



Metro Codes

E - News for Neighborhoods

Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

ACCELLA Wireless Goes LIVE!

The Department of Codes & Building Safety's KIVA project has entered a new and exciting phase. On the 26th of June the department will receive new laptop computers and printers. These devices will enable our inspection staff to complete inspections in the field and will enable our building division inspectors the added ability to issue inspection results at the job site. The implementation of the ACCELLA wireless component of KIVA is probably one of the most important parts of the overall project.

Each inspector and division chief will be issued a Fujitsu convertible laptop computer. These machines can function as a conventional laptop, or, the screen can be rotated and locked down, converting the laptop into a pen based tablet PC, which will allow the user to enter hand written notes and drawings to the inspection record. And with GPS capability built in, route management and mapping services will also be available.

For years the department has realized the need for greater office automation. Much of what inspectors do is currently paper driven, with many actions having to be performed twice. Our inspectors will now have the capability to capture any form of information relating to an inspection and capture it in the field. At the start of each work day, the inspector will log into Metro's network and access their assigned outstanding inspections. All of the necessary information about the inspection is downloaded to the inspector's computer. Once in the field, the inspector makes the required inspec-



tions and annotates any notes necessary to the case in the field, eliminating the need to make these notes on paper and then having to transfer these notes to the KIVA database in the office.

Inspection results for trades inspections (framing, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical) can now be printed and left on the job site. These results will be more detailed than the old inspection results tag used in the past. The contractor will know specifically which items did not meet the code. And for those contractors with an email contact address, those results will be emailed to their office as well.

The computers are all wireless capable. Throughout the day, when inspections are made, the inspector can locate a wireless hotspot and upload their inspection results and can download any new inspections or special inspections which may have come in during the day. For the Property Standards inspectors, once they complete an initial inspection and sign-off on the abate request, an email is sent to their assigned secretary to print and mail-out the abate notice, eliminating the need to post and print instructions for the administrative staff.

The Department of Codes & Building Safety continues to move forward with innovative programs designed to allow the department to be more pro-active and responsive to our customers. The ACCELLA wireless is an essential tool that will greatly improve our responsiveness and efficiency.



GRAFFITI HURTS™

Graffiti vandals believe their actions harm no one. The reality is graffiti hurts everyone -- homeowners, communities, businesses, schools, and you. And, those who practice it risk personal injury, violence, and arrest. Metro has a Graffiti Task Force of state and local agencies working together to address the problem of graffiti in Nashville. You can help by reporting graffiti to Metro's Graffiti Hotline number: **880-2444**

Besides reporting the location, take a photo of the graffiti and send it to Metro Public Works, which has started a graffiti database. If you witness graffiti in progress, Metro Police want you to contact them at 862-8600. If officers can catch graffiti vandals in the act, they can pursue prosecuting them.

Graffiti is a crime, punishable by a fine of up to \$500!

How is a community really "hurt" by graffiti?

- ◆ Graffiti sends the signal that nobody cares, attracting other forms of crime and street delinquency to the neighborhood.
- ◆ Graffiti drains tax dollars. Funds that could be used for schools, roads, parks, and other community improvements, are used for graffiti clean up.
- ◆ Graffiti decreases a resident's feeling of safety. Neighborhoods with graffiti see a decrease in property values, loss of business growth and tourism, and reduced ridership on public transit.

Property values - "Graffiti generates the perception of blight and heightens fear of gang activity" reports the U.S. Department of Justice. The appearance of graffiti is often perceived by residents and passers-by as a sign that a downward spiral has begun, even though this may not be true.



Safety - Patrons of buildings, parks, or public facilities where graffiti vandalism has occurred may feel that if graffiti is tolerated, then other more serious crimes, such as theft and assault, may also go unchallenged.

Clean up costs - Although the cost of graffiti vandalism in the U.S. has yet to be definitively documented, for many communities, private property owners, and public agencies the cost is rising each year. Figures from a variety of cities across the U.S. suggest that graffiti cleanup alone costs taxpayers about \$3-5 per person per year. Metro Nashville is currently compiling cost information, but a few agencies provided the following statistics:

- ◆ Metro Nashville Public Schools has 2 full-time crews devoted to graffiti removal, and spends approximately \$250,000 a year on cleanup.
- ◆ Public Works receives an average of 20 graffiti complaints each month.
- ◆ The Tennessee Department of Transportation estimates spending about \$33,000 last year to remove graffiti on interstate and state route signs and bridges in Davidson County.

Even if graffiti doesn't happen personally to you or your property, it still hurts. Get involved and help us stop graffiti vandalism.

Join us for the July issue of the Codes Newsletter featuring: **"Graffiti Prevention"**

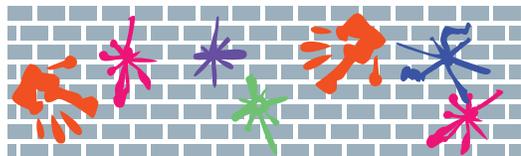


To learn more, visit www.graffitihurts.org or call Metro Beautification and Environment (a Keep America Beautiful affiliate) at 862-8418.

