



# Metro Codes

E—News For Neighborhoods

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Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

April, 2009



## Inoperable and unlicensed vehicles

**Inoperable and unlicensed motor vehicles are unsightly and can present a wide range of hazards for a community. Neighborhood organizations join with Metro Codes to combat this growing threat.**



### Inoperable and Unlicensed Motor Vehicles

*Unsightly and hazardous, left unchecked, these violations can quickly degrade the appearance of a neighborhood.*

Every day Codes receives requests for service for vehicle violations. These range from vehicles parking on the grass to inoperable and unlicensed motor vehicles. These violations are more than an eyesore, they can be threats to the health, safety and welfare of the community.

According to Robert Nash, Commander of East Precinct, “Abandoned and inoperable vehicles are indeed considered safety hazards that can be used as places to hide illegal drugs, and often are. This kind of activity has a direct and obvious impact on law enforcement.”

Codes has worked closely with the Metro Police Department to eliminate these hazards. Many of Nashville’s neighborhood organizations have joined us, greatly enhancing our ability to identify and abate this nuisance.

One effective new tool being used by neighborhood groups and Metro Police is the [NOTICE program](#). This is a community support program that trains volunteers on basic Property Standards violation types and provide an improved method for reporting those violations.

There is an exception to the vehicle parking regulation. If a vehicle has a handicapped placard or license plate

on the vehicle, then that vehicle can be parked in the yard.

It is also a violation to have a vehicle on the property that is in a state of major disassembly. Major auto repairs on residential property can only done inside a garage. Anyone operating a repair business in a residential zone would also be in violation of the law.

When you suspect a vehicle is in violation, take the following steps:

- When reporting a vehicle violation, be sure to give us a complete address
- Remember that a vehicle with handicapped tags or placard can be parked on the grass
- If you observe an abandoned vehicle being used for illegal (drug related) activity, notify Metro Police and Codes

#### Vehicle Related Violations February 2009

Parking on the Grass & Unlicensed / Inoperable Vehicles	437
Abandoned Vehicles	51
Boats & Trailers	3



#### Vehicle Violation Types

- Vehicles parked on the grass
- Vehicles parked without current license plates
- Vehicles in a state of major disrepair
- Vehicles used as storage containers



#### Our Readers Ask:

Q: “Can I have a hobby car?”

A: A hobby car is generally defined as a motor vehicle that is in disrepair. It may run, but it has some deficiency that prevents the vehicle from passing the Federal emissions inspection, and the vehicle does not have a current metal license plate.

Any vehicle that is not able to operate on the city streets under it’s own power and does not have a current license plate is in violation of the Property Standards Code, section 16.24.330 (K).

If a vehicle is being restored or repaired, whether for a hobby or any other purpose, that vehicle must be stored in a garage or other building or structure designed to house a motor vehicle. Carports, tents or car covers are not acceptable storage locations if the vehicle is not operational and/or licensed.

It should also be noted that vehicles with an antique license plate must still meet the same criteria for a vehicle stored on residential property in that the vehicle has to be fully operational and the license plate must be current.

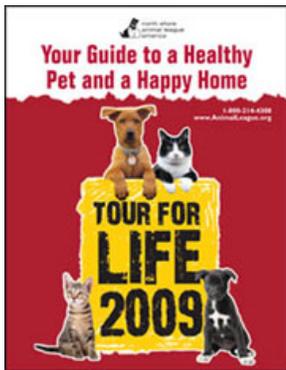
For more information call us at 862-6590.

## Metro Codes

E—News For Neighborhoods

### Volunteers Sought For Emergency Response

Mayor Karl Dean, the Metropolitan Public Health Department and the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management joined Hands On Nashville today as it announced its largest emergency recruitment drive ever, for more than 4,000 volunteers. To sign up go to [www.hon.org](http://www.hon.org)



### Nashville To Take Part In Nationwide Adoption Event

Nashville has been selected as a tour stop for the Tour for Life -- the world's largest cooperative pet adoption event, which will take place April 11 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Metro Animal Care and Control.



### Sign Up To Stay Informed By The Mayor's Office

The Mayor's Office is starting a new e-mail subscription list to distribute information about the mayor's initiatives, community meetings and other Metro news. Provide your name and e-mail address and receive periodic updates from the Mayor's Office.

**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](mailto:bill.penn@nashville.gov)  
Assistant Director, Property Standards Div , 862-6590

### Illegal Signs... Don't Break the Law!

### Signs placed on utility poles and public right of ways are unsightly and violate Metro Code.

*Here's what the law says...* Signs erected on public property, or on private property (such as private utility poles) located on public property, other than signs erected by public authority for public purposes or as otherwise authorized by the Metropolitan Council" are illegal!

