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INSIDE THIS

As American As Apple Pie	1
BHA Summer Picnic	1
Calendar of Events	2
Graffiti	2
Home Solicitation	2
Insert—McGavock Covenant, National	
Discover Tennessee Trails and Byways	3
NewPlayingNashville.com	3
Information to Keep Handy	4



Back to School!

It's here! Many of you have children who likely already started back to school or will do so by August 16th. Yes, as sad as the kids and as happy as many of the parents may be, summer has come to a close. School supplies and clothing are ready to go and we unearth that alarm clock that the kids tossed back in the closet, oh so happily so, back in May. School zones and bus routes will be back in full swing.

As friends and neighbors who once again see children waiting at bus stops or walking home in the afternoons, I hope you all continue to be aware of the junior population that seems to be ever growing in Bluefields. The days will once again begin to shorten on us, daylight making way for nightfall ever so slightly earlier with each passing day. Before we know it Halloween will be here and many will walk through the streets of Overhill and Cumberland to see what ghouls and goblins they may find.

When the weather turns cooler and it is once again a pleasure to spend time outdoors again with family and friends. Stop and say hello to neighbors and friends, introduce yourself to someone new. We have a lovely community and a new generation bubbling up in our midst. Knowing your neighbors is a huge key to keeping our home and neighborhood a safe and secure place for us all as we wait for the first leaf to fall. And a special thank you if you are one of the households that participated in our first annual BHA Night Out. We hope to grow in number in years to come.

Bluefield's' Low Country Boil

We are excited that it is that time of year again! Bluefield's annual Low Country Boil! We are excited to once again give our neighbors an opportunity to get together and mingle over some fantastic fare! After a long and hot summer, what a better way to ring in the fall? Bring your chairs and join us in the back yard of James and Jennifer Surface for some good eats and good times. We will be waiting for you!



Where: Spring Valley Road

When: October 23rd, 4PM



~ Bluefields ~

Fall Calendar and Upcoming Events

- ◆ August 23 - BHA Meeting at 6:30PM, FiftyForward
- ◆ September 6 –Labor Day
- ◆ October 5th - Brush Pick Up Begins
- ◆ October 23 - Low Country Boil
- ◆ October 31 -Halloween

Give Back
 The entire month of August area business are joining together to help collect food items for the local *Second Harvest* food bank here in Donelson.

Participating locations include:

- Prepaid Legal Unity Church
- Boyle Investments
- Donelson Place
- First Tennessee
- Wilson Bank & Trust
- Dick's Flowers
- Civic Bank & Trust
- Great NV Church
- Grace Nazzrene
- Cort Furniture
- Star Physical Therapy
- Cedarstone Bank

***** Upcoming 2011 Board Elections *****

The 2010 year is already over half way through and we want to invite all of our neighbors to consider volunteering for the upcoming 2011 Board and Officer positions that will be needed. A total of four officer (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) and six Board seats open up for nominations.

If you haven't been involved in the past, we welcome you to join us and contribute both ideas and support to this worthwhile neighborhood organization. All that is required is that you are a dues paying member of BHA and intend in doing so for the 2011 calendar year. We need your help, input and energy. For more information on what the Board and Officer positions entail, contact any of your current 2010 Board members. The 2011 Board will be elected on December 6th at the final BA Board meeting for the 2010 calendar year.

Are You Water Wise ?

Thanks to the Cumberland River Nashville has an abundant supply of water. But it's important that we all use water wisely, especially on our lawns and gardens and other times when we don't really need to use drinking water to get the job done. Fixing leaky faucets, catching rinse water in a bowl to water outdoor plants, and even catching rain water in a bucket to use when you scrub the patio are smart yet simple ideas that we call can use to save water and save money.

To assist encouraging and facilitating this effort, Metro Water Services is sponsoring a program, Water Wise, and offering rain barrels to customers, at a cost of \$88 to \$99 for a 60 or 50 gallon rain water reservoir unit. These barrels are available for purchase and installation from Metro. This is a simple and relatively inexpensive way to catch and store rainwater for use on lawns and gardens. The long term savings can outweigh the upfront cost of the barrel and installations/delivery fees. For more info go to www.nashville.gov/water/education/rainbarrel.asp.

NEXT BHA MEETING

Monday,

August 23

6:30 pm

FiftyForward Donelson

Station

108 Donelson Pike

See you there!

FLOOD UPDATE - DID YOU KNOW?

Well, it has been a little over three months since 52 of the 92 counties in Tennessee were declared Federal disaster areas. Our Donelson community was significantly impacted, both business wise as well as personally. Many still are working to recover and rebuild from such a devastating disaster. Many in our community realize that this isn't going to take months, it could take years.

