

# 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 Tour of Homes showcases variety

Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors' annual Tour of Homes is scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 11:00—5:00. The tour will showcase the variety of early 20th century home styles associated with our neighborhood, styles ranging from a grand cut-stone foursquare with a red tile roof to a charming Victorian-transitional cottage. We will also feature a beautifully landscaped back-yard garden.

We need volunteers to work 3-hour shifts on the day of the tour as ticket sellers or home docents. Shift times are 11 to 2 and 2 to 5. All volunteers are invited to BHN's post-tour party, which is an excellent way to meet and get to know your neighbors. If you can volunteer, please

- e-mail Carla Fenswick at [cfenswick@wallerlaw.com](mailto:cfenswick@wallerlaw.com)
- or call her at 297-5468.

The Tour of Homes is BHN's largest fundraiser. Proceeds have helped pay for conducting the Belmont Boulevard traffic study, cleaning up streets and alleys,

and designing signs for major streets.

The Home Tour Trolley will be back this year, stopping at all the crucial locations along Belmont Boulevard, Linden Avenue, Oakland, Beechwood, and Elmwood.

The homes for this year's tour:

2414 Oakland	Judy Danner
2509 Belmont	Brad Poe
1507 Beechwood	Bea Ramsey
1727 Linden	Drake and Lynne Holliday
2501 Belmont	David McMahan
2405 Belmont	Roy and Kim Dano
1507 Linden	Danny Murphy
1903 Linden	Luigi and Mary Monga
2507 Belmont	Chad and Lora Warrix
1401 Elmwood	Joe Kovalick
1411 Beechwood	Michael and Carla Fenswick garden

## Annual BHN meeting scheduled

Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors' annual meeting will be on Monday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m. at Christ the King school. Enter through the rear on Oakland. A sidewalk from the parking lot leads to the center entrance. The agenda includes reports on the year's activities, elections to the Steering Committee, and discussion of activities for the coming year. Please come to the meeting and meet your neighbors! ☎

## 12th on 12th celebration a success

September 12 was recently celebrated on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. It was a community celebration featuring businesses on the street including historic Becker's Bakery, the Mirror, voted Nashville's best new restaurant in 2001, Portland Brew, and the "popsicle lady." Area businesses, joined by nearby neighborhood organizations, had a "merchants' open house," a family-friendly evening of fun and celebration. A directory of

"12 South" merchants was prepared as a guide to the evening and to ongoing shopping.

Neighborhood organizations including Waldkirch Avenue, Montrose Neighborhood Alliance, Sunnyside, and Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors invited their residents to come and rediscover all that 12th Avenue South has to offer. ☎

## Sevier Park concert series continues through September

As part of Metro's Music in the Park Series, concerts in Sevier Park will take place in the early evening on the last four Sundays in September. The 5:00—8:00 concerts (September 8, 15, 22, and 29) are preceded by an hour of neighborly pickin'. From 5:00—6:00, neighbors who are pickers and singers can make music together. Amateurs and professionals are welcome. To participate in the pickin' party, please contact Purdue Hinds at [plqhinds@earthlink.net](mailto:plqhinds@earthlink.net). ☎

## How about a playgroup for pre-schoolers?

Kim Dano is interested in starting a playgroup for mothers and kids in this area.

Parents of children from infancy to pre-school are encouraged to contact Kim to get involved. As the mother of a two-year-old girl, she would love to get to know other parents in our neighborhood and give her daughter an opportunity to meet new friends. She could also help facilitate playgroups for other age groups.

Please e-mail Kim at [krd@circleh.com](mailto:krd@circleh.com) your name, the names and ages of your children, and your phone number. She's hoping to start weekly playgroups this fall. ☞

## Neighbors say thanks to sidewalk workers

For six months, construction workers have been improving the sidewalks on Belmont Boulevard and making curbs ADA-compatible at the corners. When Barry Bonifay found out that the project would be ending on Friday, August 2, he e-mailed BHN to suggest that we host a thank you lunch for the workers. Jayne Gordon forwarded his message on to the Steering Committee, which quickly agreed it was a good idea, and we got the word out to our e-mail list. Tanya Capeling organized the event, arranging to get box lunches from Heavenly Ham. The workers were informed of the plan the day before. The gathering was a great experience for both the workers and the crowd of neighbors that gathered. ☞

