

Metro Codes

E—News For Neighborhoods

Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

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Keep your child safe this summer



From Demolition Recommendation to Award Winner

Gillespie Avenue property saved



One of the oldest housing cases in recent years involved a home at 3522 Gillespie Avenue. Located in West End, this vintage circa 1920's home went from being a stately manor home to a dilapidated disaster.

Over 70 years of neglect had taken its toll on the home that. The first Codes case began back in 1997 and the department continued its efforts to get the property repaired and cleaned up until the property was finally sold in 2007.

The previous owner was found to be living in a small dry area in the upper portion of the home. All of the other areas of the structure had suffered from severe water damage, mold and mildew and in some areas, from significant structural damage. Several attempt had been made by the codes department to help the owner to relocate since the home was dangerous in its current condition.

Joining the codes department in its efforts to get the property repaired were the Metro Health department and the Department of Public Works. At

one point the overgrowth was so thick that the home was barely visible from the street.

Out of frustration, the department had no choice but to recommend the home and detached garage be demolished.

Jon Dohotarius, a home builder from Chicago, purchased the house, saving it from demolition. The work Mr. Dohotarius put into this property is unprecedented, literally transforming this home from code enforcement nightmare to one of the finest examples of historic preservation in Nashville. The home was received a Metropolitan Historical Commission Preservation award in 2009.

Note: Part of this article and the facts about the house were reprinted with permission of Susan Benting and Allen Forkum whose article about the home was featured in the premiere issue of the July edition of "**The Nashville Retrospect**," a monthly newspaper devoted to Nashville nostalgia and history published by AutoGraphic Publishing Company. Visit them on the web at: www.NashvilleRetrospect.com



Interior view looking through the mahogany entryway into the formal dining room. Compare this with the photo on the right.



This view is of the master bathroom. The last owner was living in less than one-quarter of this space.

3522 Gillespie Avenue

- The property was originally owned by Joseph "Joe" Warner, one of Nashville's first millionaires.
- The land originally sold for \$3,800. The home was purchased for \$18,500 in 1963. After restoration, the home sold for more than 1.5 million dollars.
- Codes and other Metro agencies receive numerous complaints from neighbors, eventually resulting in condemnation and a recommendation for demolition.
- Metro Historical Commission establishes the Elmington Historical District, demolition stayed.
- The new owner, Jon Dohotarius, a builder from Chicago, found a stack of Time magazines in the home during the renovation. The first one in the stack was an issue with the President of Romania being interviewed about the Russian invasion and the takeover of Czechoslovakia. Mr. Dohotarius is a former refugee from Romania. He was quoted as saying the house was meant for him and that "Now my children will know what really happened in my country."



This is an example of the conditions Codes encountered once we were able to gain access to the property in 2003.



This view is of the parlor, again, filled with trash and debris.

National Night Out Against Crime Celebration Planned

Nashville Communities Celebrate 15th Year In National Observance

On Tuesday, August 4, 2009, Nashville will again celebrate as a community by participating in the National Night Out Against Crime, an event is hosted nationally by the National Association of Town Watches.

“Nashville celebrates its 15th anniversary in participating National Night Out Against Crime and we believe it has made a tremendous difference in our community,” Billy Fields, special assistant to the Director of Codes and Building Safety and one of the events organizers, said. “Each year thousands of Nashvillians take to the street on the first Tuesday in August to let those who would do us harm know that we are watching and we are working together to stop them before they can do damage.”

NNOAC has been extraordinarily successful in promoting involvement in crime and drug prevention activities, strengthening police-community relations, and encouraging neighborhood camaraderie as part of the fight for safer streets.

Since 1984, "National Night Out - America's Night Out Against Crime" has grown to involve over 30 million people from more than 9,000 communities.

All Neighborhood Watches, Neighborhood Associations and Community Organizations were invited to host and/or participate in Night Out events.

For more information, go to www.Nashville.gov to the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood's home page.



Sherriff's Department deputies register kids at their booth during last years Night Out Against Crime celebration.

Photo: Gary Layda

MAYOR HOSTED 2009 NASHVILLE HOUSING FAIR AT THE SOMMET CENTER

Fair connects families with homeownership opportunities

More than 800 prospective Nashville homeowners attended the second annual Nashville Housing Fair to learn about homeownership and the process of purchasing a home, including how to take advantage of the \$8,000 federal tax credit for first-time homebuyers available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Mayor Karl Dean held the 2009 Nashville Housing Fair at the Sommet Center on Sunday, July 26. The fair was comprised of informational booths from over 50 organizations, including real estate agencies, homebuilders, lenders and non profits. Door prizes provided by sponsors will be given away throughout the day. The event was free and open to the public.

