

Metropolitan Historical Commission

Newsletter ■ March 2012



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MHC/MHZC UPDATES

New! TO ALL PRESERVATIONISTS – ACTION NEEDED!

Please let your state senators and representatives know that a vote for the bills described below is a vote against historic preservation and local zoning!

All of these bills would severely affect the ability of Tennessee local governments to create historic districts and to make and enforce zoning decisions. All are opposed by the Tennessee Municipal League, city mayors, city legislative bodies, preservation organizations, and city planning departments. Those who support them argue that they are good for economic development and protect absolute individual property rights. But we live in communities and know that our communities are strengthened by good land use tools that balance the public good with individual rights. We've seen the evidence that good zoning and historic districts make our communities more attractive to desirable businesses.

HB1345 (Casada) / SB1272 (Ketron) virtually eliminates the creation of any more historic districts. This bill would prohibit the rezoning of property without the express written consent of all property owners subject to the rezoning and would essentially prohibit any overlay or large area rezoning (including a county-wide comprehensive rezoning) unless all property owners agree.

Three additional bills attack other long-standing statutes and practices that protect neighborhoods by changing the law applying to non-conforming uses. They are **HB3694 (Gotto) / SB3646 (Ketron)**, which is a complete re-write of the state non-conforming use "grandfathering" statute; **HB3696 (Gotto) / SB3648 (Tracy)**, which grants vested rights to a developer at the moment that a development permit is issued and would nullify the Tennessee Supreme Court-recognized "pending legislation doctrine."; and **HB3698 (Gotto) / SB3651 (Tracy)**, which grants the broader nonconforming use protections enjoyed by billboards to on-premises signs.

For more detailed information on these bills, go to the Tennessee Preservation Trust's website at: www.tennesseepreservationtrust.org/Advocacy.

New! Belmont-Hillsboro Seeking Expansion

Owners of property on the 1900 and 2000 blocks of Cedar Lane, the 1400 and 1500 blocks of Gale Lane, and the 1400 block of Linden Avenue are considering joining the Belmont-Hillsboro Neighborhood Conservation Zoning Overlay. The expansion would capture approximately 80 properties. The process is in the beginning stages and will likely go before the Historic Zoning Commission in April. If adopted, the properties in the additional areas will follow the same design guidelines already in place for the Belmont-Hillsboro Neighborhood Conservation Zoning Overlay.

New! Lunch-and-Learn: Nashville Women during the Civil War

Thursday, March 20—Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Fort Negley Visitors' Center

1100 Fort Negley Blvd.

Join the Metropolitan Historical Commission and Fort Negley Visitors' Center on March 20 to celebrate Women's History Month at a Civil War Sesquicentennial Event. Krista Castillo, the director of the Fort Negley Visitors' Center, will present a talk on "Nashville Women during the Civil War" beginning at noon on Tuesday, March 20. Bring a lunch with you for the talk, and then afterward, take a guided tour of Fort Negley (weather permitting). No charge, but seating is limited. RSVP to the Historical Commission, 862-7970.

Registration Now Open! Nashville 102: From the Civil War through the 20th Century

Tuesdays in April (3, 10, 17, 24)—10:30 a.m. to Noon

Sonny West Conference Center

Howard Office Building

700 Second Avenue South

Would you like to learn more about Nashville history? Join Davidson County Historian Dr. Carole Bucy for her lecture series, *Nashville 102*, each Tuesday in April. Don't worry—previous participation in Nashville 101 is not a requirement!

Nashville 102 will begin with Nashville at the end of the Civil War and end with the close of the 20th century. In Session 1 of this class, we will explore Nashville during the Gilded Age when the railroad entrepreneurs like Eugene Lewis and Jere Baxter take the stage. We will examine Nashville as the "Athens of the West" and the opening of two new institutions of higher education: Fisk and Vanderbilt. The Tennessee Centennial will close out the 19th century and we will then in Session 2 consider Nashville during the Progressive Era and World War I. Session 3 will begin with the 1920s, a time of great change as well as a time of tension. This session will also look at Nashville during the Great Depression and World War II. Our final session, Session 4, will begin with our soldiers coming home from the war and will consider the racial integration of our city followed by the integration of our city and county governments. This class will conclude with a look at how Nashville became Music City USA and a city with professional sports teams as the 20th century comes to a close. Dr. Bucy will also offer an optional field trip after these sessions end to Mt. Olivet Cemetery, which she describes as "one of the best examples of a true Victorian cemetery in the country."

