



Metro Codes

E—News For Neighborhoods

Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Clean Water Infrastructure Program Announced	1
Why We Train	2
Nashville To Host "Great American Cleanup"	2
Sustainable Landscapes	3
Nashville To Participate in International "Earth Hour" Event	4
Mayor Appoints Bicycle / Pedestrian Coordinator	5
April Is National Safe Digging Month	5



Clean water

is vital to life. The average person uses 50 gallons of water a day. In Nashville, our water comes from the Cumberland River. The water is cleaned and transported to over 174,000 businesses and homes by the department of Metro Water Services.

The water department is also responsible for collecting and treating wastewater and providing stormwater services. All of these services are supported by an extensive infrastructure system, including 2,994 miles of pressurized water mains, 44 water reservoirs and 57 pumping stations.

The cost of operating and maintaining this infrastructure is solely supported through revenues generated from rates customers pay for services, meaning Metro Water Services does not receive general tax funds.

Metro Water rates have not increased in over a decade. In fact, the last time rates were changed was in 1999 and they went down. Current rates are not sufficient to cover all operating costs and the cost of a necessary capital improvement program. While Nashville has an ample water supply through the Cumberland River, it is necessary to continually invest in our water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure to ensure we have plenty of safe, clean drinking water now and in the future.

The Clean Water Infrastructure Program (CWIP) will:

- Provide **economic benefits**. By making necessary capital investments now, we will prevent further deterioration of our infrastructure, which could lead to more costly repairs in the future.
- **Protect our environment** by meeting the requirements of the [Clean Water Act](#) by eliminating sewer overflows and properly addressing issues with stormwater runoff.
- **Ensure public health and safety** by maintaining a system that provides safe, clean drinking water and a sufficient water supply for fire protection.

Proposed Rate Adjustments

[Water and Sewer Rates](#) will be adjusted over a three-year period. Water rates and sewer rates are charged at different levels because the costs associated with operating the water system and the sewer system are different. The adjustment for the combined rate for the first year is 7.8 percent. The [impact on the average water and sewer bill](#) will be \$3.76.

A monthly [stormwater fee](#) will be assessed for all properties in Davidson County with the exception of those in the six satellite cities. The fee will be based on the amount of impervious square footage on the property. The [impact on the average residential bill](#) will be \$3.00. [Read more about the stormwater rate structure.](#)

The *late fee* will be reduced to \$2.50 or 5 percent of the total bill, whichever is more. In addition, the grace period before being charged a late fee will be extended from 15 days to 20 days from the bill date.

Capacity fees for both water and sewer will be reduced. The capacity fee for sewer will be reduced from \$2,000 per unit of flow to \$750, and the capacity fee for water will be reduced from \$1,000 per unit of flow to \$250.



WHY WE TRAIN

Regardless of the inspection assignment in the Department of Codes and Building Safety, it is very important for inspectors to have excellent knowledge and skills as a background for their assignment. Training each inspector on a regular basis insures currency in codes and standards, which brings with it better inspection services.

“The level and amount of training our inspectors has a great deal to do with the quality of the service we provide and a lot to do with public safety,” Terry Cobb, Director of Codes and Building Safety said. “By training our inspectors and their becoming certified in their professional area, we gain independent confirmation about what we already know about them...they are among the best at what they do.”

Cobb said that each inspector is required to be certified in their specific area and they are required to attend continuing education classes each year in order to maintain the certification.



Dwayne Hicks prepares Property Standards Inspectors for their upcoming Zoning Certification exam.

The Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance requires certification in fire prevention, building, plumbing, mechanical and electrical inspectors. The reason for the requirements is to establish a uniform minimum requirement designed to increase the level of competency and reliability for code enforcement personnel. Once certified, all inspectors are required to attend minimum of 36 hours of classroom continuing education to be re-certified each three years. Of these 36 hours, 24 hours are required in the area of certification and 12 other related (or elective) education hours.

“Of course, there are some legal obligations to make certain each inspector is highly skilled, but it goes beyond just being legal,” Cobb said. “It’s about being professional and being proficient in their skills. It is incumbent on this department to provide the highest possible level of inspection services for the citizens of our community.”

NASHVILLE NAMED A NATIONAL HOST VENUE FOR 2009 GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP™



Tennessee’s capitol will have the chance to showcase its Volunteer spirit and green initiatives this spring for Keep America Beautiful Inc.’s Great American Cleanup™.

Nashville is one of three U.S. cities selected by KAB to host national spotlight events this year, Mayor Karl Dean and KAB President Matt McKenna announced today. Held annually from March through May, the Great American Cleanup™ has become the nation’s largest volunteer coordination effort.

“As a national Spotlight City in this year’s Great American Cleanup, we have the opportunity to showcase to the rest of the country our commitment to clean streets and livable communities,” Mayor Dean said.

