

BHN ANNUAL MEETING

A good crowd turned out for our Annual Meeting on October 26 held at Christ The King Church. We heard reports on BHN activities through the year and the state of our treasury. Jason Rogers of Belmont University and Mary Pat Teague of Vanderbilt reported on their schools' activities as they affect surrounding neighborhoods, and Council Representative Kristine LaLonde reported on issues coming before the Council.

The featured presentation concerned our Tree Canopy project, chaired by Melinda Newpher. Sharon Smith of the Mayor's Office Green Initiative gave an overview of efforts in Metro. Gary Bynum and Tom Solinsky told about Phase One of our tree-planting project, under which 55 large-caliper trees will be planted on public rights of way. Bruce Webster of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture reminded us that the \$4,813 grant (matched by BHN) comes from one of the programs funded by the state's cigarette tax, and trees must be grown in Tennessee nurseries.

The first trees will be planted in the medians where Cedar Lane and Brightwood Avenue intersect. Belmont Boulevard is a major emphasis, and other streets where there are planting strips will also be included. Sites have been chosen with the cooperation of Public Works, checking for safety, underground utilities, and other issues.

It should be noted that the contract includes watering for the first two years. Disease-resistant Dutch Elm, Northern Red Oak, Shumard Oak, Blackgum, and Yellowwood are the trees of choice. In Phase Two, "mid-story" trees like Serviceberry and Dogwood will be planted under power lines. It will also be possible for homeowners to buy trees for their own yards, but plans for this are still being developed.

It took a while for the grant funded by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture to be signed and fully approved. In the meantime, more than 30 people came out in early November to help plant in the median on Brightwood, ranging in age from 3 to quite a bit older. The trees planted on Brightwood are Frontier Elms, which will turn burgundy red in the fall (the only elm to do so). The trees are planted about 16 feet apart so that over the years the branches

will meet and create a leafy arbor down the median, and arching a bit over the road as well. They will not grow so tall as to interfere in any way with the power line that runs over the median.

On Gale Lane the volunteers helped plant bigger Valley Forge Elms, which should grow 80 feet tall over the years. And on Belmont Boulevard at Gale, Crab Apples were planted to fill in between the ones that were already there. These grow well under the power lines, with no fear that they have to be topped in the future. They will also make for a beautiful wall of blossoms at that entrance to the neighborhood every spring. Special thanks go to SoundForest.org and its sponsors, including the Cumberland River Compact, for funding these trees for us. Also to David Glasgow and Van Pond, who made connections and rounded up volunteers.

YOU CAN SAVE ENERGY IN YOUR HOME, TOO!

The Tree Canopy Project is not your only opportunity to be green. Go Green, District 18 is an initiative to reduce the District's energy consumption by 5%. More than 40% of carbon emissions come from heating and cooling, lighting and operating buildings. In a neighborhood characterized by unique, historic homes, such as Belmont-Hillsboro, the percentage is even higher. It is important to retro-fit homes to increase their energy efficiency and shrink our community's carbon footprint.

Go Green, District 18 asks homeowners and businesses in the 18th District to sign up for an NES In-Home Energy Evaluation. The evaluation fee is \$150, but this is reimbursed if recommended improvements totaling more than \$150 are made. Participants are also reimbursed 50% of the installation cost up to \$500, and federal tax credits also apply to some improvements, up to \$1500. The evaluation takes about an hour and a half, and you'll get a detailed report with specific recommendations.

The goal is for 360 residences to sign up. Currently more than 75 have gotten on board. You can sign up online at www.GoGreenDistrict18.com, or call Tony Viglietti at NES, 615-262-7385.



DONATE TO BHN'S TREE CANOPY FUND! We have been awarded a grant from the state's Forestry Division and have committed matching funds. The neighborhood needs your help! You can make a tax-deductible contribution online or by mail, by going to www.belmont-hillsboro.org/tree-canopy. or Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors P.O. Box 120712.

