

Metro Codes

E—News For Neighborhoods

Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

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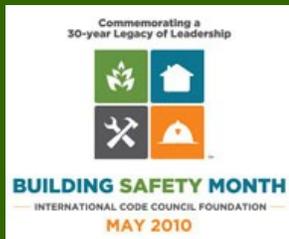
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Photo courtesy Gary Layda

Emergency Weather Season begins In Tennessee

Mayor Announces Volunteer Program To Support Metro Schools



Being a Better Neighbor *A Good Neighbor Is A Responsible Neighbor*

Drive through any residential neighborhood in Nashville and you are likely to see loose trash along the side of the road or in yards and especially in drainage ditches, drainage ditches that have been allowed to become overgrown, and piles of brush and junk stacked at the curb when it will be weeks or months before Metro makes it's next pickup rotation.

Each of these scenes are examples of residents who are not being "responsible" good neighbors. A lot of people are getting the message about junk cars, parking on the grass, and the maintenance of their homes. But, when it comes to areas that either do not belong to them or are things that while they might not be in violation, just a little more effort would result in that person really being a good neighbor.

For example, in the Urban Service district, one must remove their waste container from the curb. The code does not specify how far from the curb it has to be, but we all know that 95 gallon waste carts anywhere near the curb are unsightly and have to potential of being blown or knocked into the roadway. A good neighbor would remove the cart from the front of their property, even though this is not required by the law.

Taking this a step further, leaving a cart in the front yard is "ugly". Unfortunately, "ugly" is not a codes violation. However, the desire to be a really good neighbor should motivate us to eliminate "ugliness" from our property.

Drainage ditches are a common feature in Nashville. And it's become all to common to see them overgrown and full of loose trash and debris. This makes for an "ugly" situation in front of the home and it interferes with the proper operation of the drainage ditch. And the bad part of that is, it usually effects folks down (or in rare case, those up) stream. Those of us who live on streets that connect to the bus lines know all about the results of the foot traffic to and from the bus stop. There is the persistent trail of food wrappers, cups, and other loose trash that gets discarded along the roadside. This trash ends up either in our yards or in our drainage ditches. Responsible neighbors don't lament the trifling behavior of others, they regularly remove this trash as it occurs.

If you are like me, picking up trash after others is a real sore point with me. I could no more toss a cup or food wrapper on the ground as I could bring myself to toss trash out my car window. I have to face the fact that there are folks out there who think that behavior is OK, so I find myself picking up someone else's trash.

We all know Metro has had to cut budgets and that has meant a reduction in services. Metro Storm Water and Public Works need our help to maintain the drainage ditches in from of our homes. Don't let them fill up with trash and debris, and make cutting and weed eating them a part of your regular lawn maintenance program. It will improve the performance of the drainage feature and it will enhance the appearance of your yard.

Director of Codes & Building Safety Speaks at Vanderbilt's Sustainable Buildings Program

Terry Cobb, Director of Codes and Building Safety, speaking at Vanderbilt University's "Sustainable Buildings: Progress, Practice and Challenges" program, discussed the efforts being undertaken by his department as well as Metropolitan government related to green construction and sustainability.



Terry Cobb, Director of Codes & Building Safety discusses the efforts of his department to promote sustainable development along with Bill Young, Executive Vice President, AGC of Tennessee.

The program, presented by Vanderbilt University Construction Management Program, brought together local as well as national sustainability leaders (who have already incorporated this movement into their designs, construction practices and building operations) to share their thoughts and views on the topic.

Included in the program were discussions of Legal Issues in Sustainable Buildings focusing on the Green Standard

or care and managing Green Building Risks; National Trends in Green healthcare Buildings; panel discussion of Vanderbilt University's Sustainable Buildings program; as well as a presentation of the Empire State Building Retrofit; LEED for Existing buildings.



Architects, Engineers, and other building design professionals take advantage of the Sustainable Building program offered by the Vanderbilt School of Engineering.

