

### GRANT APPLICATION SUMMARY SHEET

**Grant Name:** Special Litter 18-20  
**Department:** PUBLIC WORKS  
**Grantor:** TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
**Pass-Through Grantor (If applicable):**  
**Total Applied:** \$200,000.00  
**Metro Cash Match:** \$0.00  
**Department Contact:** Sharon Smith  
 862-8715  
**Status:** CONTINUATION

**Program Description:**  
 Funding for a comprehensive litter prevention campaign.

**Plan for continuation of services upon grant expiration:**  
 None.

**APPROVED AS TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS:** **APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:**

*[Signature]* 1/26/18 *[Signature]* 1/26/18  
 Director of Finance                      Date                      Metropolitan Attorney                      Date

**APPROVED AS TO RISK AND INSURANCE:**

*[Signature]* 1/26/18 *[Signature]* 1.29.18  
 Director of Risk Management                      Date                      Metropolitan Mayor                      Date

(This application is contingent upon approval of the application by the Metropolitan Council).

Metro Nashville Public Works Special Litter Grant Application

Organization Signature Page

1. Project Name: Clean & Green Communities

2. Applicant Information:

Organization Name: Metro Nashville Public Works 62-0694743  
Organization Name FEIN#

Address: 750 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Nashville, TN 37206 Davidson  
Street City State Zip TN County

3. Type of Organization:

County Government  Municipal Government  Planning Region

Other (Please Specify): \_\_\_\_\_  Civic Organization  Not-For-Profit

\*Government organizations please include a resolution authorizing the grant application.

3a. Not-For-Profit Organizations:

Chartered in Tennessee? \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Charter \_\_\_\_\_ IRS Classification \_\_\_\_\_

If applicable, please attach a copy of approval letters from charter or 501(c)(3) exemption.

4. Contact Person:

Please provide the name and contact information of the person responsible for all grant activities (i.e. bidding and purchasing.)

Sharon Smith sharon.smith@nashville.gov Assistant Director  
Name Email Title

750 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Nashville, TN 37206 615-862-8715  
Street City State Zip Phone

5. Certification:

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared by me, or under my direction or supervision. The submitted information is to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment. As specified in T.C.A. § 39-16-702(a)(4), this declaration is made under penalty of perjury.

  
Signature of Authorized Representative

Assistant Director  
Title

Sharon Smith  
Printed Name

January 22, 2018  
Date

sharon.smith@nashville.gov  
Email Address

615-862-8715  
Phone Number

This application is contingent upon approval of the application by the Metropolitan Council.

**TDOT Special Litter Grant Application  
Metro Nashville Public Works  
Clean & Green Communities Program**

**I. Project Description**

- A. For over 12 years the Metro Public Works Sustainability Division (which includes Metro Beautification & Environment Commission) has been responsible for conducting and organizing thousands of volunteer cleanups throughout Nashville & Davidson County. Two years ago the Mayor of Nashville, Mayor Barry, started her annual Mayor Barry's Spring Clean (as part of the Great American Clean-up), which brought more attention to the need for litter removal and a county-wide litter prevention campaign. Over the past five years, Metro Public Works has organized over 3,000 volunteer cleanups resulting in 17,600 bags of trash weighing 6,785,000 pounds with over 21,000 volunteers.

Metro Public Works is proposing a multifaceted project:

1. Conduct a pre-program Community Appearance Index.
  2. School-based litter prevention education and litter removal program.
  3. Community based litter education and neighborhood cleanups targeting all ages.
    - a. Neighborhood litter cleanups and tracking, separation, and removal of litter.
    - b. Mayor's Spring Clean tracking, separation, and removal of litter.
    - c. Litter Free/Zero Waste Earth Day with tracking, separation, and removal of litter.
  4. Media campaign using social media, digital billboards, bus benches, newsletters and other outlets. We'll promote "Nobody Trashes Tennessee" to address litter prevention, promote participation in the Adopt a Street, Adopt a Stop (with MTA), and Adopt a Stream programs.
  5. Create a Clean Community Taskforce with the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods and Community Engagement, the Tennessee Department of Environment Conservation's criminal investigator, Metro Public Works, Metro Codes and Metro Nashville Police community affairs officers on litter and illegal dumping enforcement.
  6. Conduct a post program litter index.
- B. The campaign will run through June of 2020 but much of the programming and materials will be used and beneficial beyond the two-year grant period.
- a. The short term goals of this project are:

- i. Using the Keep America Beautiful Community Appearance Index manual to get baseline information on areas that need the most attention over the course of the project.
- ii. Create an effective education campaign for children that focuses on litter prevention, identification and removal using Litterati and the Nobody Trashes TN campaign. Educators will go into schools to assist in school cleanups. They will first do a visual assessment with the students noting areas of heavy litter. They will use iPads and teach the children to use the Litterati app to identify and map litter before collecting it. Each school will weigh the litter collected and will have an interactive discussion and project related to litter prevention (Nobody Trashes TN) as well as reduce, reuse and recycling based on the litter collected. For example, a plastic bottle picked up could spark conversation about how reusable bottles could be used and it would be better for the environment as well as reduce litter.