BHN HOME TOUR 2009



Our thirteenth annual Tour of Homes was scheduled on October 17, 2009 to coincide with the conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, held in Nashville this year. The day turned out to be cloudy and chilly, struggling to get up to 50 degrees, but around 3 p.m. the sun came out and the breeze died down. The number of people who turned out, and the good spirit that prevailed throughout the day, overcame any weather problems. At least 600 attended; we made \$15,000 towards BHN projects. (See "What BHN has done in 2009" on page 4.)

Ten homes, including the Belmont mansion, and a garden, were on this year's tour. There was plenty of variety, not only in size but in the ways they had been rehabilitated, added on to, or furnished, and one was still very much "in process." Although some tour-goers had definite favorites, they clearly enjoyed going through all the homes and got many ideas.

Shuttle buses were provided by Randy Rayburn of Sunset Grill, not only along Belmont Boulevard but to and from the Convention Center. Refreshments were sold by students from JT Moore Middle School.

Tour co-chairs this year were Joe Woolley and Susie Champion. Photos were by Melinda Newpher and Lindsey Trella Moffatt. Architectural descriptions were prepared by Katherine Williams and Michael Ward. Ann Roberts coordinated ad sales, and Emily Douglas kept track of the many volunteers who sold tickets and welcomed visitors to the homes.

The breakfast for volunteers, homeowners, and sponsors was hosted by Arnold Myint at ChaChah. The after-tour party was hosted by Jenkins Hardin and Brett Sheriff, and catered by Bacon & Caviar.

Special thanks go to our wonderful homeowners for this year's tour, the sponsors and advertisers, and the many volunteers for all their work before, during, and after the tour making it all a success.

BELMONT-HILLSBORO NEIGHBORS INC MEMBERSHIP 2010

As we start the new year all members are encouraged to renew their annual memberships. The neighborhood database lists over 340 household or individual members but only 117 are current in membership payments. Renewing has never been easier. You can either write a check and mail it in to; Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors P.O. Box 120712, or simply to go to <http://home.belmont-hillsboro.org/membership> and hit the Paypal icon. Household memberships are \$15 and individual memberships are \$10.

If you love this neighborhood and want to be part of its success as the best place to live in Nashville, rejoin today and be part of Belmont Hillsboro Neighbors. Any questions please do not hesitate to contact Tom Champion at thomas.campion@gmail.com or phone 310 3463.

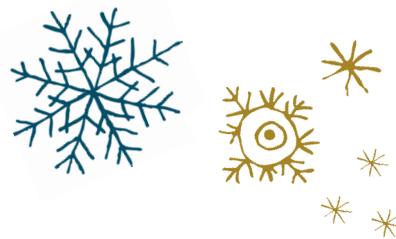
BEAUTIFICATION - NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP

Our Fall Cleanup Day this year was cloudy and chilly, but many neighbors turned out. Melinda Newpher coordinated with Public Works and Metro Beautification to get gloves, bags, T-shirts, and bright-hue safety vests. She also arranged for rolloffs; BHN paid for one, and Public Works, which had promised one, brought two instead. There was a special opportunity to bring electronic waste and household hazardous waste for safe processing. In addition, this year Goodwill Industries supplied a truck to collect "gently used" items. And Tom Solinsky of Soundforest supplied information on our Tree Canopy Project.

Neighborhood volunteers were joined by members of the Phi Kappa Tau chapter fraternity at Belmont University. Cpl. Barbara Schwarz and Cpl. Katherine Smith of the Sheriff's Office supervised non-violent offenders and people arrested for DUI doing community service.

They cruised the streets and alleys on foot and with vehicles, picking up trash and removing signs from utility poles. We kept a count of the trips that were made to the disposal site (at least 35, plus the trips made by the Sheriff's Office). Those who signed in to do trash pickup or help on site included Hunter Askew, Randall Brady, Gary Bynum, Susie and Tom Champion, Matt Fittro, Gill Geldreich, Michael Gillespie, Matt Griffin, Tim Holman and Virginia Spini, Liza Joffrion with daughters Mary and Margaret Jane, Rob Laird, Ross Pepper, Will Shipp, Tom Solinsky, Chris Speed, Yolanda Spencer, and Penny and Gene TeSelle.