Both our local Donelson Hermitage Chamber as well as our state government have put plans together in the hopes to assist persons in their recovery efforts.

The Gateway to Recovery supported by both the Donelson Hermitage Chamber as well as the Donelson Gateway Project have joined forces to help facilitate the creation of this 501(c)3 which is now collecting donations for a gift card program which distributes gift cards to flood victims for essential needs and restoration supplies. Seven thousand dollars have been donated to date and soon there will be an electronic means by which individuals can donate. Currently cash or in kind gift cards can be made at Wilson Bank & Trust in Donelson. Gift card applications can be found at the Donelson library. They are available in \$250 increments for qualified applicants.

On a larger area wide scale, in late June Mayor Karl Dean launched a local rebuilding assistance program, We Are Home, with \$7 million allocated to date to help rebuild homes through a public-private partnership that includes The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, financial institutions, nonprofit organizations and Metro Government. This program is intended to provide additional funding to help Nashville residents repair their flooded homes when FEMA and SBA are not enough. For more information on these programs and ways to donate you can go to www.nashville.gov.

Remember your friends and neighbors impacted, the businesses that have been working so hard to keep afloat or get back to business as usual. Much of the clean up has completed but there is so much more to do. Those persons who obtained assistance with cleaning out homes and personal belongings will need assistance moving them back in again. Total losses leave persons needing to replace just about everything. Look around your home and think about the scope and cost of such a thing. Everyone is encouraged to reach back out to those you know in the community who were impacted.

~ HOME SPOTLIGHT ~



~ 239 Cumberland Circle ~

This circa 1950's home on approximately .36 acres is one of the many beautiful homes you will find on Cumberland Circle. With a brick exterior, well maintained fenced in backyard, rear freestanding, detached garage and lovely landscaping, this home certainly stands out as one of Bluefields many distinct homes.



Begun in 1929, Bluefields is the oldest neighborhood in Donelson. There are approximately 225 homes in the modern day Bluefields, and many families who have been here from the beginning. Bluefields continues to grow and age gracefully as we strive to keep up the beautiful landscape and protect our older trees; just a few of the reasons why Bluefields homes often sell by word of mouth.

2718 Overhill
Donelson, TN 37214

Donelson's Historic Neighborhood
www.bluefieldsliving.com

Information to Keep Handy

Neighborhood Watch

Emergencies and crimes in progress should be reported to Metro Police via 911. Non-emergencies should be reported via 862-8600.

Please contact Neighborhood Watch Captain Andrew Bradley about any suspicious activity by calling 378-7336 or emailing Bluefields-Watch@gmail.com. If the flags on the Neighborhood Watch signs flip from green to red, please call the same 378-7336 or visit www.BluefieldsWatch.blogspot.com to find the latest updates for our neighborhood.

Trash Collection

On Fridays, please have your brown containers at the curb by 7 am and removed by 7 pm.

Curbside Recycling

The first Friday of each month is Bluefields' assigned day for "Curby" pickup. Please have your green recycle container on the street by 7 am. If the first Friday falls on a holiday, the alternate collection day is Saturday.



Acceptable items: Paper, newspaper, cardboard, aluminum and steel cans, and plastic bottles.

Unacceptable items: Glass, plastic bags, trash, and yard waste. (Note: Glass and plastic recycling containers are located at Hobby Lobby at 4101 Lebanon Road.)

Phone and email reminders are available by visiting www.nashville.gov/recycle or by calling 311.

Brush Collection

Bluefields is on Route 4 of the Brush collection schedule. Brush should be out by the first day collection trucks are scheduled to be in the area. Leaves placed in biodegradable bags and limbs less than 4 inches in diameter will be collected. More information: Public Works, 880-1000 or 311. www.nashville.gov/recycle/brush.htm. Next brush pick up for our area begins October 5th.

Bulk Item Collection

Curbside bulk item collection is available. No more than six items are permitted per address.

The city of Nashville also has recycle convenience centers that allow up to three bulk items to be disposed of at no charge. Details are available at www.nashville.gov/recycle/bulkitems or by calling 311.

Acceptable items: Furniture, mattresses, stoves, refrigerators, air conditioners.

Unacceptable items: Scrap metal, household hazardous waste, construction and demolition material.

Burned Out Street Light

Make a note of the number on the light pole and phone NES at 736-6900.