Litter collected will be sorted into categories: recycling, compost, and landfill. Cardboard, plastic, and paper can be recycled. Soiled paper can be composted. Some items that can't be composted or recycled, like chip bags, can be reused in a different way. An art project of varying technical skill will wrap up the program with the materials that can't be recycled or composted.

Students will use litter as an artistic medium to create an original representation of a "clean" state, further enforcing "Nobody Trashes Tennessee." Incorporating mapping skills including legends, symbols, compasses, and scale - students will create a finished product that demonstrates their sustainable solutions to a more environmentally friendly world.

The interdisciplinary project will challenge students to explore the life cycles of a variety of materials and their impact on the environment. Pros and cons will be explored, and solutions for negative impacts will be brainstormed and visually represented. For example, once students collect a piece of litter and log it using the Litterati app, they will be engaged in discussion with the following prompts:

- Where did this come from?
- Who used this before I found it?
- Where would it go if I didn't rescue it?
- What would happen as a result?

Educators will wrap up of the program by working with teachers, administrators and students to identify a green team that can monitor the litter, recycling and waste around the school. We will be available for technical assistance when needed.

iii. **Working with Clean-ups:**

- a. **Neighborhoods:** Information about Litterati and the opportunity for the neighborhood to participate will be distributed in the email response upon registration. If a neighborhood expresses interest, an educator will go to the clean ups and will provide a short tutorial of Litterati and provide I-pads or I-phones when needed. During their short talk they'll also remind people how litter can be avoided using the principles of reduce and reuse. Finally, they'll encourage separating the litter into what can be recycled and provide large paper bags for it to be collected in. The short-term goal of this expanded clean up support is to encourage neighbors to really think about the litter, where it comes from and it's impact on their neighborhood. Trends in litter, for example what brands or businesses are connected to the litter will be identified. This critical thinking process will begin to help us reach longer-term goals for Nashville.
- b. **Spring Clean** – We will use the same principles in the neighborhood cleanups. Using a large amount of data collected through Litterati, we expect to produce a comprehensive report that can be used to generate media attention and gain more education about litter prevention, tracking and removal. We also will be introducing the idea of separating the litter to avoid all of it going to the landfill for the first time at the Spring Clean events. A sampling of litter will be collected from each cleanup and will culminate at Earth Day.
- c. **Earth Day** – Focusing on litter using Litterati for Nashville's Earth Day event will allow us to introduce the idea of a Zero Waste event. We will have a Litterati booth and team to introduce the application to the guests that attend. Our goal will be to get people thinking about the waste produced at events, what they can do to reduce it, and how to best take care of any waste that is produced (recycle, compost, reuse). We will pass out pocket ashtrays so that people can properly dispose of their butts and be aware of the waste they are producing. We will also host a large

community mural that will be created with the litter from the Spring Clean. All Earth Day participants will be invited to participate and the neighborhoods that did cleanups will be recognized. Local reuse artists will be used to facilitate the process. The finished piece will be available for display in places around our community where visitors will be able to experience it and learn more about Litterati and the ways they can participate.

- iv. Our goal for the media campaign is to get the community thinking more about litter prevention and how they, as individuals and small groups, can actively be a part of solving the litter problem in our community. The media campaign will include the importance of vehicle tarping, as much of the litter along our highways and interstates comes from unsecured loads. It will also promote and engage residents and neighborhoods on various ways to improve the appearance of our community through cleanups and adoption programs. We'll work with other Metro departments to share information and make the campaign go further and reach more residents and businesses.
- v. The goal of the Clean Community Taskforce is to create a collaborative system to identify and address problem area in the county. Initially, the taskforce will utilize the cameras from TDEC's criminal investigator to capture offenders on camera and prosecute offenders where possible, but the grant will fund the purchase of additional cameras to broaden our ability to curtail an increase in illegal dumpsites.
- vi. In June of 2020 we will do a post index effort to evaluate the progress made in eliminating litter through community engagement.