Nashville will host the final national event on May 14 with a day of community projects, volunteer cleanups and educational exhibits in and around the Tennessee Bicentennial Mall State Park. Planned activities include a kickoff rally, “green” exhibits and education programs, and community cleanups in surrounding neighborhoods.

Organizers are looking to recruit 1,000 volunteers from all 95 counties in Tennessee to demonstrate the “Volunteer State” moniker in action.

“My goal is to make Nashville the greenest city in the Southeast.”

Mayor Karl Dean



“Tennesseans have never hesitated to roll up their sleeves and get to work on making our state better,” said Governor Phil Bredesen. “I applaud the volunteers who made Tennessee the first state in the nation to achieve 100 percent participation in the Great American Clean-up and I challenge all Tennesseans to keep the momentum going by volunteering for this year’s event.”

TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely added, “Litter is an eyesore and litter cleanup is one expense I’d like to permanently cut from our budget. Be responsible and put trash in its place. Keeping our state beautiful is a responsibility we all share.”

Waveland, Miss., and New York City are the other 2009 spotlight cities. Since Hurricane Katrina, KAB has selected a community in the Gulf Coast region as a host venue to keep attention focused on cleanup and rebuilding efforts still needed there. New York’s Times Square has hosted an annual Great American Cleanup kickoff rally in recent years; other host cities in the past include Chicago, Los Angeles and Sacramento, Calif.

“We are ‘The Volunteer State.’ Our statewide voluntarism has set the national standard for the Great American Cleanup™. This 2009 Nashville celebration honors these heartland efforts and will be a role model for states across America,” Edith Heller, State Leader for Keep Tennessee Beautiful, said.

(Continued on page 3)

Great American Cleanup (Continued from page 2)

Each spring, the Great American Cleanup™ rallies more than 2 million volunteers in projects that engage individuals in improving their community's environment and quality of life. Activities include beautification projects, litter cleanups, educational events, graffiti removals, recycling drives and illegal sign removals.

"The direct impact that volunteer efforts have on a community is truly inspiring," Veronica Frazier, Metro Beautification director, said, adding that in just the last six months, local volunteers

have collected approximately 150 tons of trash and debris in Davidson County.

"With that incredible statistic in mind, we enthusiastically welcome volunteers from across the great state of Tennessee for our Spotlight City Event in May," Frazier said. "We know their efforts will benefit residents and visitors to our State capitol, and also be a call to action for the many dedicated Keep America Beautiful volunteers across the nation."

To learn more about Nashville's Great American Cleanup Party, or to volunteer for an event on May 14, please contact Vickie Ingram at Metro Beautification and Environment, (615) 862-8418. Or visit www.nashville.gov.beautification.

Nine Out of Ten Households Believe It's Important to Maintain Their Landscapes in a Sustainable Way

By Bruce Butterfield, National Gardening Association and Keri Butler, Scotts Miracle-Gro South

Nine out of 10 households believe it's important to maintain their landscapes in a way that benefits the environment. However, only half (53 percent) of all households said they are knowledgeable about how to maintain lawns and gardens in an environmental friendly way, according to the National Gardening Association's (NGA) Environmental Lawn and Garden Survey.

Environmentally sound lawn and garden care involves appropriate maintenance practices, selecting the proper product for the situation, on-target application in the correct amount, and only watering landscapes when needed.

The key 2008 NGA Environmental Lawn and Garden Survey highlights include:

- Nine out of 10 households said it's important to manage their lawns and gardens in an environmentally friendly way
- Only half (53 percent) of all households say they are knowledgeable about how to maintain their home lawn or garden using good environmental stewardship practices
- Thirty percent of households admit they are 'not at all' or 'not very' knowledgeable about how to care for their landscape in a way that benefits the environment.

"This year's research reinforces an increased need for homeowner education about simple, actionable ways they can be a good environmental steward at home while cultivating a healthy lawn or garden," said Bruce Butterfield, research director at the National Gardening Association. "We conducted this study to better understand lawn and garden care trends and consumer attitudes, and industry leaders take notice."

Meeting the need for homeowner education

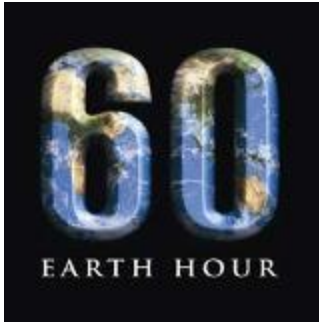
This spring The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, in partnership with Keep America Beautiful, is educating millions of homeowners across the county about how watering, feeding, and lawns and gardens can work together to maximize the environmental benefits of green spaces. This includes sharing easy ways they can maintain a healthy lawn and beautiful garden and conserve water.

