



Metro Codes

E—News For Neighborhoods

Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

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"The project was a highlight for all who volunteered. I was impressed with [Ms. Custode] and [Codes] going beyond the 'call of duty' to assist in this situation."

- Stephen Harris
Dean of Student Development
Trevecca Nazarene University

Codes & Building Safety and Trevecca University Provide Hands-On Community Service

Our Property Standards Inspectors encounter a wide variety of situations as they respond to Requests for Service. Often, when investigating one request, the inspector will see something that warrants further investigation. That is what happened when Sandy Custode was making an inspection of a car lot near Trevecca Nazarene University. What she thought was just an abandoned vehicle in the woods, turned out to be the home of an elderly couple hidden behind years of dense overgrowth. The entire yard was filled with everything from bags of old clothes to broken down lawn mowers, and broken furniture. If you can imagine it, it was probably somewhere in the yard.

Ms. Custode was able to make contact with the owners and learned that they have lived on the property since they were married, 50 years ago. The couple met while attending Trevecca

and settled there upon graduation and they still attend church services on the campus. Our normal response to this situation would have been to issue an abate notice to remove the mountain of junk, trash and debris from the yard. But Ms. Custode realized after meeting this couple that they did not have the resources or the physical ability to clean up 50 years worth of "stuff".

Ms. Custode met with Mr. Stephen Harris, Dean of Student Development at Trevecca Nazarene University, to discuss the situation and to figure out a way to help. Mr. Harris was able to mobilize student volunteers as part of the University's community support program to help with the clean-up. On December 1st, 50 volunteers arrived and began the clean-up effort.

Metro Public Works provided a 20 yard roll-off container to help remove the trash. According to Ms. Custode,

the roll-off container was filled in about 40 minutes. The students cleared a significant amount of the overgrowth, bagged trash and staged hundreds of

"My experience volunteering was fantastic. The enthusiasm of the college students was overwhelming."

- Stephanie Custode, High School student from Hume-Fogg High School

pounds of metal waste that will be recycled.

The volunteer effort was joined by seven women from the Phases Substance



Continued on Page 2

Our Volunteers & Supporters

Sandy Custode - Metro Codes	Adam Grassman	Jonathan Duranceau	Mandy Smith	Abby Buter
Stephanie Custode - Hume-Fogg			Danielle Queener	Traci Uzinski
Veronica Frazier - Public Works	James Kramer	Robert Martinez	Liz Whiting	Elizabeth Fitzsimmons
Ricky Beshearse - Public Works	Clifton Smith	Hayley Hill	Chris Sutton	Caleb Gerdorn
Stephen Harris - Trevecca Nazarene	Amanda Mollman	Rebekah Spaur	Levi Humble	Kara Aills
Trevecca Nazarene Students	Lareigh Francione	Kyle Finufe	Matt Taylor	Allie Gray
Lauren Spears	Tyler Carpenter	Josh Kelley	Brian Wong	
Tyler Walls	Nick Baldwin	Scott Ewing		
Brian Johnson	Andrew Crimmins	Morah Coxen		
		Sarah Thompson		

Hands-On Community Service

Continued from Page 1

First these ladies were apprehensive, but when they learned that they would be helping college students who were cleaning up an elderly couples' yard, they too shared in the excitement. "They were amazed that so many student volunteers had turned out on a Saturday morning," said Mr. Harris.



"Saturday was a great success, thanks to all the students from Trevecca and the ladies from Phases who volunteered their time to help this older couple and their community."

- Sandy Custode, Property Standards Inspector

Ms. Custode's daughter Stephanie, a freshman at Hume-Fogg Magnet School, also participated in the clean-up. She said that "My experi-

ence volunteering was fantastic. The enthusiasm of the college students was over-

whelming." She felt that "the day was very effective and everyone had a smile on their face when we finished."

"Being able to provide this kind of assistance is really important and reflects the desire and level of community service our staff strives to provide our customers," said Bill Penn, Assistant Director for Property Standards. "All too often we do not know the circumstances of the property owner until a warrant is initiated. We welcome the opportunity to assist on the front-end."

Mr. Harris, also participated in the event and was instrumental in organizing the student volunteers.

"The homeowners were beaming because they had visitors and enjoyed talking to the young people." Ms.

Custode, went on to say that, "My daughter Stephanie even got a lesson on the harmonica." Ms. Custode was especially appreciative of Ricky Beshearse with Public Works whose department provided the use of the roll-off container.

The Codes & Building Safety department is committed to improving the lives of our citizens through effective and proactive code enforcement. Mr. Harris's comments summed up everyone's feelings, "I am very thankful that I live in a city and am part of a community where assisting those in need is a priority."

