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SUN FILE PHOTO BY LORELEI GOFF

Joan Stover, standing, spoke in opposition to the closing of a portion of Wesley Avenue during a Greeneville Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting on July 18. She has organized a community meeting to address the issue on Thursday.

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Stover asserted that the community has a right to expect that the issue will be resolved in a timely manner and requested that an alderman step in to facilitate setting up a meeting.

Thursday's meeting will be a combination meet-and-greet and an opportunity for residents to voice concerns to Taylor, the community's representative on the board. The meeting will be at 6 p.m. in the Tate Chapel United Methodist Church at 710 Wesley Ave.

Taylor is a relative newcomer who was appointed to serve the remainder of former 1st Ward Alderman Brian Bragdon's term when he resigned due to moving outside the ward.

Stover said the meeting will allow residents to get acquainted with Taylor and Daniels, as well as voice concerns about Wesley Avenue and other issues.

"Both the alderman and the mayor say that they're pretty sure (the closure) is not going to happen," Stover said. "At the second meeting Holston Home said they would be getting with the community to discuss it. It has not happened."

Stover said she has also submitted a request to speak at the Sept. 1 BMA meeting.

"I think it's time for some type of closure so the community can rest because right now it's just up in the air," she said.

Organizers have urged all Wesley Heights residents to attend. Residents who cannot attend but have concerns they'd like to present should call Joan Stover at 954-663-6600.