b. Long-term Goals

- i. We will focus on and clean up the heavily littered areas in Nashville and identify the major sources of litter production so that long-term strategies can be developed for litter reduction and ultimately elimination.
- ii. Our expectation is that we will play a part in educating children who will grow up understanding their role in waste production and how it relates to litter. We anticipate creating follow-up programs that reinforce the principles we teach them in this grant cycle. Ultimately, we expect our efforts to assist in creating residents that do not litter in our community in the future.
- iii. Our long-term goal with introducing Litterati, litter identification and separation at cleanups and at the Nashville Earth Day festival is to get

residents critically thinking about the materials littering our community. We also expect residents to think about keeping litter from going to the landfill and more about the value of the material (recycled, able to be composted). We expect the separation efforts to add this enhanced component to cleanups going forward. We anticipate residents will be thinking differently about the businesses that we see a lot of litter from and hope to engage those businesses in being active in the litter solution. We expect the critical thinking will lead to change and, overall, less litter. We are planning that the change at Earth Day will lead to it being a zero-waste event in the future and on-going.

- iv. The media campaign will start a buzz about litter responsibility and reduce, reuse, recycle and rot that can be continued by engaged Metro departments and other community entities, businesses, and organizations. The ongoing cooperative messaging with Metro departments is especially appealing to us and we believe will be long lasting.
- v. We expect to maintain the cooperative system created through the round table discussions Metro departments on litter prevention and enforcement beyond this grant period.
- vi. We expect the post index effort to give us information on how successful our litter identification; separation and removal efforts were as well as guide how we implement future initiatives.

C. **Supplies:** Our education partners will provide needed technology for Litterati. Litterati is a free application for the education partners and community members to download. We will need garbage bags and expect to receive them from KAB as part of the Great American Clean Up. We'll also need gloves and vests and will provide those from our own department. We'll also provide pickup trucks and crews to help control traffic and make sure the road is safe for volunteers during neighborhood clean ups. We will need litter grabbers, safety vests, gloves and T-shirts for the cleanup efforts as well as Earth Day. We'll also need pocket ashtrays for Earth Day. We'll rely on our education partners to provide necessary supplies for the Earth Day community mural. With the extra cleanup efforts, we expect another trailer will be needed and are requesting it through this grant.

D. **Collaborative Organizations** Nashville Public works will collaborate with the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods, TDEC criminal investigator, Metro Water (Adopt a Stream and Adopt a Drain), the Sheriff's Department (bulk items cleanup), the City of Goodlettsville (for cleanups in that area) Metro Transit Authority (Adopt a Stop), Nashville Earth Day

Festival, Metro Nashville Schools (30 schools, 150 classes), local businesses (identified during cleanups) and education vendor.

## **II. Potential Project Benefits**

We deem this project will be successful through the following measurements:

- We will measure progress from documentation gathered from the pre to post Community Appearance Index. We expect to see and will consider it successful if we find less litter and other detriments in the heaviest littered areas from the beginning of the program to the end of the program.
- Six months after participating, we will survey schools for satisfaction, waste and litter reduction, and perceived impact. We will also ask if they have discovered other needs that we can use for long-term strategic planning. We will measure success based on reporting from teachers and administrators on high/low satisfaction scale. We'll also visit the school and do a visual assessment to determine if there is less litter than when we began the program. Finally, we'll have a discussion with the green team at the school to get their feedback on the qualitative impact the programming has had. We will also measure success by the creation and execution of an on-line tool kit for school staff to use in future years.
- Using annual data from 2017 as a baseline, we will measure the success of the cleanups throughout the year and with the Mayor's Spring Clean by an increase in the number of scheduled cleanups, number of participants at the cleanups, the amount of litter removed (by weight). Success will also be measured by the number of cleanups that participate in separating litter into recyclable and compostable materials, and the number that implement Litterati. We expect 10% to participate in all activities the first year and 25% in year two.
- We will continue our roadside litter pick-up through our Community Service program in this project but will enhance the program with expanding the ability to pick up large bulky items. Currently we have to borrow a trailer from another division to pick up bulk items and only have the ability to do it one day per week. Having convenient access to a large flatbed trailer will allow us to consistently pick up bulk items we normally can't handle during a cleanup. We will continue to weigh the material from our cleanups and expect the increase in ability to pick up bulky items to also increase the weight of the material cleaned up compared to years past.
- We will track the success of litter and waste reduction by weighing and tracking the compost and recycling. We will survey food vendors to see what kind of packaging they are using. This data will help us in determining requirements for being a vendor in future

years. We'll also audit any material going to the landfill so that we know what actions we need to take to move the event to zero waste in subsequent years.

- We will measure success of the media and outreach campaign by tracking requests for litter cleanup and participation in litter programs. We expect an increase in the number of requests and streets, stops and streams adopted year over year.
- We will consider the round table discussion successful if the all agencies come to the table, participate in thinking about litter issues and solutions in our community and memorandum of understanding is developed to work collaboratively and accountability measures for enforcement are included.