Volunteers from Trevecca Nazarene, Hume-Fogg and Phases provide a Much Needed Helping Hand



"This event has made me rethink going to a large university because of the unity and closeness of the students from Trevecca."
- Stephanie Custode Hume-Fogg Student

These photos show just some of the 50 plus volunteers who helped improve the lives of members of their community.



Mayor Hosts “Connecting Communities Neighborhood Meeting”

By Brady Banks,
Director, Mayor’s Office of Neighborhoods

The Mayor’s Office of Neighborhoods held its “Connecting Communities: Mayor Dean’s Neighborhoods Meeting” on Saturday, December 1st at the Downtown Public Library. Over 200 neighborhood leaders, community activists, and committed citizens came to hear the Mayor speak on issues facing our communities. It was great to see so many representatives from Metro Government present at the event as well, including Codes Department head, Terry Cobb.



Codes Director Terry Cobb



In his remarks, Mayor Dean focused on building partnerships with our neighborhoods to address improvements in our schools and to ensure greater public safety. He called on neighbors to get involved in their neighborhood’s schools, saying “whether it’s reading to a class, volunteering in an after-school program or donating resources, “neighborhoods have a variety of ways they can become engaged in the life of schools.”

Mayor Dean also emphasized his eagerness to decrease the rate of juvenile crime and encouraged neighborhoods to maintain good relationships with the Metro Nashville Police Department.

The floor was then opened up to questions from the audience. Many participants echoed the concerns of the Mayor and offered suggestions for the roles neighborhoods could play in public schools and public safety. Many others commented on more neighborhood specific codes and public works issues.



Mayor Dean takes questions from the audience.

Altogether, the meeting was a success and set the tone for the future work with neighbors through the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhoods.

All photos are courtesy of Metro Photographer, Gary Layda

Mayor’s Office of Neighborhoods Gets New Director

Brady Banks has been named Director of the Office of Neighborhoods by Mayor Karl Dean.

In his new position, Banks will be responsible for accomplishing the mission of the office: to improve the quality of life in Nashville’s neighborhoods through a more informed, active and involved citizenry and enhanced governmental response to community needs.

Prior to joining Mayor Dean’s staff, Banks served as the hearings and appeals officer at the Tennessee Housing Development Agency.

In 2003, Banks completed a research project on affordable housing strategies of the Mayor’s Office, faith-based organizations and other affordable housing groups in Nashville through a grant from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. The research was later used in cities nationwide as part of an initiative through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Faith and Community-Based Initiatives Offices called “Unlocking Doors.”



Banks married the Rev. Kristin Clark this past fall. The Rev. Clark-Banks serves at Christ United Methodist Church in Franklin.

Christmas Tree Lighting In Public Square

The Public Square in front of the Metro Courthouse is beginning to look a lot like Christmas as a blue spruce standing over 35 feet tall was delivered for preparation for the tree lighting ceremony.

Over 2,000 colored lights will illuminate the tree when they were turned on during the city's annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony on December 6. Mayor Karl Dean and his family flipped the switch at about 5:20 p.m., lighting both the tree and six wreaths decorating the Historic Courthouse and Founders Tower.

Vice Mayor Diane Neighbors joined in the festivities. Rick Marion, morning show host for country radio station 103 WKDF, emceed the event.



Photograph provided by Metro
Photographer Gary Layda

“Christmas has always been a special time of year for my family. It’s also a special time for our city,” Dean said. “Nashville was founded on Christmas day over 200 years ago. This is a time to reflect on how far we’ve come as a city and where we are headed in the future. It’s also a time to simply enjoy some of the best parts of the season—music, food, and of course, the lights.”

Christmas Tree Safety

Listed below are some helpful hints about a safer holiday with fresh greenery around the house:

Christmas Trees -

- Each year, more than 400 residential fires involve Christmas trees and tragically nearly 40 deaths and 100 injuries result from those fires.
- Try to select a fresh tree by looking for one that is green. The needles of pines and spruces should bend and not break and should be hard to pull off the branches. On fir species, a needle pulled from a fresh tree will snap when bent, much like a fresh carrot. Also, look for a trunk sticky with sap.
- Cut off about 2 inches of the trunk and put the tree in a sturdy, water holding stand. Keep the stand filled with water so the tree does not dry out quickly.
- Stand your tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. Make sure the tree does not block foot traffic or doorways.
- If you use an artificial tree, choose one that is tested and labeled as fire resistant. Artificial trees with built-in electrical systems should have the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label.