“Last year’s Housing Fair at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds was such a tremendous success, this year the fair is being expanded and relocated to the Sommet Center,” Dean said. “Realtors will tell you this is a great time to buy a home – interest rates are at historic lows. The Housing Fair is the city’s way of making sure we’re doing everything we can to help families find a home they can afford and enjoy here in Davidson County.”

This year’s Housing Fair was presented in partnership with the Greater Nashville Association of Realtors, National

Association of Realtors, Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency, Tennessee Housing Development Agency, Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity, The Housing Fund and *The Tennessean*.

Major Partners Included:



Metro Codes

E—News For Neighborhoods

10th Annual Mayor's First Day Festival
 Sommet Center Sunday, August 9, 2009 2-5 pm

Join Mayor Karl Dean for this free community celebration, as we welcome the beginning of a new school year.

School Supplies! Entertainment! Educational Activities!
 Bring a canned item to the event for Second Harvest Food Bank!

Property Standards Production Report June 2009

New RFS Cases Received	1,193
RFS Cases Closed in June	278

New Commander For Hermitage Precinct

New Commander Todd Henry assumes the leadership role of all operations at the Hermitage Precinct.

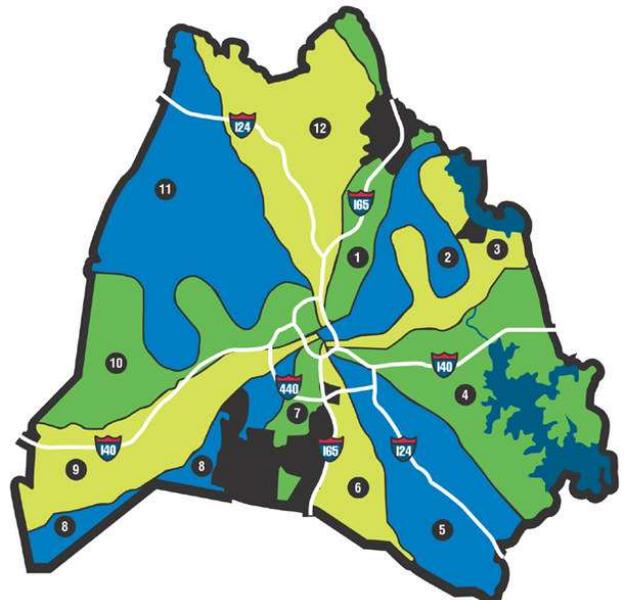
Henry, who is an 18-year police department veteran, served for the past five years as the captain over the Specialized Investigations Division, which includes the police department's centralized Vice, Intelligence and Crime Stoppers components. He has worked in a variety of patrol and investigative areas of the police department during his tenure, and holds a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice from MTSU.

Henry succeeds Commander Michelle Richter, who has been appointed to lead operations at the West Precinct.



Mayor Karl Dean and Chief Ronal Serpas congratulate Todd Henry on his appointment to Commander over Hermitage Precinct operations.

Area	Start Date	End Date	Final Date
Area 1	July 1, 2009	November 5, 2009	March 1, 2010
Area 2	July 10, 2009	November 17, 2009	March 10, 2010
Area 3	July 22, 2009	December 1, 2009	March 23, 2010
Area 4	July 31, 2009	December 9, 2009	April 2, 2010
Area 5	August 12, 2009	December 17, 2009	April 14, 2010
Area 6	August 25, 2009	December 29, 2009	April 23, 2010
Area 7	September 3, 2009	January 7, 2010	May 5, 2010
Area 8	September 15, 2009	January 15, 2010	May 14, 2010
Area 9	September 24, 2009	January 26, 2010	May 26, 2010
Area 10	October 7, 2009	February 4, 2010	June 4, 2010
Area 11	October 16, 2009	February 12, 2010	June 15, 2010
Area 12	October 28, 2009	February 22, 2010	June 23, 2010



Governor Bredesen Signs Clean Energy Future Act

Governor Phil Bredesen has signed into law the Tennessee Clean Energy Future Act of 2009, legislation that has been dubbed “the cornerstone for all future energy policy” in the Volunteer State.

“This landmark bill is the product of year-long talks on how best to position the Volunteer State as a leader in energy efficiency and conservation and clean-energy jobs,” Bredesen said. “Coupled with financial commitments to new solar energy and electric vehicle initiatives, this new law helps set the stage for a brighter clean energy future in Tennessee.”