**Graffiti is a crime,
punishable by a fine of up to \$500!**

Report it by calling Metro's Graffiti Hotline:

880-2444



CELEBRATE NASHVILLE!!



Join us this Saturday, June 16th, at the Public Square in downtown Nashville for a picnic! Mayor Bill Purcell will be hosting a neighborhood picnic for all of Nashville's neighbors to enjoy.



While hosting the event, the Mayor will be announcing the winners of the **Celebrate Nashville!** Neighborhood contest. These announcements will begin at 11:00 a.m.



The event will be free, open to all neighbors in Nashville with plenty of food, fun and games for all!



Energy Efficiency Tips

Saving energy and money can be simple and in most cases free! We've compiled a few energy saving tips that will help lower your utility bill this cooling season.

Heating/Cooling

Clean or replace filters at least once a month.

- Dirty filters make your system work harder and run longer than necessary.
- They also encourage the buildup of mold and mildew, making cleaning more difficult.

Shade outside air conditioning units (condensers).

- A/C units shaded by trees or other means work more efficiently and use up to 10% less electricity.

Clean your AC's condenser/evaporator coils at the beginning of the season.

- Clean coils lower your energy costs, extend the unit's life and provide cleaner air for you to breathe.
- The fin coils on the outside AC unit can be washed with a hose.
- Coils on inside units may be difficult to get to and may require a trained technician.

Keep debris and high grass away from the condenser.

- These obstacles block the airflow to the unit.
- Blockage makes the condenser work harder and run longer.

Set your thermostat at 78 in the summer and 68 in the winter.

- Each degree cooler or warmer will increase your energy use by 6 to 8%. For instance, setting your thermostat at 72 in the summer could increase energy use by up to 40%. The same is true if you set your thermostat for higher energy use in the winter.
- One of the best ways to save energy dollars is to use less air conditioning and heating.

If you have central air conditioning, do not close vents in unused rooms.

- This could increase pressure and cause leaks in your ducts. This does not apply to homes or apartments with window units where closing off unused rooms will reduce cooling costs and increase comfort.

Consider new high efficiency air conditioners and heat pumps.

- They use up to 40% less electricity than older models for the same amount of running time.

Zoning "101" Historic Landmark District

Designation as an Historic Landmark District honors a Nashville landmark's historical significance while protecting the unique character by requiring review of any exterior work on the building. Twenty-nine properties are protected as an Historic Landmark District in Davidson County (as of 2005)

These landmarks include:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Locust Hill | 2. Smith Farmhouse |
| 3. Idlewild | 4. North Branch Library |
| 5. Croft House | 6. Customs House |
| 7. East Branch Library | 8. Davidson Co. Courthouse |
| 9. Holly St. Fire Hall | 10. The Parthenon |
| 11. 21st Ave. S. Fire Hall | 12. Two Rivers Mansion |
| 13. Union Station | 14. Warner Parks |
| 15. Airdrie | 16. City Cemetary |
| 17. Eakin & Cavert Schools | 18. City Reservoir |
| 19. Lindsley Hall | 20. Cameron School |
| 21. Shelby St. Bridge | 22. Trolley Barns/Rolling Mill |
| 23. MLK Magnet @ Pearl | 24. East Schools Campus |
| 25. Hume-Fogg HS | 26. West End Middle School |
| 27. Fort Negley | 28. Sunnyside at Sevier Park |
| 29. Omohundro Water System | |

Preservation Permits:

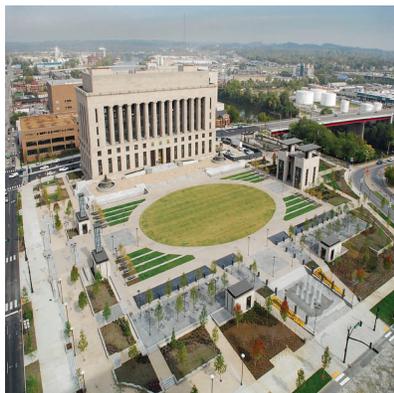
A permit is required for work done on historic and conservation overlay districts as shown in the table that follows. Staff reviews all applications and assists applicants with meeting the design guidelines.

Permits are reviewed and approved by the commission. If a permit is approved, staff issues the preservation permit within 24 hours. Work must begin within six (6) months from the date of issuance.

Before you begin work, call the MHZC at 862-7970 to determine if your plan requires a preservation permit.

To see if your property is in an historic or conservation zoning district, and to begin the process of obtaining a preservation permit, call the MHZC staff at 862-7970.

The Metro Historical Commission and Metro Historic Zoning Commission are located at Sunnyside in Sevier Park at 3000 Granny White Pike.



An aerial view of the new courthouse campus shows how classic architecture and contemporary design can blend into a Public Square Park of which Nashville can be proud.

MDHA Assistance Programs

What is the objective of MDHA's Housing Rehabilitation Programs and how are they funded?:

◆ To provide home repair assistance to low and moderate income households who own and occupy homes in Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County. The funding is received from Federal and State Governments.