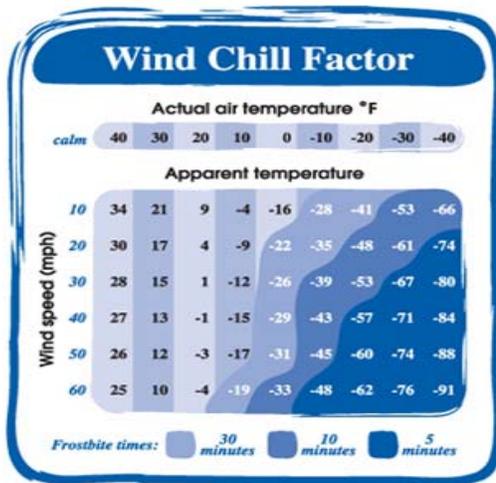
Tree Lights -

- Only use indoor lights indoors (and outdoor lights outdoors). Look for the UL label. Check lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Replace or repair any damaged light sets.
- Also, use no more than three light sets on any extension cord. Extension cords should be placed against the wall to avoid tripping hazards, but do not run cords under rugs.
- Turn off all lights on trees and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house.

Tree Ornaments -

- Always use the proper step stool or ladder to reach high places.
- Read labels before you use materials that come in jars, cans and spray cans.
- Never place lighted candles on a tree or near any flammable materials.
- Avoid placing breakable tree ornaments or ones with small detachable parts on lower branches where small children or pets can reach them.

Wind Chill



The Wind Chill index is the temperature your body feels when the air temperature is combined with the wind speed. It is based on the rate of heat loss from exposed skin caused by the effects of wind and cold. As the speed of the wind increases, it can carry heat away from your body much more quickly, causing skin temperature to drop. When there are high winds, serious weather-related health problems are more likely, even when temperatures are only cool.

The Wind Chill Chart to the side shows the difference between actual air temperature and perceived temperature, and amount of time until frostbite occurs.

PORTABLE HEATERS

Small space heaters are typically used when the main heating system is inadequate or when central heating is too costly to install or operate. In some cases, small space heaters can be less expensive to use if you only want to heat one room or supplement inadequate heating in one room. They can also boost the temperature of rooms used by individuals who are sensitive to cold, especially elderly persons, without overheating your entire home.

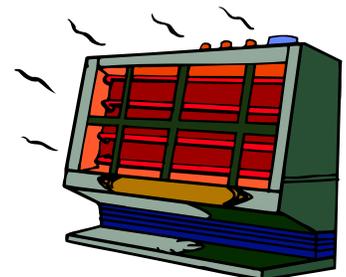
Space heater capacities generally range between 10,000 Btu to 40,000 Btu per hour. Common fuels used for this purpose are: electricity, propane, natural gas, and kerosene.

Although most space heaters rely on convection (the circulation of air in a room) to heat a room, some rely on radiant heating; that is, they emit infrared radiation that directly heats up objects and people that are within their line of sight. Radiant heaters are a more efficient choice when you will be in a room for only a few hours, if you can remain within the line of sight of the heater. They can be more efficient when using a room for a short period because they avoid the energy needed to heat the entire room by instead directly heating the occupant of the room and the occupant's immediate surroundings.

Safety is a top consideration when using space heaters. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that more than 25,000 residential fires every year are associated with the use of space heaters, causing more than 300 deaths. An estimated 6,000 persons receive hospital emergency room care for burn injuries associated with contacting hot surfaces of room heaters, mostly in non-fire situations.

When buying and installing a small space heater, follow these guidelines:

- (1) Only purchase newer model heaters that have all of the current safety features. Make sure the heater has the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label attached to it.
- (2) Choose thermostatically controlled heaters, since they avoid the energy waste of overheating a room.
- (3) Select a heater of the proper size for the room you wish to heat. Do not purchase oversized heaters. Most heaters come with a general sizing table.
- (4) Locate the heater on a level surface away from foot traffic. Be especially careful to keep children and pets away from the heater.
- (5) Keep portable heaters at least three (3) feet away from furniture, drapes, or other combustible materials.