Classes will be held at the Sonny West Conference Center (Howard Office Building Auditorium) for four consecutive Tuesdays, beginning on April 3, 2012 (April 3, 10, 17, and 24) from 10:30 to noon. **Space is limited, so reservations must be paid in**

advance. The registration fee is \$25 and includes admission to all sessions. The registration deadline is Friday, March 23. No walk-ups, please.

All proceeds for "Nashville 102" will benefit The Metropolitan Historical Commission Foundation. **To register, make your check payable to NCCA and mail it to the Metropolitan Historical Commission at the address below.** For registration confirmation, please include an email address (or phone number) with your check.

Visit www.nashville.gov/mhc/mhzc/directions_hob.asp for directions and parking information. Have questions? Call the Historical Commission at 862-7970.

PRESERVATION AWARDS

New! Call for Nominations: 2012 Preservation Awards

The Metropolitan Historical Commission wants to know about the hidden gems in your neighborhood! Through Friday, March 30, **nominate your favorite preservation project** for a 2012 Preservation Award, and then mark your calendar for the 37th Annual Preservation Awards program on Thursday, May 31, 2012. We'll celebrate National Preservation Month and help kick off the Tennessee Preservation Trust's Statewide Preservation Conference. The theme for Preservation Month 2012 is "*Discover America's Hidden Gems!*" We look forward to showcasing Nashville's treasures in the categories of Residential, Commercial, Educational and Institutional, Religious, Industrial and Engineering, and Infill architecture.

Don't delay! The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, March 30, 2012. *Early entries are always welcome!* Judging will take place on Wednesday, May 2.

To learn more about the awards program and to download the nomination form, please visit the Preservation Awards page of our website: www.nashville.gov/mhc.

For more information about National Preservation Month, please visit the National Trust for Historic Preservation website: www.preservationnation.org.

To learn more about the Statewide Preservation Conference...keep reading!

CONFERENCES, EXHIBITS AND EVENTS

New! First Tuesday at the Archives

*Tuesday, March 6
Metropolitan Archives
3801 Green Hills Village Drive
615-862-5880*

Every first Tuesday of the month, the Metropolitan Archives hosts an afternoon program featuring a different topic in state and local history. The monthly programs are free and open to the public.

On **Tuesday, March 6, from 2:30 to 3:20 p.m.**, join The Friends of the Metro Archives for Victoria Traver's presentation about "Three Terraces," her home on Hillsboro Pike built by Ellen Stokes More. Be sure to visit the exhibit about homes

along Hillsboro Pike while you're there!

Mark your calendar for these future topics:

April 3: Jim Hoobler, "City Under the Gun: Images of Occupied Nashville," featuring slides from his book *Cities Under The Gun: Images of Occupied Nashville and Chattanooga*

New! Inaugural Meeting: Friends of Buchanan Station Cemetery

Saturday, March 17—10:30 a.m.

Buchanan Log House

2910 Elm Hill Pike

The Buchanan Log House will host the inaugural meeting of the Friends of Buchanan Station Cemetery on Saturday, March 17, 2012. Buchanan Station Cemetery is located on Massman Drive and is the resting place of Nashville founder Major John Buchanan and his wife Sarah (aka "Sally"). Your help is needed to preserve and protect this important cemetery. For more information, email Mike Slate at NHN.slate@gmail.com.

New! Nashville City Cemetery: A Resource for Genealogists

Saturday, March 17—1:00 p.m.

FiftyForward Knowles Center

174 Rains Avenue, across from the State Fairgrounds

Dr. C. William McKee will be speaking on the subject, "Nashville City Cemetery: A Resource for Genealogists." Mr. McKee is a Professor of Education and Public Service Management at Cumberland University and Chair of the Metropolitan Historical Commission. Refreshments served. No charge for this meeting. For more information, please visit: www.mtgs.org.

New! Scenic Tennessee's 2011-2012 Photo Contest

"Living Legacies: Capturing the Scenic Beauty of Tennessee's Civil War Heritage"

Have a great photo of a scenic Civil War spot? Scenic Tennessee is calling all photographers—amateur and professional, adults and students—for its 18th annual photo contest. This year's contest, cosponsored by the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, commemorates Tennessee's distinctive Civil War sites and landscapes. There are cash prizes, and winning photographs will be exhibited at the Heritage Center in Murfreesboro before touring the state. **Enter soon, the deadline is April 1st.** For more details, go to www.scenictennessee.org/photo-contest/.