Mayor creates program for Metro employees to volunteer in Schools

Mayor Karl Dean signed an Executive Order formalizing a new program to allow Metro employees to volunteer in Nashville Public Schools during the work week.

The Executive Order specifies that Metro employees can receive up to 2 hours of paid administrative leave every week for their participation in the program – 1 hour to volunteer and additional time up to an hour for travel to and from the school. The program is intended to generate more hands-on community support in schools by making it easier for thousands of Metro employees to volunteer their time.

“Research has shown that when students are paired up with volunteer tutors or mentors, they are more likely to improve their grades, be more engaged in school, and most importantly, to graduate from high school,” Dean said. “From mentoring and tutoring students, to serving as a classroom aide, to working in the school library, and helping with projects to beautify and enhance our schools, the volunteer opportunities are many and varied. I feel certain any Metro employee with passion for giving will find a place where their talents and knowledge can benefit our schools.”

Dean signed the Executive Order while visiting Warner Elementary in East Nashville. He was joined by Metro Nashville Public Schools Director Dr. Jesse Register and Connie Williams, executive director of the PENCIL Foundation.

The Mayor’s Office of Children & Youth has partnered with PENCIL to manage the volunteer program. The program will start in 10 Metro Schools and grow with demand. PENCIL has already identified specific volunteer needs in the 10 schools and will be responsible for volunteer placement and tracking volunteer hours.

“We are so pleased to work with Mayor Dean as we connect the skills and interests of Metro employees to the needs of our students and schools,” Williams said. “Community-school partnerships are PENCIL’s area of expertise, and we know that caring adults can have an enormous impact on the success of school-age children.”



Mayor Karl Dean talks with two Warner Elementary School students who attended the announcement and signing ceremony for the new volunteer program.

The 10 schools participating in the initial startup of the program are:

Dan Mills Elementary, John Early Middle, Cane Ridge High, Dodson Elementary, East Literature, J.T. Moore Middle, LEAD Academy, Madison Middle, McGavock High and Wharton Elementary.

Metro employees interested in the program can register online at www.pencilfd.org/volunteer/metro_employees.

The schools volunteer program is part of a larger effort to increase volunteerism in Nashville. Mayor Dean is a founding member of Cities of Service, a national coalition of city mayors committed to filling needs in their communities by encouraging volunteerism and service. During today’s signing ceremony, Dean called on private sector employers to create similar leave policies to encourage their employees to volunteer in Nashville Public Schools.



The Metro Arts Commission will host works from two new local artists with an exhibition in their offices on the 4th Floor of the Metro Office Building located at 800 2nd Avenue, South. The exhibit will feature works by Daniel Arite and Harry C. Underwood. There will be an opening reception at the Commission on Thursday, March 18, 2010 from 3:00 to 4:30 PM.

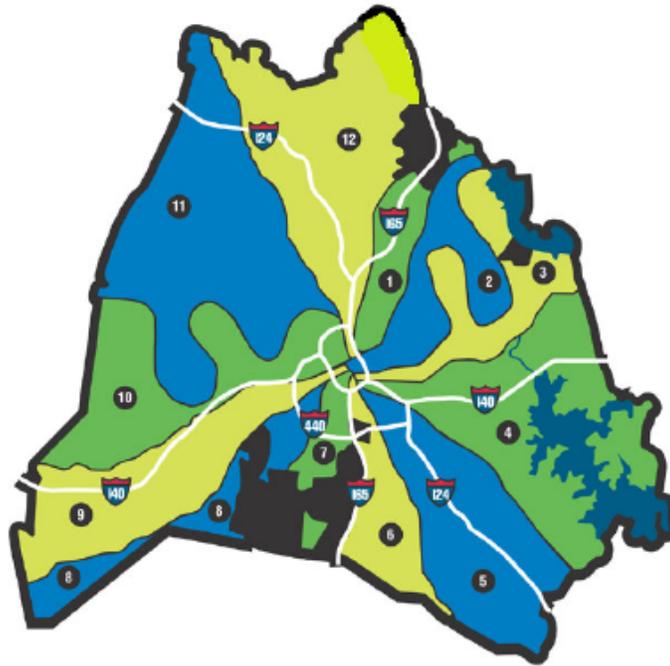


**Daniel Arite's
“Ceremony”**



**Harry C. Underwood's
“Southern Energy Home”**

Public Works Brush Collection Schedule



I LIVE IN AREA _____.