### **III. Sustainability & Funding**

We can add the component of pre and post Appearance surveys with the current staff. While we have always done an annual survey at the beginning of the year, (could serve as a pre survey), we've not added a post survey. The post survey will be beneficial to see the progress we make over the course of each year, and to compare data year over year. We anticipate this part of the project to be an easy action item to add to our current work plans.

Metro Public Works has relationships with education vendors that will assist in implementing and scaling this project. Currently MPW is working on an RFP to contract with an education vendor that will make the process of getting this program initiated easier. We expect our vendor is to have deep connections in the schools and be able to immediately get our program scheduled and don't anticipate having a problem getting programs completed in the schools.

We anticipate the large part of education in the schools to be an opportunity to "train the teacher." While we will be able to sustain needed tools and supplies to do future litter clean up, we anticipate the more intensive and hands on education to be in a "train the teacher" style so that the teachers can continue the project in years to come. This type of training will also serve organically as peer support among teachers and administrators. The Metro Nashville Public School system employees, especially those in the Community Achieves area, are well connected and very good at sharing resources. We expect word will not only spread fast that this program is available, but staff that implement the program will also be a support for others as they are doing it. As part of the grant and within the 2-year period, we will develop an on-line tool kit that can be used in subsequent years by teachers, neighborhood groups, and others to implement Litterati and cleanups.

Building on our current program, we expect Litterati to easily be incorporated into our cleanups. We anticipate no problems meeting our workplan goals as we are enhancing the cleanups that are already being booked. We do anticipate an increase in the number of cleanups as adding extra support and education to the cleanups as well as having a trailer will provide a new enthusiasm and growth to the program.

We expect the increase in tonnage with roadside cleanup to be an easy goal to meet with building capacity with the large trailer available to the program at all times. The investment in a trailer will support the program for years to come by providing more opportunity for picking up bulky, heavier litter.

We are fortunate to have ongoing support from Keep America Beautiful to provide supplies for cleanups during this grant period and beyond.

We expect this program to be easily replicated in other communities, both urban and rural, and are willing to provide support and information to any other area wanting to do it. We are willing to share what we learned, potential barriers and easy successes. We also expect the on-line tool kit to be easily shareable and a great way for new programs to kick-start in their area.

#### **IV. Community Need & Priority**

This project will take place in the Davidson County and will impact all Nashville's over 659,000 residents, all council districts and the millions of visitors each year.

As the table below shows, we have seen an increasing number of requests from residents for litter and illegal dumping clean up, as well as increased tonnage from Public Works collection programs. Even so, our volunteer lead clean-ups including the number of volunteers and tonnage collected has been erratic. The 2016 Mayor Barry' Spring Clean showed an initial increase, as there was a lot of outreach and media attention, but it appears now the volunteer efforts are on the decline leaving more clean-up work for Public Works crews. The increase in complaints, clean up requests, but the decrease in regular clean ups (leaving out the highly publicized one) demonstrates the need for more publicity about our ongoing volunteer program opportunities.

<b>Historical Data</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016*</b>	<b>2017</b>
Litter & Illegal Dumping Complaints	2,787	3,356	3,698
Metro Public Works Litter/Illegal Dumping	1,005	1,494	1,521
Volunteer Clean-up Litter/Illegal Dumping	640	760	540
Volunteer Clean-ups	683	633	534
Volunteers	1,995	5,735	3,127

*\*First Mayor Barry's Spring Clean*

Education programs will be targeted at all MNPS schools, community based programs will focus on all council districts and the media campaign will reach all residents (including those in our satellite cities) and visitors. We have had a 100% increase in the number of school based

education requests overall in our department over the past year. Having additional programs of interest like litter and sustainable practices will help diversify programming and fulfill the need.

As the attached articles show, Nashville's growth is causing an increase in construction & demolition dumping, tire dumping and illegal dumping in some of Nashville's most fragile neighborhoods. Without funding to conduct a comprehensive education and media campaign, we believe this trend will continue. Our proposal aims to not only provide a county-wide media campaign but to also re-engage residents and businesses in cleaning up on their street, in their neighborhood/community, and along Nashville's streams.

#### **V. Bonus Points**

We will be partnering with other governmental agencies such as the Davidson County Sheriff's Office, Metro Transit Authority, Metro Water Services, Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods and Community Engagement, Metro Codes, Metro Nashville Public Schools, and other jurisdictions like the City of Goodlettsville's Public Works Department.

We will promote "Nobody Trashes Tennessee" in every area of the project initiatives and as a challenge to the community to participate in the programs and action items. As a response the "challenge" of the campaign, we will invite residents and students to use Litterati so we can track where our litter is coming from and hold businesses and other partners accountable.