Thanks to Melinda Newpher, who coordinated all the arrangements and made many trips herself picking up trash; the many volunteers and participants; and Osborne Bi-Rite, Corduroy Horse Antiques, and Helios Artglass-works for putting up with all our coming and going.





RULES AND ETIQUETTE FOR THE ROAD

The Driver License Study Guide, which can be found online, has many helpful points for the many people who share our public rights of way.

Drivers shouldn't assume they can drive at the posted speed limit; their speed is to be based on "current road conditions," including weather and the amount of traffic using the road, and their driving must be "reasonable and prudent." They are to keep a safe distance from other cars, using the "two second rule." And of course they are to use turn signals every time they turn or change lanes.

At a stop sign or signal light drivers are to come to a complete stop – at the marked stop line there is one, but never farther than the stop sign. They are to proceed cautiously and look "left-right-left." In making a left turn they must stay in their lanes, not cutting the corner but observing the centerlines.

There are some other rules that are relevant to our neighborhood. Cars are not to be parked blocking driveways, or closer than 15 feet to a fire hydrant, or 20 feet to a crosswalk, or 30 feet to a stop sign. Some intersections in our neighborhood have "no parking" signs near the corner, but others do not, causing visibility problems, especially when big, opaque SUVs are parked there.

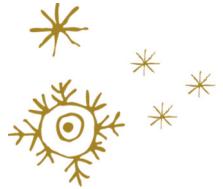
Drivers are reminded that the road does not belong to them. They "share the road" with others. Therefore they are expected to drive defensively and safely. The same applies to pedestrians and cyclists, who are encouraged to "make eye contact" to be sure that they are seen.

Pedestrians have the right of way – not everywhere, but at all intersections, whether crosswalks are marked or not. Cars must yield to pedestrians "in or about to enter" a crosswalk – whenever a pedestrian steps off the curb on their part of the roadway. Pedestrians don't have the right of way when there is a "Don't walk" signal, a red or yellow light, or a green turn arrow for a lane of traffic. Where a sidewalk exists they are to use it, not the street. If they are in the street, they must walk facing the traffic.

Cyclists must obey the rules of the road. Under state law, cars must give them three feet of clearance. On Belmont Boulevard and elsewhere, there are marked bike lanes. These have signs saying "Bikes only." They are marked by solid white lines, which cars are not to cross. Furthermore, it is illegal to pass on the right when a car is stopped for a left turn. Drivers often break the law in these three ways, and we hope that the Metro Police will enforce these laws as well as the speed limit.

COYOTES IN OUR MIDST

As with many wild animals, the coyote, when left alone, will regulate his own numbers. When coyotes in a certain area are killed, die or are relocated, the remaining members will fill the vacancies, either with larger litters or by allowing outsiders to move into the area. Due to the rapid loss of habitat by over-developing, many coyotes have found themselves co-habiting with humans, often to the dismay of the humans. With a little knowledge, we humans can learn to co-exist with this native species. Eradication of the coyote from certain areas disturbs the eco-system of that area and will not solve the problem of dealing with the "urban" coyote. Education and co-existence are the keys.



How To Co-Exist

- While many of us enjoy the small songbirds in our yards, large amounts and prolonged use of wild bird seed will attract not only the wild birds but the rabbits, squirrels, mice and gophers. These little creatures will in turn attract the coyote and other predatory animals. If you do feed the wild birds, put out only small amounts of seed at a time.
- Table scraps, leftovers, etc. should be discarded and not left outdoors for wildlife. Be a good neighbor and don't encourage wildlife to become dependent on you.
- Do not keep pet food outdoors; coyotes are scavengers and on a slow day, a dish of dog or cat food really hits the spot and keeps them coming back for more.
- Make your trash cans inaccessible. Keep trash can lids securely fastened or keep trash cans in your garage until trash day. Ammonia or pepper in the trash can may also discourage the scavenging coyote.
- Keep cats and small dogs indoors, allowing them outside only under strict supervision
- Coyotes rarely climb anything higher than a six (6) foot fence. Augment your existing fencing with extenders angled outwardly, hot wire, or cement blocks and large rocks buried outside the fence line to prevent animals from digging into your yard.
- Coyotes are "opportunistic" hunters. While the coyotes' principal diet may be small rodents and fruit, they will not hesitate to prey on small domestic animals if the "opportunity" provides for such.
- Trapping and re-location of coyotes is not recommended. Coyote pups, although weaned at an early age, may remain with their mother into their second year, often helping the mother care for her newest litter. Disruption of this "pack" can mean devastation for the whole group or cause disoriented or suddenly orphaned coyotes to deviate from the norm and prey on easy game, (i.e. small dogs, rabbits, chickens, etc.)