2009 – 2010 Brush Collection Schedule

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

To confirm your area, please call 880-1000 or visit: <http://mpw.nashville.gov/Row/Services/Default.aspx> and you may also sign-up to receive e-mail reminders when brush collection will begin in your area.

For information on how and where to place your brush for collection visit: www.nashville.gov/brush

Print this page and post on your refrigerator or bulletin board in your home or office.

It's March—Time To Get Ready For Spring!

Planting tips to get your yard and garden off to a great start

March is one of those months where almost anything can happen. It might be really warm one day and it could be snowing the next. But, we know for certain that spring is just around the corner so there is much to do around the house to get ready.

March is the month when many of the beautiful spring flowering perennials begin to flower. Aubrietia, Candytuft, Rock Cress, Bergenia, Snowdrops, Witch-hazel and many others will be brightening your days.

SHRUBS and TREES

- In most areas it is still possible to do dormant spraying of fruit trees until the 15th, after that date dilute the spray by 1/2. Spraying should be done on a still day with the temperature above 40 degrees F.
- Late March and early April is a good time to transplant shrubs and trees. As soon as the soil is workable, but before buds have swelled or broken open, you can move shrubs and trees.
- Fertilize shrubs and trees if this wasn't done in February. Use an acid type rhododendron fertilizer to feed evergreens, conifers, broad leaf evergreens, rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias. Use an all-purpose fertilizer to feed roses and other deciduous trees and shrubs. If you use granular type fertilizers, be sure to water it in thoroughly. Finish pruning fruit trees this month - before the buds swell.

PERENNIALS, ANNUALS and BULBS

- Removing winter mulches from your flower beds- pull the mulch off gradually as the plants show signs of new growth. The purpose of winter mulch is to act as a protector from sudden changes of temperature and chilling winds, so keep in mind that it is still winter. Acclimatize your plants by removing the mulch over a period of days, allowing the light and air to reach the new growth slowly. It is much better to remove the mulch a little later than to remove it too early.
- Roses can be pruned this month. Severe pruning results in nicer long stemmed flowers and more compact bushes. Begin to spray roses for black spot.
- Feed roses.
- Sow seeds of summer blooming annuals indoors. Click for tips
- Seeds that were started indoors last month may be transplanted from the flats into peat pots and given dilute fertilizer.
- If you have a greenhouse, it is time to take cuttings of 'wintered over' plants such as Coleus, Chrysanthemums, Geraniums, and other perennials.
- Alternating thawing and freezing can tear plant roots and even force the plant right out of its hole. If you notice any plants that have heaved, push them back into the earth, and tamp lightly with your foot.
- Divide and transplant summer blooming perennials and fertilize established ones as soon as new growth appears.
- Plant tender bulbs and tubers (gladiola, lilies and dahlias). You may continue planting additional bulbs every two weeks until mid June to ensure a continuous source of bloom.
- Prune winter Jasmine after flowering; cut honeysuckle back

to 3ft.

- Cut back established penstemons. Divide snowdrops while in leaf.
- Remove all dead blooms from bulbs.
- Fertilize any bulbs that have finished blooming with bone meal or bulb booster.
- Plant Primroses and Pansies
- Pinch off tips of Sweet Pea seedlings and Mums, when they are 4 inches tall.
- Water all bulbs during times of growth and especially during foliage and bloom development. Irrigate summer-flowering bulbs during dry weather. Keep water off foliage and blooms. Fertilize tulips as foliage appears and make another application after flowering. Fertilize all other spring-flowering bulbs after flowering. Apply 2 pounds of 5-10-10 or 6-12-12 per 100 square feet. Daffodils and tulips should be fertilized again in early to mid-August.