We also are responding to the campaign by taking a citywide approach to litter. We will be improving our by working with other city departments to address identification and enforcement of rules and laws related to litter. Taking this collective approach, we also expect our collaborative social media campaigns surrounding "Nobody Trashes Tennessee" to spread the message further. We will include our programs that are designed keeping Tennessee clean like Adopts a Stream, Adopt a Street and Adopt a Stop. We expect the number of participants in this program to increase and the relationship between the departments to strengthen improving our ability to prevent and better collect litter.



# PHOTOS

Nashville Mayor Megan Barry really hates litter!



People dump in alleys all over Nashville



Illegal Tire Dumpsite in Madison (over 2,000 times cleaned up)





## Trash piles found dumped in Cleveland Park alleyways

Posted: Aug 28, 2017 6:20 PM CDT  
Updated: Sep 11, 2017 6:20 PM CDT

Reported by Kevin Trager | **CONNECT**

NASHVILLE, TN (WSMV) - Metro officials are investigating a number of illegal trash piles dumped in alleyways in Cleveland Park.

The piles contain waste items from a school cafeteria and boxes with Kipp Nashville Collegiate High School's name on them.

Cleveland Park Neighborhood Association member Ornid Yamini was part of a group that discovered the first trash pile in April. He said he found another pile in June containing cafeteria waste items like disposable lunch trays and empty milk cartons.

Last Friday, another neighborhood clean-up group found a similar trash pile containing boxes with Kipp Nashville Collegiate High School stickers on them.

"We don't think the school is carrying this stuff down here but someone that is associated with them obviously is bringing this stuff down here," Yamini told News 4. "We don't have any other choice but to clean it up."

A spokesperson for Kipp schools Nashville referred us to the city, which owns their building on Douglas Avenue near where the piles have been found. A spokesperson for Metro General Services, which handles cleaning and maintenance for all city-owned buildings sent the following statement to News 4:

*“ Through contracted service providers, General Services gathers the trash from within KIPP Academy each day and takes the trash to the dumpster on the school property. Another contracted service provider comes to the school property to empty the dumpster each school day.*

*The trash that you reference was picked up as soon as we were made aware of the problem. We encourage citizens to report all illegal dumping online at <https://www.nashville.gov/Public-Works/Forms/Illegal-Dumpsite-Report.aspx> or by calling 311. And, the Metro Nashville Police Department investigates illegal dumping claims.*

*If it difficult to understand why a contractor would dispose of garbage this way, but if it has been found that a General Services' contractor is responsible, we will take necessary actions. We are stepping up monitoring efforts to ensure that the proper process is followed and this doesn't happen again. ”*

News 4 has learned local company M&P Services contracts with the city to handle trash from Kipp Collegiate High School and Republic Services empties the school's dumpster every day.

Both companies deny to News 4 they are involved in any illegal dumping.

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# Illegal Garbage Dumping Clutters Church Property

*Sarah McCarthy*

7:21 PM, Feb 13, 2017

7:33 PM, Feb 13, 2017



The former Greater Grace Community Temple Church in East Nashville has turned into a target for illegal garbage dumping.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - The former Greater Grace Community Temple Church in East Nashville has turned into a target for illegal garbage dumping.

The property is located at the corner of Dalebrook Lane and Eastland Avenue.

"It's unsightly, but I think it does come with the growing pains," said Mary Lomax, a nearby neighbor.

On Monday afternoon, old furniture,



mattresses, and scraps of building materials, dumped along the northern side of the building, were visible from the street.

It's a problem neighbors said continues to happen, even after the property's owner continues to clean up the mess.

"It's people in general wanting somewhere to dump and they just find this is a good spot because no one is over here," said Maria Wallace, who lives across the street from the church. "I think they need to take the time to go to the dump and dump it in the right place."

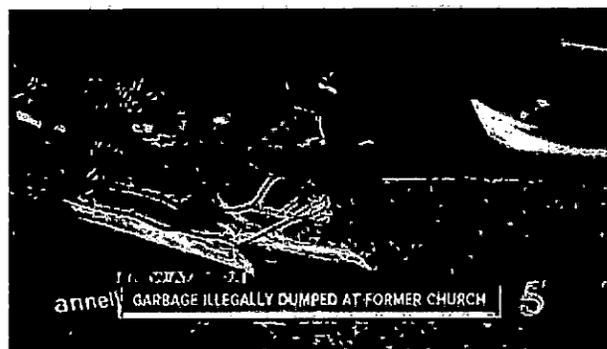
The former church has sat empty for months. Property owners said a sale is under contract, but no one has moved into the building yet.

"It's an easy target, it's not monitored at all," Lomax said.