## Future street and sidewalk improvements

Council representative Ginger Hausser informs us that Public Works, for the first time, has announced a schedule of street work. Gale Lane (Brightwood to Belmont) and Oakland Avenue (Gale Lane to Primrose, Primrose to Sweetbriar) will be paved before July 2003. As a result of a consent decree, when a street is paved the existing sidewalks will be brought up to ADA standards (streets without sidewalks do not need to get them when there is a repaving). ☞

## Appreciating 37212

In our last newsletter we described a bumper sticker that reads "37212. It's not just a ZIP Code, it's a way of life." We asked if anyone knew where they came from, and if they are available for purchase. These were produced by multimedia artist Paul McLean and marketing specialist Jennifer Menks, and they can be bought at Pangaea for \$2.50. ☞

## Neighbors stay vigilant to potential development

Because real estate has appreciated greatly in our neighborhood, and because vacant lots are nearly non-existent, the presence of vacant property is rare. However, two vacant lots on the north side of Clayton Avenue back up to another two on the south side of Ferguson.

These were acquired by the Tennessee Department of Transportation to ease traffic flow when the I-440 interchange at Granny White was built. Gale Lane and Clayton Avenue were to have been dead-ended by the access road, and this land was acquired for a new street running from Gale to Ferguson.

That interchange never has been built, because Granny White is a historic roadway and federal 4-F regulations prohibit changes. The land condemned for the interchange must remain in TDOT's control, since it was acquired for transportation purposes. It remains a "potential interchange," but for the time being it is open space.

A developer recently contacted residents on Clayton and Ferguson, saying he was interested in buying the four lots. Several property owners on Compton Avenue, he said, have been given attractive offers by Belmont University, and some of them are interested in moving to this area nearby. Neighbors got in touch with Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors and we got in touch with Joe Payne, right of way engineer for District III of TDOT. For more than thirty years he has been a reliable source of information.

Payne said that these lots are available in principle, and TDOT is willing to accept a proposal, but it will not be sold without the neighbors' permission. The "right of first refusal" first belonged to the previous owners of the lots, or



We all have doubts & worries,  
but prayer can change your life!

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sermon series beginning Aug. 25th.

Bible Study 9:00 am  
Worship 10:30 am



Jason Cruise, Pastor

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their heirs, but after ten years it goes to the affected neighbors. The ten years have passed, and the affected neighbors now have first refusal.

The neighbors have been exploring the situation and discussing various courses of action, and they have sent a joint communication to TDOT. Councilman Ronnie Greer has promised a meeting with all the affected parties. It seems clear that the residents do not want the lots to be sold without their being fully informed, with full knowledge of what will be built there, including designs that are compatible with existing homes. ■■

## Thanks to Bari-Mor Gifts

After 43 years, Henry and Marilyn Foyer are closing Bari-Mor Gifts in Hillsboro Village. It has been the place for neighbors to buy cards, napkins, candles, gifts, and all sorts of things. Now, they say, it's time to retire. Everything is being sold with 20% off. The doors will close around Thanksgiving time. Their daughter, Marlene Yancey, will keep the name of the business, selling printed invitations, napkins, note paper, and the like, by appointment (phone 353-5106) or on the internet, [www.barimorgift.invitations.com](http://www.barimorgift.invitations.com).

Jimmy Granbery of the H.G. Hill Realty Company says the company is talking with potential renters who might occupy the corner space at 21st and Wedgewood. Our understanding is that it can't be used for an eating place because codes requires more parking spaces than are available behind the building. ■■

## Crime Report

In the last few months, our Crime Report coordinators have been able to secure police reports more quickly. Highlights from the summer months include thefts of yard equipment; a few home break-ins; thefts from cars, usually looking for loose change as well as stereo equipment; thefts of parts and accessories; and several car thefts. We also regret that several aggravated assaults have been reported. Neighbors are urged to take precautions about their homes, their cars, and their personal safety.

We also hand on several reports from our InfoLine and e-mail meeting (as always, reports have not been independently verified; BHN merely passes along information from residents).