FRUITS and VEGGIES

- Take a little time to prepare the vegetable garden soil for planting. The addition of well-rotted manure, processed manure, peat moss or compost are good additives for building compost humus in the soil.
- Peas and sweet peas may be planted right now as well as perennial vegetables like Asparagus, Rhubarb, Horseradish and artichokes.
- Eggplant, brussels sprouts, cauliflower, celery, leeks, onions, early potatoes, and radish seeds may be planted in the garden about mid month.
- Spinach, Chard, Cabbage, Cauliflower, and other hardy vegetables can be seeded or set out late in the month.
- Plant Strawberries, Blueberries, Currants, Loganberries, Boysenberries, Grapes, and fruit trees.
- Add some steer manure around your Rhubarb. Time to start tomatoes, lettuce, and many other vegetables from seed.

Mayor Creates Fairgrounds Task force

Mayor Karl Dean today announced that he has created a task force to lead the discussion about the future of the Tennessee State Fairgrounds. The group will be chaired by Sandra Moore, council person for the 17th district, and Alexia Poe, director of the Mayor's Office of Economic and Community Development. The task force will hold four community meetings during the spring to encourage community input for potential future uses of the site. The Nashville Civic Design Center will facilitate the series of public meetings that will be scheduled in the near future.



The Fair Board began examining the longevity of the Fairgrounds nearly three years ago, including a comprehensive report from Markin Consulting that involved numerous, well-attended public meetings and extensive evaluation of the Fairgrounds, the State Fair and the race track. In considering the Markin study and the rapid depletion of its reserve funds, the Fair Board voted in December 2008 to relocate its operations after the 2009 State Fair. Mayor Dean supported the Fair Board's decision, and in the fall of 2009 announced that the Metro Finance Department would be prepared to take control of the Fairgrounds at the end of the fiscal year.

"I understand the value of the State Fair, flea market and the many events that occur at the Fairgrounds to Davidson County," Dean said. "We are working to find solutions for them moving forward and are encouraged at the private interest they are generating. We now have an opportunity to focus on the future of this site. We want to create amenities for the surrounding neighborhood and maximize its potential as an economic generator for South Nashville and the entire county."

Metro Schools, Public Library Form Partnership to Expand Library Services for High Schools

Mayor Karl Dean today announced the launch of a new pilot program that will make the full resources of the Nashville Public Library available to faculty and students in three Nashville high schools.



Donna Nicely, director of Nashville Public Library, describes the materials that will be made available to MNPS high school students through the Limitless Libraries pilot program.

The program, Limitless Libraries, has kicked off in Hillsboro, Hillwood and Pearl-Cohn Magnet, as well as the Pearl-Cohn Freshman Academy at McKissack. By the end of the spring semester, students in each of the pilot schools will be able to access the Public Library's extensive collection of 1.5 million items through delivery to their school library, including books, audio books, DVDs, CDs.

"Nashville has a world-class public library system. Through this partnership, I believe we can create world-class libraries in our schools," Dean said. "Since taking office, I have advocated for leveraging and partnering resources across Metro departments to not only better meet the needs of our community, but to also reduce expenses. In no Metro agency is this more important

than in our Schools. Just as we ask the community – nonprofits, churches and individuals – to support our students and our schools, our Metro Government can do the same."

Through the partnership, students will also have access to 400 school-selected electronic books provided by Ingram Digital and access to Athena, the online database of Middle Tennessee academic library collections. Librarians and teachers at the schools will receive special library cards to expand their borrowing privileges at the Nashville Public Library and branch locations. The program will also include an inventory of the schools' library collections and the addition of some new books and materials purchased through the Public Library.

Dean first introduced the idea of leveraging the Public Library's procurement operations and collection to benefit the libraries in Metro Schools in late 2008. Since then, staff at MNPS and the Public Library have been working to develop the pilot program.