Some neighbors said they'd like to see the property more closely monitored, either by police or with surveillance cameras. But they'd also like for whoever is behind the illegal dumping to take responsibility for their actions and stop.

"We don't complain a lot around here, we just want people to do the right thing," Wallace said.

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MENU



## Several Illegal Dumping Sites found in Nashville

by Matt Alvarez

Thursday, January 26th 2017

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (WZTV) — Fox 17 is investigating several illegal dumping sites found in Nashville.

From North Nashville to 10 minutes from downtown, viewers have sent tips to our newsroom about people illegally dumping all types of items on sides of streets, alleys, and various hidden places around town.

A lot of these tips come from the area of County Hospital Road and Meharry Boulevard.

"The ones that dump, please don't dump over here anymore, please, it's bad for people's health," Janie Winston, a Nashville resident, said.

Metro Public Works has been notified about the illegal dumping sites and says it will look into the situation.

# Barry: City's trash is out of control

Spring Clean event draws hundreds to pick up litter

GETAHN WARD  
GWARD@TENNESSEAN.COM

When Kevin and Barbara Wisniewski look around their Lockeland Springs neighborhood, they see visible signs of growth in new bars, restaurants and short-term vacation rentals.

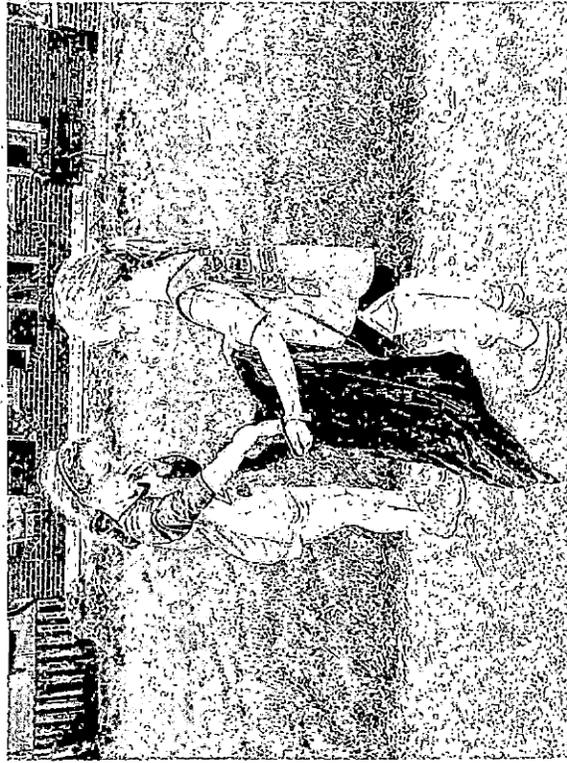
Over the past year, the couple has also seen an increase in a byproduct of that growth — more litter along streets in the East Nashville community.

"A lot of outsiders come into the neighborhood to visit these places, and they don't have the pride of ownership," Wisniewski said, while the couple and their two children took a break from picking up trash near the Nashville Public Library East Branch on Saturday.

They were among roughly 100 Lockeland Springs neighbors who participated in Nashville Mayor Megan Barry's Citywide Spring Clean event. Across Nashville, up to 2,000 volunteers were expected to participate in 63 such events Saturday as part of the nationwide Great American Cleanup organized locally by the Metro Nashville Public Works Department.

"We've never had an event this big and this wide, being in every council district all across the city and with so many people coming out to clean up," said Sharon Smith, director of the Metro Beautification and Environment Commission, which is part of the public works department. "When the people at the top care, it trickles down to everybody else."

In launching the citywide spring clean event in front of John B. Whitsitt Elementary School in South Nashville, Barry expressed concern that trash is out of control in Nashville. "I remember



Bette Pickett, 7, holds her nose while picking up trash with Tate Cramer, 7, on Woodland Street on Saturday. The girls are with Daisy troop #292 who volunteered as part of Mayor Barry's Citywide Spring Clean on Saturday. Residents of East Nashville's Lockeland Springs walk the streets of their neighborhood picking up trash as part of Mayor Barry's Citywide Spring Clean.

SHELLEY MANS / THE TENNESSEAN

ample of Nashville's litter problem. "It's a bad habit," said JD Lane, community service coordinator with Metro Public Works. "One person does what's been done, they think it's all right to go throw another one on top of it and pretty soon the word gets around."

Lonnell Matthews Jr., director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood and Community Engagement, said 95 local cleanup events are planned as part of this year's nationwide Great American Cleanup that runs for three months through May 31. Other initiatives that

growing up where there was a lot more emphasis on making sure that you didn't throw your trash out and you cleaned (that)" she said.

