

Belmont-HillsboroNews

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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.

If you are not receiving this newsletter at your door, please volunteer to deliver it on your block. Call our InfoLine (386-3711).

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Activities in April

Spring Cleanup Day

Saturday, April 17, 9:00 to 12:00
Pitch in for Spring Cleanup. Headquarters is at Helios Artglassworks and Belmont Bi-Rite. Scour streets and alleys for trash using BHN gloves and bags. Or bring trash to dumpsters at headquarters.

Neighborhood Brush Collection

April 19 to May 14 between 21st Avenue South and I-65. Metro picks up brush in the same place they collect your trash, either in the alley or at the curb.

Music City Marathon Potluck Breakfast

Saturday, April 24, Music City Marathon, 7 a.m.
Attend our fourth annual Potluck Breakfast to cheer on the Music City Marathoners and eat while other people run. This year it's at 2305 Belmont Boulevard. Bring your favorite breakfast goody to share with others. We'll have coffee and other basics. We'll gather at 7 a.m.; the Kenyans start coming by around 7:20 a.m. So set your alarm for this major celebration! 🍳

Danger signs loom for neighborhoods

by Gene TeSelle, BHN

Neighborhoods like BHN are constantly being approached with proposals for redevelopment. These easily lead to conflict between residents, who have to take the impacts of new development, and the investors and developers, who want to maximize their profit. Between them, in a mediating role, are the Planning Commission (which prepares and updates an equitable plan for future growth), the Council representative, various design professionals, and neighborhood organizations, often leaders in negotiations, advocacy, and conflict resolution.

BHN, lying within the 18th district, has been a model for responsible development. We took part in the shaping of the Subarea 10 Plan (which is coming

up for re-study this year) and we have been supporters of "new urbanism," the revival of interest in compact development, mixed uses, and public transportation.

When specific cases have arisen, our Council representatives—Betty Nixon, Stewart Clifton, and Ginger Hausser—have kept the negotiation process going until a solution could be reached.

Success stories include The Village at Vanderbilt, The Gardens at Hillsboro Village, the Hillsboro Village Urban Design Ordinance, and Harris Teeter (which recently received a national architecture prize). It is not merely ludicrous but malicious to say that our area is unwilling to negotiate.

But that's exactly what has been said during the past year. Critics cite two controversies: one over large variances for the commercial area on Belmont Boulevard at Dallas Avenue, the other over rezoning for an apartment development on 21st at I-440. And we have been bad-mouthed by new urbanist fundamentalists who never met a density they didn't like, on the grounds that new patterns of development have to begin sometime. (See "Roots of problem," page 2.)

Last fall the new Metro Council had to elect a Planning and Zoning Committee chair. The vote for this position has always been closely divided between neighborhood and developer interests. Zoning attorney Tom White, the chief pro-development lawyer, openly campaigned for J.B. Loring. Ginger Hausser, the neighborhood candidate, came under attack over these two cases in our neighborhood, and she was narrowly defeated. Loring has fulfilled the hopes of those who supported him; when the Planning Commission considered a request to relax the tree ordinance, Loring cast the only vote in support of the request.

Specific proposals for rezoning are always difficult, since residents and a developer are negotiating over a single location. A better approach is the small-area plan, like the one recently developed for the Acklen Park area near 31st. It requires cooperation among all the parties, and once it is negotiated it offers predictability for all of them. More of this is needed—along with vigorous participation in the revision of the Subarea 10 Plan. 🍳




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I-440 problems are gaining on us

Are you troubled by I-440 traffic noise? Have you noticed the dramatic volume increase in recent months? For many of us this is a significant disturbance not only outdoors but also within our homes, even with the windows closed.

The problem is the result of traffic rerouting. You may not be aware of it, but a change in signage redirects all traffic between Memphis, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Huntsville, and Birmingham away from downtown and onto I-440, thus through our neighborhoods. In addition, new signage directs all airport traffic onto I-440.

Neighbors for Noise Reduction (NNR) was formed to unite neighborhoods along I-440 to solve this

problem. NNR wants (1) return of the I-440 signs to their original state, (2) reduction of the speed limit for trucks to 55 m.p.h. along I-440, and (3) more adequate noise barriers.