Here are some low-water use lawn and garden care tips, including:

- **Feed Regularly** – Maintaining a healthy lawn or beautiful garden involves regular feedings. A healthy lawn is able to absorb and use water more efficiently, and recover from drought quickly once water becomes available. Plants must receive nutrients to produce foliage, flowers and fruit.
- **Water Wisely** – Rely on rainfall for watering lawns and gardens as much as possible. Watch for signs of lack of water, such as dry soil or wilting, before watering.
- **Mow High** – Set your mower to its highest setting. Longer grass blades promote deeper roots that help retain moisture.
- **Leave Grass Clippings on the Lawn** – Recycled grass clippings return organic matter and nutrients to the soil. It's an easy way to save clean-up time and improve your soil quality.
- **Keep Fertilizer on the Lawn** – Sweep fertilizer and grass clippings off driveways, sidewalks and curbs and back onto your lawn. This protects rivers, lakes and streams by keeping nutrients on the lawn.
- **Select the Right Plants** – Choose easy-to-grow plants and lawn types that are well-adapted or native to your region. Avoid plants with known pest problems.



Earth Hour Set For March 28



Mayor Karl Dean called on all Nashvillians to make a positive statement for our environment by turning off all nonessential lights for one hour on March 28 as Earth Hour will mark the first time that Nashville's historic downtown district will intentionally go dark.

This is the World Wildlife Fund's global initiative that aims to increase awareness about climate change and demonstrate that people from all over the world care about the issue.

"On March 28 at 8:30 p.m., Nashville will make a bold statement about the need to address climate change," Mayor Dean said. "Our skyline, our iconic buildings from the Loveless Cafe to the Parthenon, our neighborhoods, and thousands of homes and businesses will go dark for one hour when nonessential lights are turned off."

Mayor Dean has set a goal to make Nashville "the greenest city in the Southeast," and has appointed a Green Ribbon Committee to make recommendations on environmental policy.

"The city's participation in Earth Hour falls right in line with the work of the Green Ribbon Committee and is one more way for Nashville to distinguish itself as a city that's going green," Mayor Dean said.

Nashville is one of seven U.S. cities leading the global effort to show support for action on climate change. On Dec. 10, 2008, WWF announced that Nashville would serve as an official "flagship" city for Earth Hour 2009. Other flagship cities are Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, Las Vegas, Atlanta and San Francisco.

Jo Dee Messina, award-winning, multi-platinum recording artist and the Nashville Earth Hour 2009 celebrity spokeswoman, said that when she heard Nashville had been selected as an Earth Hour flagship city, she knew she wanted to be a part of it.

"When it comes to the environment, we all play a part, and it's up to all of us to take action," Messina said. "That is why Earth Hour is such a great campaign. It lets something as simple as flicking a light switch become so much more. Earth Hour reminds everyone that if we all put in a little effort, we can achieve big results."

Messina also announced that several other Nashville celebrities have signed on in support of Earth Hour including: [Wynonna Judd](#), [Big Kenny](#), [Kathy Mattea](#), [Amy Grant](#), [Vince Gill](#), [Lady Antebellum](#), [Dierks Bentley](#), Michael Nouri, [Jars of Clay](#), [SHeDAISY](#) and [Terri Clark](#).

While Nashvillians throughout the city are encouraged to turn off their lights for the event, a central focus of Nashville's Earth Hour celebration will be the downtown area -- specifically Lower Broadway and Second Avenue.

The mayor's office and WWF are partnering with many downtown businesses to ensure that nonessential lighting is turned out during Earth Hour. Lights affecting public safety, such as lights in public spaces and in hospitals, will remain on.

To date, more than 80 businesses and local landmarks have agreed to turn off their non-essential lights, including many of Lower Broadway's well-known honky-tonks and restaurants -- Robert's Western World, Layla's Bluegrass Inn, Legends Corner, Big River Grille and Paradise Park. The Jack's Bar-B-Que sign, widely recognized for its neon pigs flying over Broadway, will be turned off for the first time since it was installed more than 10 years ago. Organizers are encouraging Nashvillians to participate in Earth Hour by turning off nonessential lights at their homes prior to 8:30 p.m., and then heading down to Lower Broadway and Second Avenue to watch as downtown goes dark.



Mayor Karl Dean, recording artist [Jo Dee Messina](#), officials from World Wildlife Fund, and dozens of local business owners and city leaders today called on all Nashvillians to make a positive statement for our environment by turning off all nonessential lights for one hour on March 28.

"Just as Nashville is known worldwide for great music, now with Earth Hour it joins a chorus of cities worldwide pledging support for action on climate change," said Leslie Aun, WWF's managing director of Earth Hour U.S. "We salute Mayor Dean and city leaders for their leadership to make Nashville a more sustainable and environmentally friendly city. Our WWF scientists are working in Nashville to help protect Middle Tennessee's rich river ecosystem."