Metro Nashville Councilman

Phil Claiborne
862-6780
phil.claiborne@nashville.gov

Next BHA Meeting Monday August 23, 6:30 PM, FiftyForward Donelson Station, 108 Donelson Pike

Fall, Football and FUN

With the Titans first preseason of the Game against the Arizona Cardinals coming up August 23rd, it is finally that time of year again! Football and the long awaited new fall season line up from the major networks! The sizzling summer season draws to a close, but don't get stuck just sitting behind the TV, there are great events and festivals planned throughout the late summer and fall in Nashville that you should consider checking out!

August 14, 2010: 7th Annual Tomato Art Fest—Art and Invention Gallery

Located in East Nashville's Five Points area, this FREE, costume-friendly event provides a fun-filled day.

August 27-August 28, 2010: Music City BBQ Festival at Riverfront Park, Nashville

Second Annual Music City BBQ Festival with over 70 cook teams will compete on what Governor Bredesen has declared "Music City BBQ Fest Day".

September 25, 2010: Wine On The River

Wine on the River is now in its 8th year. Vineyards from across the country and around the world will have their wines on hand to be sampled, and even provide some educational insight into the wine-making process. Held at the scenic Shelby Street Bridge downtown.

October 9, 2010: Oktoberfest in Historic Germantown, Nashville

Oktoberfest 2010 will feature: Authentic German Food & Beverages, Specialty Food Items & Home Baked Treats, Polka Dancing, Street Performers, Tours of Germantown's Historic Churches, FREE FunLand for the Kids, Arts, Crafts & Antique Specialty Booths and 3 Stages of Music.

October 16, 2010: Tennessee Beer Festival at Two Rivers Mansion

Don't miss the First Annual Tennessee Beer Festival! Fabulous craft and micro beers, entertainment, and great food! A portion of the proceeds will benefit Exchange Club Family Center, Nashville and Fifty Forward, Donelson Station. Two Rivers Mansion, Donelson.

November 19—January 2, 2011: A Country Christmas 2010

After the flood of 2010, Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center will once again re-open their doors! With the return of ICE! Featuring Santa Claus is Coming to Town and the world famous Radio City Rockettes. And don't forget The Hall of Trees with nearly two million Christmas lights! They have been missed, let's welcome them back!

YOUR HOMES LIABILITIES ARE NOT CHARMING.

The other day I was looking at a picture of me holding my new baby on the front porch. I loved the cool stone in the background. It was my own front porch! We love old houses don't we? Yet it is the 'old' in our homes that challenges both 'would be' buyers and our daily lives. Confess it... no one loves moving clothes to the upstairs every time you try to fit a new shirt in the closet or likes walking across a dark room to get to the only light switch. You think your basement is charming but your friends think its an archaeological excavation not a laundry room. When we moved to Cumberland Circle my wife said 'I am never going down there to do laundry. There might be bodies in that dirt.' While people love our historic charm its smart for home owners to recognize the difference between charm and liability. Here are four liabilities you may need to address:

No garage or small garage. Have one built. The truth is it may not make you money but it will sell your home. Build it now so you can enjoy it. Many companies specialize in this type of build but stay away from prefab garages as they do depreciate.

Out dated appliances and electrical systems. Outdated appliances are rarely nostalgic. Many places like Lowe's offer free delivery so shop a deal and upgrade. As a realtor and property manager I have never been able to make even the best 'used' appliance work financially. I buy new, scratch and dent (if I can) and never the bottom of the line. Dishwashers especially are not worth repairing and the installation is time consuming so get a decent one. If you have not already done so upgrade your electrical service to a 200 amps (or more) and install GFI receptacles in your bathrooms and kitchen.

Bad/ugly roofs. Did you know if your shingles are in good shape but streaked you can have them cleaned? You wouldn't let the side of your home look streaked. Your roof may be as much as 50 percent of your street view so make it pretty. If you do need to replace the roof invest in a 30 year architectural shingle. The way the shingles overlap you are actually getting denser coverage and they are the new standard. A twenty year three tab shingle may have people wondering where else you skimped.

Garbled floor plan. Do you have one? I do. It may be cost prohibitive to open walls but unnecessary doors are much easier to eliminate.

1. Remove all doors that are not bedroom or bathroom doors, pry off the door stop, and fill in the old hardware holes with wood filler.
2. Or raise the headers of unnecessary doors headers to the ceiling. Some door headers on non-load bearing walls can be removed completely. This will take a licenced contractor but it is an rather easy job that will completely change the feel of your home without killing your need wall space.

These capital improvement are the top of my list when I list a house, but are often to complicated to start once you are ready to sell. Start knocking them out as you enjoy your house whether you are here for 2 years or 20 years.