At that event, officials were on hand from Comcast NBCUniversal, which had more than 600 employees participating around Nashville Saturday to kick off the cable company's Comcast Cares Day.

One of the first items the group at Whitsitt Elementary picked up was a mattress left near the school's driveway, which Smith said provided an ex-

"When the people at the top care, it trickles down to everybody else."

SHARON SMITH  
BEAUTIFICATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

Matthews said his office is looking at as part of mayor's beautification campaign include a corporate cleanup challenge where businesses give employees a 20-minute break to clean up around their premises.

As part of Saturday's spring clean, roughly 10 members of community group Nashville North by Northeast United picked up trash along West Trinity Lane. "This is the last exit before you get into downtown and for it to be as trashy as it is, it's crazy," said Matthew Strader, a local developer and area resident.

Jack Cawthon, owner of Jack's Bar-B-Que and co-chairman of Nashville North by Northeast United, hopes the spring cleanup encouraged area businesses to keep their properties clean.

In East Nashville's Lockeland Springs area, Kevin Wisniewski pointed to four bags of trash and a car tire as the haul from just one block bordered by Clearview and Gallatin avenues and North 11th Street.

He lamented how residents have been unsuccessful in trying to get Metro to install trash cans in the area where his family has lived for nine years.

"We're generating more revenues for the city than ever before," Wisniewski said, counting five Airbnb short-term rental properties along one block in the neighborhood. "I'd like to see them give us some resources in East Nashville."

Reach Getahn Ward at 615-726-5968 and on Twitter @getahn.

MENU



## Is money to blame for illegal tire dumping in East Nashville?

by Sabrina F. Hall

Tuesday, April 5th 2016

TireDumping.JPG

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- An East Nashville man is asking for help with an illegal dumping problem in his own neighborhood after a bunch of tires have been dumped on Ben Allen Road just two weeks after the sheriff's department spent days cleaning up the last mess.

Liberty Tire Recycling is the place where businesses are supposed to dispose of tires. The problem is that it costs them more to get rid of the tires legally than to dump them on the side of the road.

Dustin McClelland says every few weeks tires get dumped on Ben Allen Road.

"Hundreds of tires," he said.

It's a story repeated all over Davidson County.

"This year so far, we had a total of 350 illegal dumping calls, so it is a massive problem," said Kennetha Price, public information officer for Metro Public Works.

"There is no reason to dump your garbage on the side of the road," said Nancy VanReece, city council member representing District 8. "There is never a good reason for that."

But apparently there is a good reason.

If businesses want to dispose of tires legally they must come to Liberty Tire Recycling, which is contracted by the State. Liberty Tire charges \$150 per ton, which is the equivalent of 100 tires. The State fine, however, for illegal dumping is \$50. So a business can pay \$125 dollars to get rid of tires legally or just risk a \$50 dollar to throw them on the sign of the road.

"It's a little frustrating that it cost more to get rid of the tires then the fine," said McClelland. "Naturally, what are you going to pick?"

"Do you guys have an opinion that the fine is only \$50?" asked Reporter Sabrina Hall.

"I'm sure everybody does but the fine is up to the State," said Price.

Fox 17 reached out to State lawmakers to see what can be done. Rep. Harold Love says he's looking into it.

Meanwhile, Mccleland waits for another clean up but expects to see tires dumped on Ben Allen Road again.

"Would you like this in your yard?" asked Mccleland.

After FOX 17 made some calls on this, VanReece contacted the sheriff's department and workers plan to be out there to clean up the mess again on Monday.



## East Nashville residents upset about illegal dumping in neighborhood

By [Andy Cordan](http://wkrn.com/author/andy-cordan/) (<http://wkrn.com/author/andy-cordan/>)

Published: February 6, 2015, 9:06 pm | Updated: February 7, 2015, 10:51 pm



NASHVILLE, Tenn. (WKRN) – A corner of east Nashville has become a magnet for construction waste, which has lead to other illegal dumping.

The issue has neighbors angry. One woman videotaped alleged offenders in the act two weeks ago.