Earth Hour began in 2007 in Sydney, Australia, when 2.2 million homes and businesses turned their lights off for one hour. In 2008, Earth Hour went global. More than 50 million people turned out their lights, and the world's most iconic landmarks went dark, including the Empire State Building, the Golden Gate Bridge and the Roman Coliseum. WWF expects Earth Hour 2009 to be even bigger. From Warsaw to Hong Kong, more than 400 cities in 74 countries will go dark this March.

[The Tennessean](#) and [TennesseeGreen.com](#), [News Channel 5](#), [Lamar Outdoor Advertising](#), [Nashville Electric Service](#), and [Lightning 100's Team Green](#) are presenting sponsors for Nashville Earth Hour. Wells Fargo, The Coca-Cola Company, HP, Cox Conserves and Esurance are national Earth Hour sponsors. For more information about Nashville Earth Hour or to sign up to participate, visit www.EarthHourUS.org/Nashville.

MAYOR APPOINTS BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN COORDINATOR

Work to include coordinating efforts of recently formed Bike/Ped Advisory Committee



Mayor Karl Dean has appointed a Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator for the Mayor's Office. Toks Omishakin, currently the Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner for the Metro Planning Department, is moving to the Mayor's Office.

tent effort and coordination from my office," Dean said. "Toks brings to my office the right experience and expertise in this area. I look forward to what I know he will be able to help us accomplish."

Omishakin will work with various Metro and State departments on policy issues related to pedestrians and cyclists, including coordinating efforts of the BPAC.

During his tenure with Metro Planning, Omishakin spent five years managing Music City Moves, a community partnership committed to community design that supports active lifestyles. He also worked on bicycle and pedestrian issues for Nashville's 14 planning communities, and on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Sidewalks and Bikeways, which was originally completed in 2003.

The appointment follows an update to the Strategic Plan for Sidewalks and Bikeways, initiated by the mayor shortly after taking office in the fall of 2007. Dean also recently appointed a Bicycle and Pedestrian

Advisory Committee (BPAC) to assist in the implementation of the updated sidewalks and bikeways plan and other efforts to make Nashville a more walkable and bikeable city.

"My goal is to transform Nashville into one of the most walkable and bikeable cities in the country, and to do that will take consis-

April 2009 Is National Safe Digging Month

Tennessee 811 and the Common Ground Alliance will be promoting Safe Digging Month in April.

This is also the 2nd anniversary of 811, the national "Call Before You Dig" phone number.



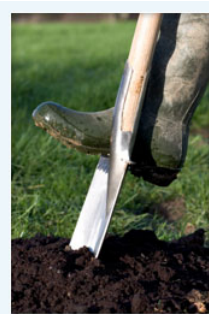
The number 811 was designated by the FCC to eliminate any confusion of multiple "call before you dig" numbers and to help save lives by minimizing damages to underground utilities.

We encourage you to visit www.call811.com to obtain the link for displaying the button shown on your website for the month of April.

Let's all work together to make Tennessee a safe place to live and work.



What You Need To Know Before You Dig!



Are you planning a home improvement job? Planting a tree? Installing a fence or deck? WAIT! Here's what you need to know first:

Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling 811 before each job. Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call – even small projects like planting trees and shrubs.

While trees clean our air, provide shade and beauty, and make our yards and homes more comfortable, planting them is complicated and must be thoughtfully planned out.

Where you plant your tree is very important. When planting your tree, you may be tempted to plant where the tree would look the best or provide the most shade, but that could be a mistake. Not only could you damage an underground utility line when you plant it, but as your tree matures its roots may grow into your utility lines and disrupt your service, requiring you to remove what you've planted. Or, a tree planted too close to your home could damage your foundation. Smart digging is no accident: always call 811 before you dig.

Know the growth habits of the tree you are planting, and how its roots will grow when mature. For instance, the root systems of willow trees are particularly aggressive and should be planted well away from any underground impediment. Think above you too...make sure your new tree will not grow tall enough to interfere with overhead lines either.

All states require those who plan on digging to call ahead to get their utility lines marked before digging, and while your desired spot might make a great location for a swing, it may be directly above an underground utility line. By calling 811 a few days before you dig, you'll make sure your tree will provide all the benefits you want while still protecting your property and family. One easy phone call to 811 gets your underground utility lines marked for free.

Remember, know what's below. Always call before you dig.

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.

**Department of
Codes & Building Safety**


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Terry Cobb and **Bill Penn** welcome your feedback on our e-newsletter. Please send your comments to [Bill Penn](mailto:bill.penn@nashville.gov), at bill.penn@nashville.gov Assistant Director, Property Standards Div , 862-6590



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