ALICE ANN CHAPMAN 2007 HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST

REGIONAL WINNERS

Region

1	Richard & Patti Davidson	4801 Indian Summer Dr.	Nashville	37207
2	Melvin & Linda Holland	325 Keeton Avenue	Old Hickory	37138
3	Bobby & Cindy Farrar	3117 Blackwood Drive	Nashville	37214
4	Buford Benson	6575 Holt Road	Nashville	37211
5	Rick Martin	725 Stirrup Court	Nashville	37221

DISTRICT WINNERS

District

1	Roger & Carol Fuqua	206 Apple View Court	Goodlettsville	37072
3	Richard & Patti Davidson	4801 Indian Summer Dr.	Nashville	37207
4	Chi Chi Marino	510 Neelys Bend Road	Madison	37115
6	Don Stone	1505 Forrest Avenue	Nashville	37206
7	Harold & Floy McKay	209 McKennell Drive	Nashville	37206
8	Nathan, Linda, & Ezekiel McDaniel	209 Capitol View Ave.	Nashville	37207
11	Melvin & Linda Holland	325 Keeton Avenue	Old Hickory	37138
12	William & Dorothy Ewin	1125 Tulip Grove Road	Hermitage	37076
13	David & Jennifer DeDominicis	800 Ragsdale Court	Nashville	37214
14	Bob & Sheryl Kernodle	207 Eldon Court	Nashville	37214
14	Bobby & Cindy Farrar	3117 Blackwood Drive	Nashville	37214
15	Charly & Wendy Woodall	2705 Lincoya Dr.	Nashville	37214
16	Jerry & Marie Raines	155 Tallwood Drive	Nashville	37211
17	Robert H. Robinson	547 Hamilton Avenue	Nashville	37203
20	William & Francis Hopkins	6451 Thunderbird Dr.	Nashville	37209
22	Rick Martin	725 Stirrup Court	Nashville	37221
24	Ellie, Zak, & Caroline Keiper	4604 Wyoming Avenue	Nashville	37209
26	James Ray Proctor	420 Benita Drive	Nashville	37211
28	Steve Warner	3724 Bakertown Road	Nashville	37211
29	David M. Satterfield	2928 Kinwood Drive	Antioch	37013
30	Richard & Clara Garcia	208 Willow Lane	Nashville	37211
31	Buford Benson	6575 Holt Road	Nashville	37211
32	Rob Robinson	4220 Maxwell Road	Antioch	37013
35	Matt Irvin	1672 Glenridge Drive	Nashville	37221

Congratulations to the winners of our Metro Christmas Lights contest, (sponsored by Metro Public Works, Metro Beautification and Environment Commission, Nashville Electric Service and News Channel 5)! Please feel free to take a drive sometime between now and the big day to take some slow family time and visit some of these addresses and enjoy some of the lights that these families have put up for all of us to see and enjoy. They get as much out of it as we do by our driving by and appreciating their hard work!

PRE AND POST-PLANTING TREE CARE: RECOMMENDATIONS

Most trees experience shock after transplanting because of disturbance to the root system. In balled & burlapped (B&B) plantings, very little of the original root system remains from the tree farm. On its own, trees will try to maintain a balance between the crown and the remaining root system. Once the tree is dug from the nursery (and is missing most of the original roots), it will either be stimulated to regenerate additional roots to balance the top, or the top partially dies back, or both so that the shoots and the roots establish equilibrium.

Although containerized trees have a complete root system when transplanted, the container has limited the volume and extent of the root system. Because of restricted root development, container-grown plants should be watered daily before transplanting. B&B trees should be sprinkled 3 or 4 times a week prior to transplanting. It is important for roots to quickly gain access to the future soil to insure long-term survivability.



SIZE OF PLANTING HOLE

The planting hole should be at least 2 or 3 times as wide as the

root ball. Wide, shallow holes encourage horizontal root growth and decrease resistance of root penetration into the native soil. The larger planting hole and loosened backfill will expedite root growth. The sooner the roots are able to penetrate and grow into the native soil, the sooner the tree will become fully established after transplanting.

SCORING ROOT BALLS

If roots are circling around the root ball exterior, cut through the roots in a few places. Circling roots are usually found in container grown stock. Cutting helps prevent circling roots from eventually girdling the trunk. Root cutting will also initiate root regeneration and growth that increases the likelihood that roots will grow from the container medium into the native soil.



WATERING

Water is the most critical factor in transplanting success. Keeping the soil moist, but not saturated, is the best avenue to ensure survival and growth of the landscaping. The wide variety of tree and shrub species as well as native

soil types, make overall watering recommendations unrealistic. Since transplanted trees require more water than they did in the nursery, apply enough to thoroughly soak the soil in the root zone. Frequent but smaller doses of water provide more benefit than applying large volumes infrequently because of the smaller root system. Drip irrigation systems and water reservoir devices such as “Gatorbags”, can facilitate watering. Proper water management is the key for establishing transplants quickly.

