

Belmont-Hillsboro News

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Program promotes solution for all

by Gene TeSelle, BHN

Metro's Department of Codes Administration has established a new program to deal with an issue that neighbors have highlighted through the years: codes violations that don't get reported, or, if they are reported, don't get effective enforcement. It's called NOTICE: Neighborhoods Organized To Initiate Codes Enforcement. The coordinator at the Codes Department is William Penn (phone 862-6590).

The program will operate only through neighborhood organizations. Codes hopes that each association will identify 6-12 residents who will make up the Volunteer Inspection Team. The team will make an application to Codes, and will receive training. The idea is that groups of two or three will walk through the streets and make note of codes violations, using a standard worksheet. These will be collected each week, and the NOTICE office will send out a "warning notice" to the property owner, for voluntary action. If the situation has not been corrected 10-15 days later, a Codes inspector will take over the case.

It's not a matter of "nosy neighbors." The teams will be trained to identify violations, and the "warning notice" will be sent out by Codes, not by the neighborhood organization.

This will not require additional Codes personnel; in fact, it should ease their work, since most owners will correct the situation once it is called to their attention, and the inspectors can concentrate on the recalcitrant cases.

Obviously one issue will be helping elderly or disabled homeowners correct the violation. This is where neighborhood organizations, churches, and youth groups can be of help.

The Department of Codes Administration is getting a new computer system that will make tracking much easier for inspectors and for the general public. Reports of violations will not be public information, but there will be public access to all permits that have been issued. ■■■

Inside	
BHN archive	2
BHN committees	2
Newsletter info	2
International students	3
Scholarship	3
Brush pick-up	3
Crime fighting	3
Council advice	4
Metro charter amendment	4

PLEASE NOTE:

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

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Home Tour seeks many volunteers

Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors will hold its annual Home Tour on Saturday, October 4, from 1 to 5. As usual we will showcase about ten homes with a variety of early twentieth-century styles, ranging from Victorian to foursquares and bungalows.

Gary Bynum (292-8993) is chairing the committee, which kicked off its activities on April 27. We are always ready to get suggestions about homes for this year's tour. And there will be plenty of work for volunteers: publicity, preparing the booklet, selling tickets, hosting visitors in all the homes, and planning the post-tour party for all homeowners and volunteers. ■■■

Youngest neighbors

The neighborhood is growing! Some of the youngest neighbors are

- Jack Tappan Dano, born March 26, son of Kim and Roy Dano, 2405 Belmont Boulevard. Big sister, Alex, is 2 years old.
- Otis Ditenhafer, born July 7, son of Stephanie and Bill Ditenhafer, 1401 Beechwood Avenue
- Bailey Grissom, born June 28, daughter of Natalie and Allen Grissom, 1833 Primrose Avenue

"New" neighbors

Ed and Jan Raetzloff have just moved to 1912 Linden Avenue, but they are not strangers. They lived on Beechwood, then on Fairfax, before returning to the Belmont-Hillsboro side of 21st. Ed deals with air freight; Sue is a nurse. Andrew is their son still at home.



BHN ARCHIVE

1973

Neighbors testify at Council against rezoning two acres on Hazelwood for 40 apartments (Hazelwood had not yet been extended to Sweetbriar).

1978

Planning Commission schedules hearing on proposal for commercial rezoning near I-440 interchange at 21st; proposal is withdrawn before the hearing because of community opposition.

1988

Recycle! Nashville is organized to promote all kinds of recycling, including "separation at the source" (your home).

1993

Bongo Java opens at 2007 Belmont Boulevard.

1993

Property tax appraisals in BHN go up between 50% and 110% in ten years (the county average is 36%).

1993

Once again we urge neighbors to "be kind to your letter carrier" by keeping the way open from one front porch to the next.

1998

On schedule, cicadas crawl out of the ground and swarm over trees.

1998

April 25 Neighborhood Cleanup Day is switched to East Nashville to take part in Metro-wide efforts in wake of April 16 tornado.



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- Community/Social Activity
- Conservation Zoning



- Zoning
- Membership
- Newsletter
- Beautification
- Crime Watch
- Web Site
- Traffic/Sidewalks/Transit

Call 386-3711
or email info@belmont-hillsboro.org.

How to receive, deliver BHN

Belmont-Hillsboro News (BHN) is mailed to all paid-up members as one of the perks of membership. We're happy to say that our recent reminder to members brought in more than a hundred renewals.

The newsletter will continue to be distributed door-to-door by our faithful block representatives. If it is not being distributed on your block and you are willing to volunteer, please volunteer by calling the Hotline (386-3711). BHN comes out every two months; special notices go to members from time to time. If you would like to receive other notices as issues come up, you can join our e-mail service. Send your address to info@belmont-hillsboro.org.

