

Belmont-Hillsboro News

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PLEASE NOTE:

This newsletter is not to be put *in or on* mail boxes, according to the U.S. Postal Service.

Belmont-Hillsboro News is a publication of Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors, Inc., a tax-exempt, non-profit corporation
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BHN sponsors April extravaganza

Saturday, April 12, 11 AM to 3 PM

Please come to the Block Party to kick off the 15th Avenue Neighborhood Watch (Linden Avenue near 15th). Neighbors outside this area are invited to attend, too, in order to learn more about Neighborhood Watch and to have a grand time.

Will there be food? Yes, if you bring it.

What we will provide:

- grill
 - lemonade
 - tables
 - entertainment
 - a talk by Metro Police about Neighborhood Watch
- What you bring:

- something to grill for your family
 - a pot luck dish for your family plus one other family
 - your own chairs, plates, napkins, utensils, cups
- Please join us for our block party. You'll have fun and meet people.

If you have questions about the Kickoff, please contact Bobbie Hernandez:

- FifteenthAveNHW@yahoo.com
- 463-9725 ☎

Saturday, April 19, 9 to 12 AM

Pitch in for Spring Cleanup, with headquarters at Helios Artglassworks and Belmont Bi-Rite Grocery. We'll have a couple of dumpsters available for neighbors who bring trash. Last year we picked up more than 17 tons! ☎

Saturday, April 26, 7 to 8:30 AM

Stroll over to the 3rd annual Potluck Breakfast to watch the Music City Marathon, 2509 Belmont Boulevard. Bring your favorite breakfast goody and share with others. Invite friends from other neighborhoods to watch the event with us. The runners start coming by at 7:15 or 7:20, so you'll need to set your alarms! ☎

Real Neighborhood Watch formed

"Neighborhood Watch" is a title not to be taken lightly. It is an official, Metro Police Department sanctioned and supported grassroots organization for monitoring and preventing neighborhood crime.

A Neighborhood Watch has recently been formed in a corner of BHN's neighborhood. The 15th Avenue Neighborhood Watch began because of concerns about criminal activity. Neighbors decided to take charge of making their area a safer place to live.

The boundaries are Ashwood Avenue on the north, 12th Avenue South on the east, Sweetbriar Avenue on the south, and Belmont Boulevard to the west. There are about 332 homes in the Watch area; over 50 families were part of the start-up phase, and Block

Captains as well as a Director have been designated. Meetings will be held monthly.

This area includes members of both Sunnyside Community Citizens and Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors. Consequently the BHN Steering Committee has voted to donate several hundred dollars to the 15th Annual Neighborhood Watch for Neighborhood Watch street signs and for printing of flyers.

To learn more, come to the Kickoff Block Party on Saturday, April 12.

If you have questions about the Neighborhood Watch, please contact Bobbie Hernandez:

- FifteenthAveNHW@yahoo.com
- 463-9725 ☎

BHN ARCHIVE

1973

Neighbors and BHN oppose a zoning variance to construct a 5-story office building at Ashwood and 21st; Attorney Larry Woods files the first of many appeals by BHN to Chancery Court.

1973

BHN urges installation of a walk light at 21st and Portland after an Eakin student is hit by a taxi.

1983

Neighborhood signs, designed by Bill Myers, are erected at a number of locations.

1983

State law, promoted by Nashville Communities Organized for Progress, requires all housing authorities to include two residents of public housing.

1993

Hillsboro Village: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow, published by BHN and Vanderbilt University, is unveiled. It calls attention to emerging issues like the Belcourt Theater and the upcoming expiration of thirty-year land use controls in the Village; it also highlights several win/win solutions negotiated by Councilman Stewart Clifton. In hindsight, many people regard this publicity for the Village, and frank discussion of issues, as a turning point in the Village's fortunes.

1998

NES appoints residents to an advisory committee for a power line along I-440.

1998

H.G. Hill Realty Company announces plan to rebuild on the east side of 21st Avenue South in Hillsboro Village; citizens begin to offer comments.

BHN gives to scholarship program

by Gene TeSelle

Organized Neighbors of Edgehill (ONE) has had a scholarship program for several years, named for Bill Barnes, long-time pastor of Edgehill United Methodist Church. Funds have grown each year, enabling the program to give \$1000 to \$1500 per student. Recipients are in a number of colleges, here, around the state, and sometimes out of state. They must live in the Edgehill Urban Renewal Area, which includes the northeast corner of our neigh-

borhood—between 12th and 15th, from Wedgewood to Caldwell.

The Steering Committee of BHN has voted to contribute to the fund, with first preference for applicants who live in our neighborhood. Applications will be taken in March and April, and interviews will then begin. If you would like us to help get you an application, please leave a message on our InfoLine (386-3711). ☎

Neighborhood store recognized

The Harris Teeter store at 21st and Blair Avenues was named Supermarket of the Year by *Chain Store Age*, the new magazine for retail executives. The developer was the H.G. Hill Realty Company, and

the local architect was our own Manuel Zeitlin. The Hill Company and Harris Teeter welcomed community suggestions during the planning process, making the end product much more consumer-friendly. ☎



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The stuff dreams are made of

by Judy Isenhour

Running is a good way to get to know the neighborhood. In a recent interview, Luigi and Mary Monga described how they have crisscrossed Belmont-Hillsboro for years on running feet. If you have early morning habits, the Mongas will probably observe them. Said Mary, "You see the same people. There's someone on Belmont and I assume his wife who must go to Bongo Java every day.