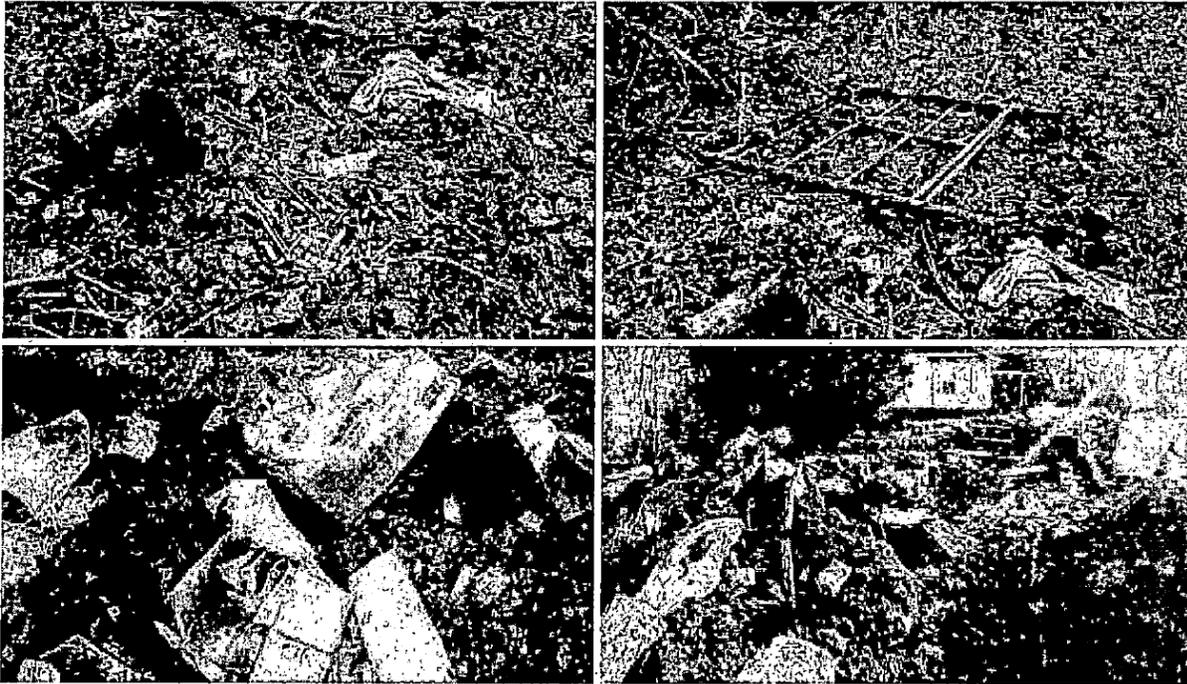
Nanette Little Young stood at her kitchen door and captured the crime.

The wife and mother said she saw a white van stuck in the mud in the woods beside her house.

Young knew they shouldn't be there so she started taping. She watched the van rock back and forth trying to get out of the mud. She then witnessed three men dumping items like trash,

scaffolding, CDs and nuts and bolts.

Young and her husband tried to get the van's license plate were not successful.



This is the same property on the corner of Eastland and Rosebank avenues that has seen an entire yard of construction waste dumped.

The house was reportedly abandoned and the entire yard is now filled with dirt and concrete and rocks:

Residents have talked to the property owner who reportedly says they are appalled at the dumping and they have no idea who is doing this.

Young said, "It is bad for property values and it is dangerous and it sends out a message to whoever is visiting that we are a bunch of slobs. Whoever is doing this dumping should be very ashamed."

The director of Metro Codes Department told News the property owner was cited Jan. 21,

He had until this past Tuesday to get the site cleaned, but the property owner requested an extension.



## Property owner frustrated with illegal dumping

Posted: Nov 20, 2015 3:23 PM CST

Updated: Dec 04, 2015 3:23 PM CST

Reported by Kevin Trager **CONNECT**

NASHVILLE, TN (WSMV) - Trash, junk and debris are piling up in a south Nashville neighborhood and upsetting residents.

The property owner said it's not his fault and strangers are illegally dumping items on his land.

"They broke the fence," property owner Donnie Moore said. "They've driven over the fence several times."

For the past 10 years, Moore said random people have been dumping old furniture and trash on his property. Because the lot is under his name, the city holds him accountable.

"It's getting tiresome, because I have these letters come every month to clean up the lot or they're going to start fining me \$50 a day," Moore said. "And a week or 10 days later, they've already dumped again."

Moore owns a construction company and has equipment to haul the junk away, but still has to pay \$100 per load to drop it at the dump. He has asked the city to step up enforcement and install a no dumping sign on his property.

"Everyone knows I have the dump trucks and skid loaders to load up the debris to haul off. The rest of these people don't," Moore said.

Two lots down from Moore's property, toilets, construction materials and trash have sat for years, Moore said. No one has been forced to clean it up, so the dumping continues.

"We've had a number of those properties on notice, and to get the owners to clean up, to comply, there are probably properties out there now that need to be dealt with, so it's an ongoing process," said Bill Penn, assistant director of Metro Codes Department.

Moore said he knows the process will continue to require him to haul off other people's junk until he catches them dumping in the act.

"Without some really concrete proof, we don't have a court case," Penn said.

Penn said the codes department will install a no dumping sign if they determine it's necessary for a particular property. He said residents can also contact Metro police to install no trespassing signs.

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