And be sure to check out our web page at www.belmont-hillsboro.org. Webmaster Keith Durbin keeps it current. ☺

What a deal!

Ads in the Belmont-Hillsboro News are \$150 per year, or \$35 for a single issue, for a business card sized ad. There are six issues per year. ☺

How to host an international student

LS Language Centers are collaborating with Belmont University to provide English language training to international students. The program is looking for homes with or without children, married or single, for students for one or two months. All families will

be compensated. Hosting an international student is a wonderful way to share our culture and make a life-long friend from another culture. Please contact Katherine Stewart (352-2699) for information. ☎



Edgehill scholarship fund grows

The ONE/Barnes Scholarship Fund, to which Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors contributes, has grown dramatically. Eight years ago, one student was awarded \$500. This year, checks were presented to 22 students, at \$1,250 each. Scholarships are given to college students from the Edgehill Urban Renewal

District, which includes portions of our neighborhood (from 15th to 12th Avenue South, and from Wedgewood to Ashwood).

The scholarship is named for Edgehill United Methodist Church Pastor Bill Barnes and administered by Organized Neighbors of Edgehill. ☎

Brush pick-up schedule set for year

Brush collection for the next year (2003-2004) between 21st Avenue South and I-65 is scheduled:

- July 1-27
- September 22 to October 19
- December 15 to January 18

- February 16 to March 21
- April 19 to May 14

Brush to be collected should be set out where your trash is collected, either in the alley or at the curb. ☎

Lights on!

by Mickey Dobo

I propose

I think that it would be a wonderful show of solidarity for the Belmont-Hillsboro Neighborhood if residents would leave their porch lights on each night. What a positive message this would convey to visitors as they travel the streets of our neighborhood. And it would encourage residents to take those leisurely walks in the cooler evenings, making the neighborhood safer for pedestrian traffic. We more than likely could set a precedent for other neighborhoods. It says we care about the neighborhood watch, security, and solidarity. It says we will not and do not tolerate people that function outside of certain social standards.

I did the math

According to NES figures, it costs .006 cents per hour to burn a 100W bulb. That's 6 cents per 1000 hours. The price would be even less for a 60W bulb. What's even better, using fluorescent or other energy saving light sources would save 80% of the above figures.

August 5 is Night Out Against Crime

Metropolitan Nashville is participating in the 20th annual National Night Out Against Crime. Neighbors are encouraged to establish their presence by walking or bicycling the neighborhoods. This would also be a good time for block parties so that neighbors get to know each other and share information about security.

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Tell Council how to represent you

by Gene TeSelle, BHN

Election for the Metro Council will be on August 7.

Because of term limits, 18 of the 40 current Council members must retire; that means lots of open seats.

Relations between Council members and their constituents can run across the whole spectrum. Saleta Holloway is being sued by a neighborhood organization because of a massive rezoning she introduced. But Bruce Stanley has been holding community meetings in his district so that constituents can draw a profile of the kind of candidate they would like to see and perhaps recruit.

At a well-attended meeting on February 27, it was decided to prepare a questionnaire that all candidates could answer (mostly Yes or No, but with room for comments). But of course it's not as simple as sending out a questionnaire. In the discussion some important points were made:

- Neighborhood organizations can promote voter registration by going door to door with registration forms.
- They can also plan neighborhood forums, co-sponsoring them with a range of groups.
- Most important, they need to get commitments from candidates about how they will communicate with neighborhoods after the election. Ideas that have been tried include regular liaison or

advisory meetings; internet list-serves to inform and educate constituents; attendance at neighborhood meetings; agreement not to introduce any rezoning bills until there have been public meetings; commitment to follow the General Plan and not vote for a bill just because another district Council representative supports it; and (in view of the difficulty getting effective enforcement of the zoning we already have) riding herd on the codes enforcement process, from complaint to resolution. ■■■

Metro Charter Amendment Thumbs down

Several proposals to reduce the size of the Metro Council have not made it onto the ballot for the August 7 election. But the Council did vote for one amendment that will be on the ballot: to change the procedure for redistricting after each census.

The existing procedure is for the Planning Commission to draw up proposed districts on which the Council votes; if the Council disapproves the plan, it goes as a referendum to the voters. The amendment in the upcoming election would let the Council draw up its own plan and adopt it by a two-thirds vote, which would override the Commission's vote.

The Nashville Neighborhood Alliance voted on June 26 to oppose the amendment, because this single evening event provides no space for citizen participation. Furthermore, it might be subject to political dealing among members of the Council. ■■■



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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.

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

How to Join BHN

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

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