In signing the act, Bredesen was joined by key lawmakers who were instrumental in passing the bill, as well as members of the Governor’s Task Force on Energy Policy whose recommendations served as the basis for the new law. More than 50 lawmakers co-sponsored the legislation, with key sponsors including: Senators Jim Kyle, Andy Berke, Randy McNally and Ken Yager, and Representatives Les Winningham, Phillip Johnson, Kevin Brooks, Jim Hackworth, Joe McCord and Mike Turner.

Among other changes, the Clean Energy Future Act requires state government to do a better job “leading by example” in managing its buildings and vehicle fleet; makes the clean-energy technology sector eligible for Tennessee’s emerging industry tax credit; and promotes residential energy efficiency by streamlining the distribution of federal funds for weatherization of low-income homes and establishing a limited statewide residential building code for new construction.

The new law enjoys broad support among business and environmental groups ranging from the Home Builders Association of Tennessee to the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance. SEEA, a regional coalition of business, government and environmental interests, called it “the cornerstone for all future energy policy in Tennessee.”

Separately, the 2009-2010 state budget authorizes the Volunteer State Solar Initiative, a comprehensive solar-energy and economic-development program that will use federal Recovery Act funds to advance job creation, education, research, and renewable-power production in Tennessee. Also, the budget includes energy-related funds for state government to partner with Nissan and Oak Ridge National Laboratory in the future deployment of charging stations for electric vehicles.

Finally, Bredesen used the occasion of signing the Clean Energy Future Act to announce a separate \$9.3 million grant program — also to be funded by the federal Recovery Act — for small- and medium-sized cities and counties seeking cost-savings through energy-efficiency upgrades in their local government facilities. The funds are subject to approval by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Preference for the new grants — up to \$100,000 for a city or county — will be given to local governments that commit to promoting community-wide energy efficiency efforts, including minimum standards for new home construction.

“Sound energy policy begins with a statewide commitment to efficiency and conservation,” Bredesen said. “The fact is: The cleanest energy of all is the energy that we don’t use. I look forward to working with local governments to develop additional programs in the future that promote efficiency across our state.”



Metro Council member Erica Gilmore met with owners of Nashville’s first green permitted house, Jim, Jimmy and Kerry McLean. The Phillips Street home will be an example of new construction meeting “green” building standards.

SAFETY CORNER

Child Bicycle Safety

- Do not push your child to ride a 2-wheeled bike until he or she is ready, at about age 5 or 6. Consider the child’s coordination and desire to learn to ride. Stick with coaster (foot) brakes until your child is older and more experienced for hand brakes.
- Take your child with you when you shop for the bike, so that he or she can try it out. The value of a properly fitting bike far outweighs the value of surprising your child with a new one. For more information on finding the proper fit, go to <http://www.aap.org/family/bicycle.htm#choosing>
- Buy a bike that is the right size, not one your child has to “grow into.” Oversized bikes are especially dangerous.
- Your child needs to wear a helmet on every bike ride, no matter how short or how close to home. Many accidents happen in driveways, on sidewalks, and on bike paths, not just on streets. Children learn best by observing you. Whenever you ride, put on your helmet.
- When purchasing a helmet, look for a label or sticker that says the helmet meets the CPSC safety standard.
- A helmet protects your child from serious injury, and should always be worn. And remember, wearing a helmet at all times helps children develop the helmet habit.
- A helmet should be worn so that it is level on the head, not tipped forwards or backwards. The strap should be securely fastened, and you should not be able to move the helmet in any direction. If needed, the helmet’s sizing pads can help improve the fit.

Save The Date—Codes Announces Annual Golf Tournament

The 13th Annual Metro Codes Charity Golf Tournament will be held on October 17, 2009 at the Ted Rhodes Golf Course.

Last year's tournament, through the support of 128 golfers and 99 sponsors, resulted in yet a new record \$28,000 being donated to three local charities through the Metro Employees Consolidated Charities Campaign (MECCC).

This year, all proceeds will again go to the MECCC for the benefit of local charities.



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PASS IT ON!

Pass the word about our newsletter! We would be honored if you would share our newsletter with your colleagues and co-workers. If anyone would like to sign up to receive it themselves, they just need to send us their email, and we will be happy to "Pass It On" to them.

Terry Cobb and **Bill Penn** welcome your feedback on our e-newsletter. Please send your comments to [Bill Penn](mailto:Bill.Penn), at bill.penn@nashville.gov
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