Your willingness to sign the petition regarding the objectives above is greatly appreciated. To add your name to this growing group's concerns or to get more information, contact any of the following people:

- Peggy Helfrich or Larry McGriff at tn1820@comcast.net
- Dawn Kirk at 292-6944
- Jerry Campbell at 297-1652

We'll ensure that the petition gets to you. Together we can make a difference. ☺

Roots of problem sown in late '70s

by Gene TeSelle, BHN

In the late 1970s, BHN and other neighborhood organizations were trying to get officials to endorse an alternative that was possible under federal regulations: "transfer of funds" from I-440 to a cars-only freeway. When Governor Lamar Alexander took office he promised to consider the matter. In May of 1979 he announced that he would support a four-lane, below-ground, "parkway-type" highway, called Four-forty Parkway. At the press conference, which featured green visuals, a supporter of I-440 kept raising the question, "Is it I-440 or not?" The only answer was, "It will qualify for interstate funds."

Well, it WAS an interstate. Before it opened, there was speculation whether trucks would be excluded, and some officials seemed to hold that possibility open. But under federal law trucks cannot be excluded from any interstate segment. Now, it turns out that matters can get even worse.

Matters could get FAR worse if state officials were to follow a suggestion put forward in the *Nashville Scene* (March 11). When we first read it, we thought it was a Fabricator article; or perhaps an early April Fool's piece; or maybe bait to get neighborhood people to react so that they could be called NIMBYs. But it really was cooked up by the Nashville Civic Design Center, without participation by residents that we know of. The idea is to tear down all the interstates inside the I-440 loop. The "new urbanist" stance is that it makes no sense to have thousands of trucks and cars pouring through the central city; new urbanists would like to replace these with apartments, houses, shops, and parks. Then I-440 would become the ONLY path for traffic passing through Nashville, and it would have to be widened to six or eight lanes.

Of course this is unlikely. But now is an especially inappropriate time for the idea to be floated. ☹

Participate in standing committees

BHN has eleven standing committees that work on various issues. They are as follows:

- Beautification
- Community/Social Activity
- Conservation Zoning
- Crime Watch
- Home Tour
- Membership
- Newsletter
- Philanthropy
- Traffic/Sidewalks/Transit
- Web Site
- Zoning

If you are interested in joining any of these activities, call our InfoLine (386-3711) or send an e-mail (info@belmont-hillsboro.org). ☺

Long-time resident sees friendliness, care as a constant

by Judy Isenhour, BHN

Peta Heard's Belmont-Hillsboro house is different from most, because of its deep front yard. As you drive Sweetbriar, a street well lit by porch lights, you could miss her neat, siding-covered home tucked in between 2-story homes. She and her late husband moved there in 1949 and raised four children.

BHN: What was the neighborhood like when you moved here 55 years ago?

Peta: We moved here because we had to have a larger house. Something we could afford. This house was \$4700. Three bedrooms and one bath. We had a lot of children on this street. This block has always been a very friendly block. We lived furthest from the street and the children all came down here to play. We had a dirt pile. They'd get their toys and play back there.

BHN: What is your favorite neighborhood memory?

Peta: Mr. and Mrs. Swanner were just great. I was a crossing guard on the corner of Linden and Belmont at Clement Grammar School every morning. My husband was able to be at home with the oldest children, to see that they got off to school. Mrs. Swanner worked at Beckers Bakery and hand molded the flowers and decorated the cakes. And her husband was retired. And every morning our third child, Clarky, would go over to the Swanners. Mr. Swanner and Clarky would have a Coke. Then after Mr. Swanner died her brother came to live here. And *he* looked after Pamela, my youngest. He taught her how to tie her shoes. And he taught her to tell time. The Swanners never had children. Our children were just a joy to them. They really were. I don't ever remember just really asking them to take care of our children. But by the time they got to doing it, our children were already with them a lot.

BHN: How long were you a crossing guard?