MULCH

Applying an organic mulch to the top of the transplanted root ball will conserve water in the soil, allow better percolation of water into the soil during rain or watering, and will help to prevent weeds. Having mulch around the newly planted tree will also keep the lawn mowers from damaging the trunk. Remember to NOT place mulch directly against the tree trunk, however. This could cause decay to start on the lower trunk.



Alert Holiday Shopping Means Safer Season

Shoppers are making their lists and checking them twice, but they are probably neglecting to check their safety. Just how safe is shopping at this time of the year? Perhaps shopping is not nearly as safe as people assume it to be, according to national safety experts.

This time of year has a tendency to attract more shopping-related criminal activity because of larger crowds and extended store hours. These factors, combined with the usual distractions related to shopping, create a more favorable environment for petty thieves and other offenders.

In light of these factors, experts warn shoppers to be on their guard so that they do not become one of the tens of millions a year who are victimized by some sort of criminal activity.

Across the U.S., malls and shopping centers are heightening security measures by hiring additional security personnel and installing surveillance cameras in areas such as parking lots and entranceways.

Unfortunately, when shopping, people sometimes have a tendency to become distracted and lose sight of their personal safety, but there are several precautions busy shoppers can take to help eliminate their chances of becoming a crime statistic.

Those safety precautions include:

- Always try to shop with another person. A single shopper is the ultimate target for theft.
- When going shopping, make sure that you tell someone where you are going and what time you expect to return home.
- Plan ahead. If you know you are going to return to your car after nightfall, park in a well-lit area. Note your parking place. Parking lots have a tendency to

look very different as cars come and go.

- If you are in a store and sense that you are being followed, locate a store employee or security personnel. Be prepared to give them a complete description of the person you suspect.
- If carrying cash, keep it in a front pocket. This makes it more difficult for a pickpocket to remove.
- Store car keys in a pant or jacket pocket. If your purse is stolen, you will still be able to drive home.
- Take only one or two credit cards and a couple of checks with you.
- Make a list of all credit card numbers and the numbers to call in case they are lost or stolen. This will make the incident a lot easier to report.
- If you feel uneasy returning to your car alone, find a security guard and ask him or her to walk you to your car.
- When returning to your car, check around it and in the back seat.
- Have your car keys in your hand to avoid spending unnecessary time unprotected from the security of your vehicle.

A little commonsense goes a long way toward making your holiday shopping experience safe for you and for your family.



Employee Highlights

Mattie Jones

Mattie Jones, is a Property Standards Inspector I, and is a member of our Property Standards “Blue Team” which is under the direct supervision of Jeff Castleberry.



Mattie has been employed with Metro Property Standards since 2005. She has an Associates degree in Computer Science. Ms. Jones was previously with the Codes Department in Little Rock, Arkansas for ten years where she was a Senior Code Enforcement Officer, supervising the Housing Team. Prior to joining Codes, she was employed with the State of Tennessee as a contract renewal specialist.

Her inspection territory covers parts of Madison, east Nashville, Donelson and Opry Mills area.

Ms. Jones extensive computer experience and her experience with the Codes Department in Arkansas has given her a unique perspective on codes enforcement which has enabled her to have a significant impact on the quality of life of the residents in her assigned territory.

Mattie is married to Thomas and has three adult children. She enjoys all things technical, reading and movies.

Employee Highlights

Christine Gruen

Ms. Gruen, the Inspector for the Sexually Oriented Business Licensing Board, conducts on-site inspections of sexually oriented businesses for compliance with the Metropolitan Code as well as investigates public complaints of businesses in violation.



“Working for this board gives me the opportunity to use my past law enforcement experience while utilizing my leadership ability. I can also take advantage of my clerical and organizational skills,” she said. “I believe I am a good fit for the job.”

Before moving to Nashville, Ms. Gruen worked as a special Agent for the Department of Justice specializing in White Collar Crime and Narcotics Trafficking. Prior to joining the Codes and Building Safety Department in 2007, she served as a Davidson County Sheriff’s Office Correctional Officer. She worked primarily in Special Management Unit housing combative, disciplinary and psychological-referral offenders.

Ms. Gruen holds a bachelors degree from Concordia University and an associate’s degree from Fox Valley Technical College. In addition, she attended Nashville State Technical College and Belmont University.

**Department of
Codes & Building Safety**

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

Mayor—Karl F. Dean

Director—Terrance Cobb
Assistant Director—Bill Penn

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





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.



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

Terry Cobb and **Bill Penn** welcome your feedback on our e-newsletter. Please send your comments to Bill Penn, Assistant Director, Property Standards Div , 862-6590