*Local law further says it is* "unlawful for any person to affix in any manner any sign, placard, poster, card, banner or other indicia of the interests of any person, group or organization on any post or pole, including, but not limited to, light and telephone poles, on any street, sidewalk, thoroughfare or public right-of-way within the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Government."

To report an illegal sign, call Metro Codes and Building Safety at 862-6590.

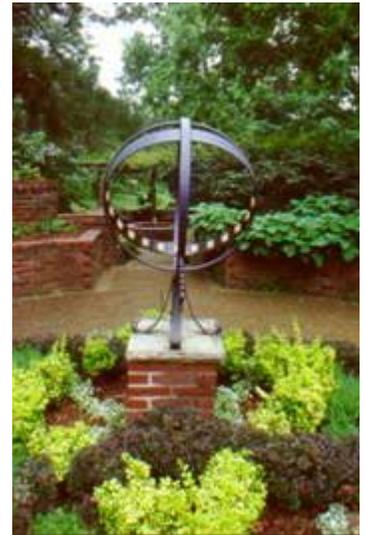


Cheekwood in Nashville, TN, has set its annual Wildflower Fair for Saturday, **April 4, 2009**.

This year the sale is for one day only from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., but will still feature a wide array of native plants for the Midsouth.

They are also hosting a Howe Wild! Auction and Cocktail Supper on April 2. The live & silent auctions will feature all kinds of plants both common and unique.

The auction and plant sale benefit the Howe Wildflower Garden at Cheekwood.



The Burr Terrace Garden



### 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.

## Property Standards Division Starts Monthly Sign Sweeps

The Property Standards Division conducted its first weekend sign sweep of 2009 in March. This is part of Code's pro-active enforcement program. One Saturday each month Codes inspectors travel the County looking for illegal sign and banners.

Many of the illegal signs seen on the right of way are placed at the curb in the evenings or on weekends only, so it is important for Codes to make these types of inspections in order to abate these violations. Codes has worked with Metro Beautification, Metro Police and Public Works in its illegal sign enforcement efforts.

"Several Metro departments are given the authority and duty to enforce under several different sections of the Metro Code of Laws," said Terry Cobb, Director of Codes. "The authority granted includes the authority to remove the sign and/or to cite the violator and prosecute the violator. The Codes Dept is one of them under authority of the Metro Zoning Code. "

The other departments with the authority to remove signs and/or cite violators to court include the Traffic & Parking Commission (Public Works), the Metro Police Dept, and NES (if attached to power poles or NES equipment).

The removal of bootleg signs from the public ROW is a constant vigil. Codes removes thousands of these signs over the 530 sq mi jurisdiction of the Metro Government each year.