The long-term goal is to make Limitless Libraries available in all 16 comprehensive and magnet high schools in Metro and ensure each school library collection is based on the curriculum standards of the state, aligned with school needs, falls within appropriate reading level ranges, and includes a minimum of nine items per student.

You are cordially invited to attend the

NASHVILLE ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

Thursday, March 25, 2010
Centennial Park Event Shelter by the Sunken Gardens
11:00 a.m.

Memorial Tree Dedication

June Armstrong
Councilman Mansfield Douglas
Linda Everett
W. Miles Warfield, Sr.
Lieutenant Glenn Yates

Tree Dedication in Honor of

Betty Brown
Mayor Richard Fulton

NES Designated Tree Line USA Utility and
Nashville's 15th Tree City USA designations will be presented.

Winning Arbor Day essays will be read by area students.
The Nashville Arbor Day Mayoral Proclamation will be presented.

Emergency Weather Season Begins In Tennessee

The National Weather Service, the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency and supporting groups began conducting educational activities and drills to help people prevent injuries and deaths from tornadoes, damaging winds, flash floods, lightning and hail during Severe Weather Awareness Week in February.

As warmer temperatures brush away the last lingering snow, Tennesseans should hardly need a reminder that severe weather can be powerful and often has deadly consequences for those persons that confront it unawares and unprepared.

“Every year, there are unnecessary and preventable deaths during bouts of severe weather,” said James Bassham, Director of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency. “Our goal in raising awareness of severe weather and personal preparedness is to prevent some of those tragedies by educating the public on ways to improve their safety and the preparedness of their communities.”

Each day during Severe Weather Awareness Week, there was a focus on a specific type of severe weather or the warning and drill systems.

The areas of focus included:

- Flooding, which is the No. 1 weather-related cause of fatalities. Rising waters may look calm, but can harbor a host of hidden dangers and currents that are strong enough to easily wash away a vehicle. The driving public should always remember the message, “Turn Around; Don’t Drown!”
- There was a state-wide tornado drill where schools, state and county agencies and any other interested group were encouraged to participate and learn the life saving rules and

how to take appropriate and timely actions. In 2009, Tennessee had 39 counties affected by tornadoes. There were two fatalities state-wide and 62 injuries. Tornado damage estimates for the year exceeded \$100 million, according to the National Weather Service. At TEMA, the state’s 24-hour Operations Center recorded more than 1,100 severe weather events, warnings and missions in 2009.

To see the 2010 Severe Weather Awareness Week Brochure, please visit www.tnema.org and click on Family Preparedness.

The brochure is also available through this link: <http://www.tnema.org/public/documents/SevereWx.Brochure2010.pdf>



Take Mayor Karl Dean's Environmental Pledge

Five simple things that each of us can do, starting today. We are going to feature one of the Mayor's pledge points each month in our newsletter. Whether we live in an apartment or home, these small choices can help create a healthier, cleaner and safer environment for everyone. For more information about the Environmental Pledge, go to: <http://www.nashville.gov/green/forms/pledge.aspx>



WATER

I PLEDGE to replace at least one car trip a week with walking, bicycling, carpooling or public transit.
I CAN decrease carbon dioxide emissions by 1,000 pounds.
TOGETHER all Nashvillians can eliminate more than 290,000 tons of carbon dioxide, the equivalent to removing 5,800 cars from the road every year.

Nashville Storm Spotter class schedule



The Mayor's Office of Emergency Management is teaming up with the National Weather Service again this year and hosting several Storm Spotter classes in the Nashville area. Each class includes the basic and advanced storm spotter material.

Spotter classes are free of charge and will be held in the Emergency Operations Center.

Limited space is available and pre-registration is required for each class. Please visit our web site at www.nashville.gov/oem for more information.

**Department of
Codes & Building Safety**

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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



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@nashville.gov), at bill.penn@nashville.gov
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