Source: The Fund for Animals Wildlife Rehabilitation Center



PO BOX 120712
NASHVILLE, TN 37212



WHAT HAS BHN DONE IN THE PAST YEAR?

- Improved the work of the Membership Subcommittee, increased memberships to more than 300 households, and made online payment much easier at www.belmont-hillsboro.org.
- Thanked Councilman Keith Durbin for his energetic work representing the 18th District and congratulated him on his new job as Metro's Chief Information Officer.
- Sponsored a forum in February for the four candidates running for Council; published the candidates' statements; informed residents about the runoff between Stephenie Dodson and Kristine LaLonde; and welcomed Kristine LaLonde as new Council representative for the 18th District.
- Developed a tree-planting project in collaboration with our neighbor Tom Solinsky of Soundforest.org, which will lead to the planting of appropriate trees along Belmont Boulevard and other streets. These are approved by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry, and by Public Works.
- Matched a grant from the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program for the first phase of the tree-planting project, and set-up the Tree Canopy Fund for continuing contributions by mail or online.
- Maintained contact with the Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission as it administered the Belmont-Hillsboro Neighborhood Conservation Zoning Overlay.
- Participated in the Belmont University Neighborhood Advisory Committee, which was established as a part of the Belmont University Institutional Overlay.
- Continued to act as "fiscal agent" for a \$120,000 grant from the Tennessee Department of Transportation to develop a "21st Century Gateway Corridor" along 21st Avenue South from Bernard to Blakemore and Wedgewood, and \$28,750 in Council discretionary funds toward park development.
- Organized a successful Tour of Homes on October 17, featuring ten homes and one garden. This year's tour netted over \$15,000 for BHN.
- Sponsored and staffed a booth at the downtown Nashville convention of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, publicizing our Tour of Homes, tote bags, neighborhood history, and 1908 map.
- Gene Teselle authored and published a comprehensive history of our neighborhood titled "The Belmont Area and Hillsboro Village."
- Continued making grants to special projects that benefit Belmont-Hillsboro and surrounding areas, and developed guidelines for requests.
- Hosted a potluck breakfast during the Country Music Marathon on April 25, cheering the runners at the corner of Belmont Boulevard and Linden Avenue.
- Co-sponsored, with the Nashville Bar Association and other organizations, the annual block party on Sweetbriar Avenue, remembering Otha Turner; proceeds went to the Second Harvest Food Bank. We donated \$1020 to Second Harvest from BHN memberships gained at the event.
- Sponsored an outdoor movie night at the Belcourt Theater, featuring "Young Frankenstein."
- Organized a Spring Cleanup in April and a Fall Cleanup in October. Goodwill Industries also collected "gently used" items during the fall cleanup.
- Contracted with neighbor and landscape professional Kay Ruty to landscape and maintain the Historic Belmont-Hillsboro entry sign at 18th and Magnolia.
- Continues to sponsor a book group that meets monthly.
- Participated in the Nashville Neighborhood Alliance, which monitors Council bills, protects the rights of neighborhoods, and works to define what "neighborhood livability" means throughout Metro.
- Maintained close ties with Metro Nashville Police on crime issues; with NES concerning tree-trimming practices; and with our School Board representative, parents, and teachers of the schools in the Hillsboro cluster.
- Maintained communication with neighbors through listserv emails, website, telephone hotline, and newsletter.
- Redesigned our web site to include online donations and membership renewals, events calendar, neighborhood photos, announcements, and newsletter.
- Distributed 1500 copies of the Belmont-Hillsboro News door to door, through almost 50 block representatives.
- Presented a check for \$1,300 to the Belmont Manison for continued restoration and conservation.