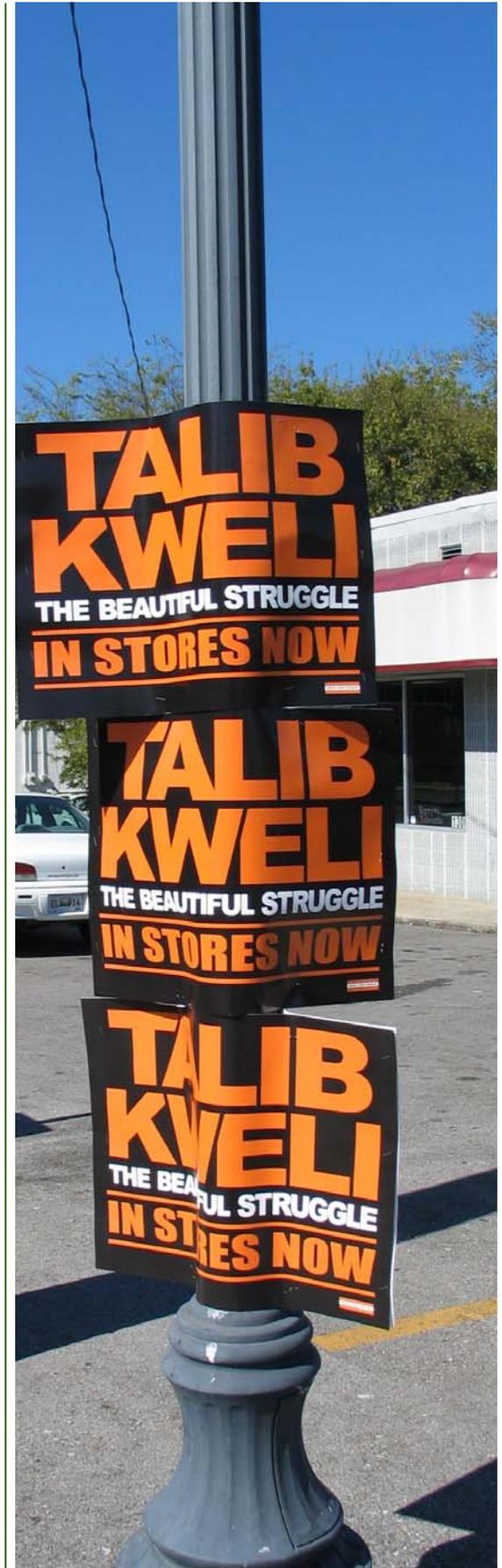
### Illegal Signs Removed—2008

Signs Removed	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Total
Blue Team	201	1,558	1,326	386	2,260
Red Team	502	433	159	12	1,106
Flex Team	229	39	265	107	640
<b>Total Removed in 2008</b>					<b>4,006</b>

Note: These totals include signs removed during our monthly sign sweeps and during our inspectors daily inspections in their assigned territories.

What can you do to help:

- Promptly remove small ground signs from your yard. These include those that advertise services and political signs
- Only post signs advertising a yard sale on your property, not on utility poles or on the right of way, that's illegal
- Banners are temporary signs and they require a permit
- Permanent signs have to be made of a rigid material, banners cannot be used as a permanent sign
- Ground signs along the right of way are illegal. They can only be used on private property with the permission of the property owner.
- Ground signs advertising real estate can only be posted on the property being offered for sale, not along the right of way, that's illegal
- It is illegal to attach signs to utility poles, lamp poles or other structures
- Other than a political sign, anyone can remove ground signs from the right of way and signs attached to utility poles. Illegal signs on private property should be reported to Metro Codes





**Nashville Earth Day Festival 2009**  
together growing a greener Nashville

**Saturday, April 18, 2009**

**Centennial Park**  
**11:00 a.m. to 7 p.m.**  
**FREE**

**Environmental exhibits and workshops on clean air, water, food and farming, cooking demonstrations, organic gardening and much more!**

**Youth activities**

**Live music**

**Bike parking available**

[Click here for more details!](#)

## Spring Gardening Tips

### Helpful hits for a “Greener” Nashville!

For some reason, outdoor jobs that must be done in the spring become enjoyable activities while they’re simply chores at other times of the year. Perhaps it is the anticipation of a new season about to begin and visions of colorful, fragrant blooms that are soon to appear.



Your lawn might be a bit of a sorry sight after the winter, but with a bit of TLC, you can coax it back to verdant life. If you can see a fair amount of thatch (the dead, straw-like stuff that is often tangled near the grass roots) you will need to rake it out before you attempt any other lawn care projects. The reason? Anything you add, such as new seed or fertilizer will simply sit on the thatch, rather than getting down into the soil, unless it is removed.

Once you have de-thatched your lawn, you can add a fertilizer. Most garden centers carry a variety of lawn fertilizers. If you’re uncertain, describe your lawn conditions to the manager at the garden center and ask him or her to recommend a particular type of fertilizer. Above all, when using fertilizer, be sure to read the instructions thoroughly!

If you need to re-seed (sometimes called overseeding), that’s the final step after any de-thatching or fertilizing that your lawn needed.

Now is a good time to plant those new roses, berries, fruit trees and most deciduous plants. If you’re still not sure what to plant, there’s still time to go online and do some research but don’t leave it too long.

As for transplanting existing plants from one spot to another, time is running out, so do it as soon as you can because many plants are already starting their annual spring growth.

If you need to prune ornamental trees and shrubs, the best time to do so is before growth starts. The exceptions to that rule are spring-flowering shrubs. For those, you need to wait until after they finish flowering. This would be a good time to prune roses if they look like they need a trim. Again, I’m happy to advise on any specific pruning questions you might have.

Weeding is probably everyone’s least-favorite garden activity, perhaps because it feels destructive rather than constructive, and it can be backbreaking work. Do a little at a time, interspersed with more enjoyable garden activities.

If you’re using a cultivator as part of your spring gardening project, don’t be tempted to use it in bulb beds. Remove the weeds by hand or you’ll risk injuring the delicate root systems.

Even if it is still too early to plant perennials in your area, take a look around your landscape and decide if you can brighten the place up with a few new “faces.” Gardening books and magazines and online Web sites should give you plenty of ideas, once you determine the amount of sunlight and the soil conditions affecting that part of your landscape.

Buying perennials that have already experienced at least one full growing season is worth the additional cost as they will probably be sturdier and more likely to thrive than smaller, cheaper options.