How do I qualify?:

- ◆ You must own and occupy your home.
- ◆ Your home must be in Nashville/Davidson County.
- ◆ Your income must be within current income guidelines.
- ◆ Your property taxes must be current.

Will I receive a grant or a loan?:

◆ You will be evaluated for a 3% payback loan. Your qualification will be determined based upon your income and household expenses. You may qualify for a deferred payment loan which is due on sale or transfer of the property. If you are at least 55 years of age and or disabled and your income is below the very low guidelines, you may qualify for a maximum of \$2,000 in material assistance (labor not included) for repairs to correct certain health and safety conditions. This is a non-payback assistance program.

When I apply for assistance what should I expect from MDHA?:

◆ You will be interviewed by phone, an intake will be completed and you will be placed on a waiting list. There is an approximate waiting period of 8 to 10 months. All applicants are processed from a first-come, first-served waiting list. When you are next in line, an advisor from MDHA will visit with you at your home for an evaluation, which will include the preparation of a work write-up and cost estimate. If your home was constructed before January 1, 1978, it will also be evaluated and tested for lead-based paint. The lead based-paint evaluation, hazard reduction and clearance will only be completed if you decide to participate with the rehab activity. If you qualify, there is no charge for the lead-based paint activity unless it exceeds \$5,000. MDHA's staff is responsible for identifying the repairs necessary to meet local housing code standards. The staff will also be responsible for assisting with contractor selection, quality of work, and the timely completion of work.

What kind of a warranty can I expect to receive when the work is completed?:

◆ The contractor is expected to furnish a one-year warranty on labor and materials. You will also received a manufacturers warranty on all products as applicable. Routine maintenance will be the homeowners' responsibility. Visit MDHA's web site at www.nashville.org/mdha for additional information. Or you can call the office at 615-252-8500.

Centennial Sportsplex Aquatic Center Classes

The Centennial Sportsplex is more than just a place to go Swimming and/or work out, they provide many other services, one of which is just beginning to learn to swim.

LEARN TO SWIM -

Welcome to the Learn To Swim Program at the Centennial Sportsplex, where we have a class for you! The Learn To Swim Program provides classes for all ages and skill levels. Our program offers classes taught by certified Red Cross Water Safety instructors and also allows for additional practice time.

MEREBABES -

The Merebabes class is for infants and toddlers from ages 18 months through 2 years. Children in this class must be accompanied by an adult in the water.

PRE-SCHOOL -

The Pre-School class is for toddlers and children (under 4 feet tall) ages 3 years through 5 years.

LEVEL I AND LEVEL II -

The Level I and Level II class is for children at least 6 years old and at least 4 feet tall.



LEVEL III -

The Level III class is for children at least 6 years old and at least 4 feet tall. Children in this class must be able to perform all Level I and Level II skills.

LEVEL IV -

The Level IV class is for children at least 6 years old and at least 4 feet tall. Children in this level must be able to perform all Level III skills.

Level V -

The Level V class is for children at least 6 years old and at least 4 feet tall. Children in this level must be able to perform all Level IV skills.



ADULT -

The Adult class is open to adults of all ages and skill levels. Levels I, II, III and IV are included in the adult class. Each student is evaluated on his/her skill level and is taught appropriate water skills.

REGISTRATION -

To register for Learns to Swim classes, complete the Learn to registration form found on the internet. Please make sure to get a receipt. The registration deadline period will end about 10 days prior to the session.

Please contact the Sportsplex for more information.

Employee Highlights

William (Bill) Earles is a Property Standards Inspector II, and is a member of our Property Standards "Red Team" which is under the direct supervision of Ron Mitchell.



Bill has been employed with Metro Property Standards since September 17, 2001. He is currently certified by the International Codes Council as a Residential Combination Inspector, as well as Zoning & Property Maintenance Inspector. His territory covers parts of North Nashville and the South Nashville/Antioch/Hermitage area.

Prior to joining the Department of Codes & Building Safety, Bill worked in the Metro Public Works Department, from December 1979 to 1984 at which time he transferred to Metro Parks Department and was there until his reassignment to Codes in 2001. While there, he progressed from a laborer at Cedar Hill Park to a Maintenance Crew Leader at Centennial Park. He obtained and held a certification as a Playground Safety Inspector until his transfer to Codes.

Bill and his wife, Wendy reside in Leipers Fork and have 4 children & 2 grand children. His interests include coin collecting, tool collecting, general carpentry and sports.

PASS IT ON!



Pass the word about our newsletter! We would be honored if you would share our newsletter with your friends, family 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, Assistant Director, Property Standards Div., 862-6516



For information regarding accessibility, please contact Manley Biggers at (615) 862-6521 or fax (615) 862-6499. He can also be reached at manley.biggers@nashville.gov

Department of Codes and Building Safety



Metro Office Building
800 2nd Ave, South
Nashville, TN 37210
615-862-6590 / Fax 862-6593

Mayor - Bill Purcell

Director - Terry Cobb
Assistant Director - Bill Penn

Office Hours: Mon-Fri / 7:30-4:00