Peta: Twelve years. Then I became a substitute guard. It was a promotion. Great big promotion. I went from \$50 to \$75. It was a lot of fun. But it got really cold. That's when I decided to start driving a school bus. It was a little bit warmer on that bus. That was in 1970. And that was really the most rewarding part of my life. I drove the handicapped students. They were all so precious. They really were. I had twins who'd get on the bus around 61st Avenue. Those little fellas would get on the bus with no soles in their shoes and have little tissue shirts on in the winter time, not a



Mother, wife, crossing guard, Metro school bus driver, church hostess, and neighbor par excellence, Peta Heard has seen 55 years of neighborhood activities. At 84, she's "proud of all those years."

warm jacket. They longed for something the other children had. You weren't supposed to let them get to you, but you see something like that, you couldn't help it. Donnie and Ronnie. I took that as long as I could. And I told Coffey, the bus matron, to get a piece of paper and mark those children's feet. They're gonna have new shoes. I went over to Hills on 8th Avenue. I bought them shoes, underwear, socks, and jackets. That afternoon when we got home I told Coffey, now we're gonna dress these children, because they were the last to get off. So we dressed them and I got off the bus because I wanted to talk to their sister about this. I told her what I had done and said I am depending on you to see that no one else will wear these clothes. And will you see that they're always clean? And bless her heart, she did. And when they got off the bus, one had a big smile and kinda bumped his hip with my hip, and said, "Thank ya, honey." That's the first time I really almost did melt.

BHN: How has the neighborhood changed?

Peta: My youngest, Pam, was born in '57 and there wasn't another baby born on this street until '99. And now I'm the only one [of the early neighbors] left. But it's still the friendliest street. The Bonnymans—I keep their mail when they're out of town, and they keep mine when I'm out of town. And Bill Ramsay, he's a big lawyer with Jim Neal, and he's always doing things for you. If you offer to pay him, he's insulted. And Gary Bynum, he's just so happy-go-lucky. My granddaughter married a man who knows Gary's twin sister. And Jerry, the musician across the street from me, he gets up in the middle of the night to collect data from Japan and China. And he looks out to see if everybody's porch light is on. He says if everybody's lights are on, he knows everybody's OK. ☐



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Relay For Life, Nashville style

What: The American Cancer Society's signature event, Relay for Life, an overnight walking event; features a cancer survivors' victory lap and a Luminaria Celebration candlelight ceremony

Where: Centennial Park

When: May 22-23rd, 2004

For complete information contact Judy Raines.

E-mail: pat.raines@comcast.net

Phone: 279 5364

Enjoy cultural diversity at West End Middle School festival

Name: West End Middle School Festival of Cultures

Where: West End & Bowling Avenue

When: Friday, May 14, 2004, 5:00 pm-8:00 pm

What: A night of international style family fun: arts, crafts, games, food, shopping bazaar, entertainment

Neighborhood next door offers opportunities to help children, adults

Who: Sunnyside Community Citizens, Inc.

What: in need of teachers for youth and adult computer classes

Where: 1006 Halcyon Ave, a computer lab (next to Second Missionary Baptist Church)

When: Tuesday through Thursday, 4:00-6:00 for kids
Friday, 4:00-6:00 for adults

What: in need of PC support technician

Who: Sunnyside Community Citizens, Inc.

What: in need of volunteers for summer youth camp

Who: Sunnyside Community Citizens, Inc.

What: in need of grant writer

Who: Sunnyside Community Citizens, Inc.

Contact: Bobby Johnson, president, Sunnyside Community Citizens, Inc., 385-3831



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BHN book group reads and discusses current offerings

Name: BHN Book Club

Recent books: *The Girl with the Pearl Earring*, *The DaVinci Code*

Membership: call Barb Morrison for info, 292-1095

Meetings: next one is April 20, 7:15 PM, Bill Northrup's, 1914 Wildwood Avenue, *The Secret Life of Bees*

Experience the world: host an international student

What: opportunity to host an international student from the ELS Language Center at Belmont University; you will receive a monthly stipend to offset costs for meals and transportation.

Where: spare room in your home

When: this summer, for one to two months

Complete info: please call 650-8749

Do you need a ride to the polls?

This year has two remaining election days: Thursday, August 5, and Tuesday, November 2. It is also possible to vote early at the Election Commission and several other sites. If you need a ride to your voting place on Election Day, or to early voting before then, please call our InfoLine (386-3711) or e-mail us (info@belmont-hillsboro.org).

Crime Report

BHN's CrimeWatch Committee has been keeping up with police reports. The good news is that our neighborhood has a low rate of crime compared with most others. That's because of vigilance by Neighborhood Watch groups and individual neighbors. If you are aware of criminal activities, please call our InfoLine (386-3700), so that we can see whether patterns are emerging. And as warm weather comes, be sure to lock your door when you are working in the back yard and keep yard equipment locked up when you're not using it.



BARBARA MOUTENCY
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