Perennial plants are the backbone of the flower garden because they’re the plants with staying power. Their leaves die back as winter approaches, but with luck, the following spring, they come back. Some plants are short-lived, but old favorites like daylilies, and hostas can thrive for decades.



## Green Power Switch Program

Nashville Electric Service and the Tennessee Valley Authority offer consumers a great opportunity to support the growth of

green power in the Tennessee Valley. It's called Green Power Switch (GPS) Generation Partners.

This program provides support and incentives for the installation of solar and wind generating facilities. This makes more green power available for GPS subscribers. And it creates a market for small-scale green power generation by homeowners and small businesses.

### How the program works

- A solar or wind generation source is installed by a residential or small commercial power customer served by a participating distributor of TVA power.
- TVA will purchase 100 percent of the green power output at a rate of 15 cents per kilowatt-hour. Residential users may also qualify for an additional \$500 incentive to help offset start-up costs.
- Payment is made in the form of a credit issued by the local power distributor on the monthly power bill for the home or business where the generation system is located. Payments are guaranteed for 10 years from the date of the contract. Energy consumed at the home or business, whether it is generated at the site or delivered over the local power distribution system, is billed at the standard rate. All equipment must be in compliance with national standards and all applicable codes and be certified by a licensed electrician. Generating the power can come in several ways:

### Wind Power

Wind turbines can generate electric power anywhere the wind blows steady and strong. Large blades are attached to the shaft of an efficient electric generator. Eighteen turbines have been added to TVA's wind power generating site on Buffalo Mountain near Oak Ridge, TN.

### Solar Power

The sun is an incredibly powerful source of energy. Photovoltaic panels harness that power and transform solar energy into usable electricity. When sun rays hit a solar panel, some of the electrons inside become charged and create an electrical current.

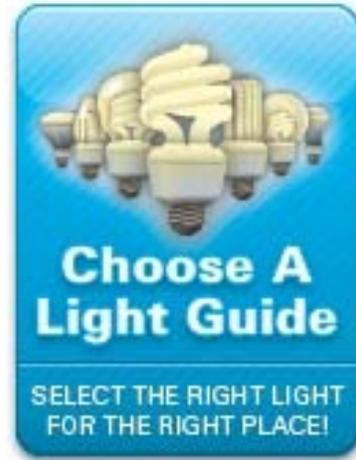
### Methane Gas

There's treasure in your trash. Using methane gas as fuel to power an electric generator actually helps reduce air pollution. Unlike when it's released directly into the atmosphere as a potent greenhouse gas. Energy recovered from methane eliminates the consumption of more than 20,000 tons of coal per year.

GPS Generation Partners support the environment by using renewable energy sources, and they also help themselves by defraying investment costs and lowering their monthly energy bills through the revenue they receive from the sale of the green power.

You do not have to subscribe to the Green Power Switch program to participate in GPS Generation Partners, nor does the power distributor have to be a participant in Green Power Switch.

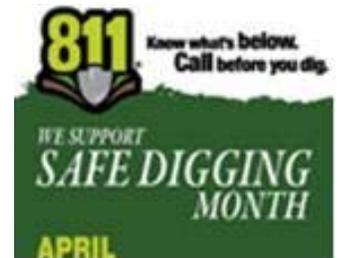
If you're interested in learning more about becoming a GPS Generation Partner, contact NES.



**Did You Know:** If every American home replaced just one light bulb with an ENERGY STAR qualified bulb, we would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year, more than \$600 million in annual energy costs, and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 800,000 cars.

## 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](http://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.

## 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

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

Mayor - Karl F. Dean

Director - Terrence Cobb  
Asst. Director - Bill Penn  
Office Hours: Mon-Fri / 7:30-4:00



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



## Alarm Registration Required

The [alarm registration law](#) for Metro Nashville requires that all alarm systems in operation in Davidson County be registered annually with the Metropolitan Clerk's Office.

A [registration form](#) with pertinent information must be on file in the Clerk's Office.

The permit fee is **\$20.00** for residential systems and **\$50.00** for commercial systems. All permits expire April 1 each year.

The registration form and payment may be mailed to:

Alarm Registration  
P.O. Box 196321  
Nashville TN 37219-6321

A permit may be obtained in person at:

Metropolitan Clerk's Office  
205 Metropolitan Courthouse  
Nashville TN 37201

Changes can be made at any time by sending revised information and a \$2.50 computer fee to the Metropolitan Clerk's Office.

For further information, send requests to [alarms@nashville.gov](mailto:alarms@nashville.gov)