"You see the same dog walkers, too," said Mary, who counts rabbits-attached-to-their-feet as good luck omens. "I like it in the spring when I can count rabbits. If I see a rabbit when I'm running, it's good luck. One is a good sign, but two or three is possible, if the time is right. There's a man, walking his dogs, and you have to see the rabbits before the dogs go by."

They were not runners when they moved in 1912 Linden in 1977, their first Belmont-Hillsboro home. They were not even parents. They came to the neighborhood as a high school French language teacher (Mary) and a French and Italian language professor at Vanderbilt (Luigi) who "always lived in a neighborhood where one of us could walk to work." In fact, they've always had just one car in Nashville.

After a year and a half in that first house, Luigi recalls, "Francesca, our daughter was born, and we had to have a bigger house." They bought their current house, a 2-story brick with traditional features: hardwood floors, double-hung windows, hip roof. But back then it had ivy growing *inside* the windows and water pipes that did not pipe water. Mary looks back on the state of the house, and at their innocence in tackling the project: "There was a lot to be done," she says with characteristic understatement. But it all paid off, because in 2002 "we were finally on the home tour."

Perhaps it took them years to fix up their house because during that time they were also traveling



25-year BHN residents, Luigi and Mary Monga, see the neighborhood up close and personal during their frequent morning runs. Luigi says, "Mary looks at landscapes. I look at people."

abroad, buying art, teaching, cooking fancy, brewing limoncello, and running.

Luigi's favorite course through the neighborhood is Belmont Boulevard because it's not hilly. Mary, who likes to run down alleys because otherwise, "you miss that people are renovating," says, "I like Oakland because the hills slow him down. [We go] usually to Graybar. If we're feeling really frisky, we'll go down to Wedgewood to Belmont University and up 12th."

But if running is good, walking in Belmont-Hillsboro is even better. Says Mary, "I could survive without the car. It's almost city living, but not downtown. We still have a yard and there are children around so it's sort of like suburbia. You can walk to Fannie Mae Dees. If I were not too terribly injured I could walk to the hospital. We could walk to church. To a grocery store. The hardware store was where we needed to walk most often. You could walk to the Belcourt. The thing that disturbed me most was when they closed the movie rental in the Village. On occasion we would think, we'll walk down to the village, we'll get a movie, and if we *really* feeling outrageous, we would get a pizza. We could get a movie, next door you could get a bottle of wine or a special beer, go home, and say, this is pretty neat." ☺

Members to be surveyed for directory information

The BHN steering committee is considering printing a directory of members' names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses. We recognize, however, that some people may want to

keep these confidential. We'll be surveying members for permission to solicit and distribute this information to members only.



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Crime Report

During February there were reports of a few aggravated assaults, a number of auto thefts and auto burglaries, and also a number of home burglaries and larcenies (stealing outdoor furnishings or equipment).

Now that the weather is beginning to change, many neighbors are spending more time outside. Please remember to lock all your doors whether

you are out or in. Even if you are just working in the yard, lock your doors. Do not keep valuables, such as purses, briefcases, cell phones, etc. in plain sight from outside your home. Lock your shed and garage. Lawn mowers and yard equipment tend to disappear this time of year. Watch out for your neighbors and report any suspicious activity to the police (862-8600). Thanks for not ignoring the crime in our neighborhood! When we are vigilant, the police are, too. 🚔

Reduced Council size debated again

by Gene TeSelle

Councilmen Leo Waters and Charles Tygard have proposed reducing the size of the Metro Council from 35 districts to ten or fifteen. Interestingly, the number of at-large members would remain at five.

Steve Henry of the Marrowbone organization in Joelton has analyzed some of the pro and con arguments for the Nashville Neighborhood Alliance. In favor, he says, being a Council member would become a full-time job, and he suggests that each one have a district office with a staff person (whether funding can be guaranteed is another question). An argument against downsizing is that the Council would be less responsive to constituents and much easier for special interests to lobby. And with larger districts there would be more conflicts of interest between parts of the same Council district. Issues of racial

representation (certainly a hot topic during redistricting last year!) could be more difficult to resolve.

Most of the Neighborhood Alliance folks appreciate the small districts we now have, since representatives are more likely to be responsive. Term limits, they pointed out, are still being experimented with. And as for priorities, they put "instant runoff" at the top of the list for Charter changes. Voters could indicate their first, second, and third choices, eliminating the need for costly runoff elections. 🗳️

Brush pickup between 21st Avenue South and I-65: March 17 to April 18

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Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors Membership

Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors, a tax exempt, nonprofit corporation, is composed of residents (both renters and owners) working to make our neighborhood a good place for everyone, encourage good relations, preserve its residential quality, and maintain neighborhood diversity.

How to Join BHN

If you agree with the aims of Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors and would like to

join (or renew your membership), please send your name, address, telephone number, email address, and \$10 dues (\$15 for a household) to

Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors, Inc.
P.O. Box 120712
Nashville, TN 37212

To find out more about Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors, e-mail questions to info@belmont-hillsboro.org or call the hotline at 386-3711.