New! 2012 Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Signature Event:

"Invasions by Rail and River: The Battle of Shiloh"

April 4-5, 2012

Pickwick Landing State Park

Pickwick Dam, Tennessee

Join the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission in April at Pickwick Landing State Park as presenters discuss the battles, events and stories of the Civil War. The symposium will be jointly sponsored by the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area and Tennessee Historical Society.

April 6-7, 2012

Shiloh National Military Park

Commemorate the 150th Anniversary of The Battle of Shiloh, one of the Civil War's most bloody battles, with Special Extended Tours and the Grand Illumination of Shiloh National Battlefield. For details, visit www.nps.gov/shil/.

All events are free and open to the public, but seating is limited. For hotel information, event agenda, or to register, visit www.tncivilwar150.com.

Save the Date!

The Brick & Mortar Bash: A Benefit for Historic Nashville, Inc.

Friday, May 25, 2012

6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Union Station Hotel
1001 Broadway
Nashville, TN 37203

Historic Nashville, Inc. invites you to join in the celebration of Preservation Month.

Visit www.historicnashvilleinc.org to learn more
or find Historic Nashville, Inc. on Facebook!

Save the Date!

2012 Memorial Day Dash for Nashville City Cemetery

Memorial Day, May 28th -- 8:00 a.m.

Greer Stadium

534 Chestnut Street

Lace up your sneakers and start training now for this annual event! All proceeds benefit the restoration of the Nashville City Cemetery. Visit www.thenashvillecitycemetery.org to learn more.

Save the Date! Old House Fair & Statewide Conference Focus on Sustainability

May 31 through June 2, 2012

Since 2000, the Tennessee Preservation Trust (TPT), our statewide non-profit preservation organization, has hosted the Statewide Preservation Conference. It brings together heritage supporters from across the state for educational sessions, tours and networking opportunities. The annual conference travels around the state and showcases the historic character of a different community each year.

This year, Nashville is pleased to show-off its preservation pride, May 31-June 2, at the Hotel Indigo on Union Street for *Smart Preservation: Livable & Sustainable*. In addition to educational sessions, tours and networking, the conference committee will be organizing an **Old House Fair on June 2, from 9am to 3pm at Eastwood Christian Church, 1601 Eastland Avenue**. The Old House Fair will be open to everyone, not just conference attendees, for a small fee and will be essentially a mini-trade show with a neighborhood focus. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet and talk with local suppliers and crafts persons who are experts in historic preservation.

In addition to the trade show component, **Bob Yapp** will be presenting on three topics: How to Hire & Work with a Contractor, Old Windows Aren't a Pane—They're a Goldmine and Energy Efficiency for Old Houses and Buildings. Yapp is perhaps best

known for his 1990s national weekly PBS program, *About Your House with Bob Yapp* and his syndicated radio show *The House Doctor*.

Another new component of the conference this year will be a day-long session specifically for realtors, although anyone is welcome to attend. **“Preservation 101 for TN Realtors,” on Friday, June 1, is certified by the Tennessee Real Estate Commission and offers 6 hours of credit.** Why is preservation an important topic for realtors? It has been estimated that the restoration’s market share growth will exceed 80 percent of the entire U.S. construction economy in the near future. As the country begins to explore sustainability, both in terms of the economy and the environment, buying and selling existing buildings, rather than developable lots, will increasingly become any realtor’s main bread-and-butter.

Registration for the Statewide Preservation Conference and Preservation 101 for TN Realtors will soon be available on TPT’s website at www.tennesseepreservationtrust.org. There will be a small charge for entrance to the Old House Fair at the door on Saturday.

SAVE THE DATE:
MAY 31-JUNE 2, 2012

NASHVILLE, TN

TENNESSEE PRESERVATION TRUST

STATEWIDE PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

SMART PRESERVATION: LIVABLE & SUSTAINABLE

Join the Tennessee Preservation Trust and its statewide partners for Commission Assistance & Mentoring Program (CAMP), educational sessions, hands-on workshops, tours, networking, and a tradeshow featuring Bob Yapp, former host of the PBS series 'About Your House'

For more information, contact: Cathleen Collett 615.963.1255 or tnprestr@yahoo.com.
www.TennesseePreservationTrust.org
[Facebook.com/TNPresTR](https://www.facebook.com/TNPresTR)

The Metropolitan Historical Commission publishes this monthly newsletter to keep you informed on events and happenings at the MHC. If you have questions, comments, or news to pass along, please email scarlett.miles@nashville.gov, with E-NEWS in the subject line.

Metropolitan Historical Commission
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Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County • Karl F. Dean, Mayor