In mid-August, several women on Belmont and Sweetbriar were approached early in the morning

by a man who pretended to know them and tried to get inside their houses.

The Police were called and responded. In both instances, the man acted as though he knew the people when he didn't. One woman thought it was possible that he was "mentally challenged." The description given is that he is a small man of slight build with dark hair, possibly Hispanic. One woman said he couldn't be much taller than her own five feet one inch. He is usually on a bicycle, and a neighbor said he likes to ride his bike through our alleys.

Also, two masked people attempted to rob four men on a Sunday evening, hiding behind a car before jumping out and demanding money. When they refused and yelled for help, one of the robbers shot at the ground, hitting one of the men in the foot; a friend chased the robbers around the corner and was shot at. The assailants jumped into a white four-door car driven by two other men.

The police responded immediately to the 911 call placed by a neighbor; this may be gang related; police warn residents to be aware of their surroundings and of suspicious people. Please note that BHN does not recommend chasing armed assailants.

Residents are reminded to make use of our InfoLine (386-3711) or email us at [info@belmont-hillsboro.org](mailto:info@belmont-hillsboro.org) to report all incidents, small or large. Your reports often give us a lot more information than the police summaries, and they come to us sooner. ■■

## Recycling report

By now most residents of our neighborhood have received their recycling carts, along with detailed instructions and stick-ons for your wall calendar to remember the pickup day each month (the information is also inside the lid). You'll note that glass and plastic will not be picked up; this must still be taken to a drop-off site such as the one behind Hillsboro High School. Statistics indicate that participation rates have improved since the start of this recycling plan.

Sherry Sloan, director of recycling for Public Works, recently responded to questions at a forum at the Nashville Peace and Justice Center. A native Nashvillian, she has been trying to help

*continued on page 4*



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## Recycling report

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the environment for years. Here are a few of her comments.

She thanked citizens who have volunteered to work a few hours weekly at drop-off sites. Other places in the country have moved ahead in their recycling efforts because of widespread citizen volunteerism, she says. She'll be glad to send a list of groups to volunteer with, at drop-off sites every Saturday between 9:00 and 12:00.

She reports that Rivergate Recycling, the company that processes Metro's recycled material, is in the process of painting and replacing the labels on bins at drop-off sites, with instructions that are better and clearer to understand. Slides will be broadcast on Metro's Channel 3 to promote recycling and say what can be included in the drop-off bins. Instructions for drop-off bins are included in printed literature, on the website, and through Metro's call center. A recycling/waste management brochure is being developed for volunteers to hand out at the drop-off sites and at neighborhood meetings.

Illegal dumping, Sherry notes, is a major problem all over the county, and it costs taxpayers ten of thousands of dollars a year for cleaning up. Citizens can collect license plate numbers of people who dump illegally, then testify when Metro prosecutes them.

She says that she can be called any time at 862-4067. ☎

## What's your house history?

The stories behind Nashville's houses offer fascinating glimpses into our city's past. Understanding your home's history is also important when making decisions about changes or additions. The Metro Historical Commission has gathered the following suggestions to aid you (call their office, 862-7970, if you have questions).

- **Take a look.** Examine the house. Building materials and architectural style may be clues to its date of construction. Read the landscape around the house to find the foundations of outbuildings, sunken gardens, or property lines marked by trees or fences. Compare the style of your house with others; similar style and size may indicate the same builder.
- **Ask around.** Older residents may know about local history, and BHN has done several neighborhood histories (these are now summarized on our web site, [www.belmont-hillsboro.org](http://www.belmont-hillsboro.org). Make copies of any old photographs or family papers.
- **On the record.** Many kinds of documents can help you trace the history of your house. Start at the Register of Deeds on the first floor of the Davidson County Courthouse (record the book and page number of each deed). If the trail grows cold, you may find information in probate records. Maps were made by the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company. City directories are organized by street, so you can easily look up your street and number. U.S. Census records up to 1930 are public information. All of these are available at the Tennessee State Library and Archives as well as the Nashville Room of the Public Library.

And let us know what you find. ☎

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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](mailto:info@belmont-hillsboro.org) or call the hotline at 386-3711.