



BELMONT - HILLSBORO NEWS  
 BELMONT-HILLSBORO NEIGHBORS, INC. WWW.BELMONT-HILLSBORO.ORG

## EXCITING YEAR PLANNED FOR 2012

JOHN RAY CLEMMONS,  
 PRESIDENT BELMONT-HILLSBORO NEIGHBORS

Hello neighbors. 2012 is well underway, and it promises to be another exciting year in the neighborhood. Thanks to all who have stepped up to serve on our neighborhood association, Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors, this year. I have the honor of leading this esteemed group of public servants in 2012 as President, along with Brett Sheriff (Vice-President), Gill Geldreich (Treasurer), Gary Bynum (Recording Secretary), and Gene TeSelle (Corresponding Secretary). We, on behalf of all the members of Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors, strongly encourage you to join us as we continue working to protect the historic character of our neighborhood, improve our neighborhoods' quality of life, and plan events that celebrate and promote the uniqueness of Belmont-Hillsboro.

For those who may be unfamiliar with our neighborhood association and its many functions, Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors is the longest continually operating neighborhood association in Nashville. For 41 years, residents young and old have united and remained organized to protect the Belmont-Hillsboro neighborhood from issues such as over-development and neglect by judiciously maintaining and fostering the area's unique character. Neighborhood residents and community leaders have confronted important issues head-on since 1971. Past issues addressed by the neighborhood association have ranged from ensuring that commercial developments such as Harris Teeter fit into our urban landscape to the exodus of many to the "crabgrass frontier." In 2005, a multi-year project to protect the architectural character and diversity of homes in our neighborhood was completed with Metro Council's passage of the Belmont-Hillsboro Neighborhood Conservation Zoning Overlay. Today we enjoy the respect and attention of citywide elected leaders and Metro officials, have positive working relationships with our local universities, enjoy the different businesses that thrive in our neighborhood, and continue to benefit from our diverse and pedestrian friendly community. All this because of the well organized past efforts of Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors.

Presently, on-street parking, sidewalk construction, zoning, crime watch and tree planting are just a few of the issues tirelessly addressed by BHN, along with the able assistance of our Metro Councilmember, Burkley Allen. On a daily basis you probably enjoy something in your daily routine or appreciate something about your street

that Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors created, protected, or impacted in some way. The newly planted trees in front of your house and lining Belmont Boulevard, the absence of a McMansion next door looking over your backyard, and the newsletter you are reading are all courtesy of Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors.

We also like to have a little fun. Annual fundraising events such as the Belmont-Hillsboro Tour of Homes, "More Wood for the 'Hood", and social events like the Music City Marathon Breakfast on the Boulevard, provide us with much needed opportunities to relax, socialize and raise money for the various projects and philanthropic endeavors we support. In the past few years alone, our neighborhood association, which is incorporated as a 501(c)(3), has donated thousands of dollars to local non-profits and contributed matching funds to increase our neighborhood's tree canopy.

I encourage you all to get involved with Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors. We meet on the second Monday of each month at the offices of Village Real Estate, at 6:30 p.m. If you have lived in the neighborhood for a while you have surely benefitted in multiple ways from the hard work of your neighbors, and now you have the opportunity to lend a hand. To those who are newer to the 'hood, you surely invested a good chunk of change to live in this beautiful community, now invest some of your time and skills to continue to protect and improve the neighborhood. Make no mistake, we are all busy with work and family, but little else is more important than the safety and quality of life we enjoy daily in our neighborhood.

If you have any questions about how to get involved in our neighborhood, contact me by email [jrclemmons@gmail.com](mailto:jrclemmons@gmail.com) or phone (915-0934). For more information visit our website at [www.belmont-hillsboro.org](http://www.belmont-hillsboro.org).



This newsletter is distributed door-to-door on most blocks in the neighborhood (if it's not being distributed on your block, please volunteer!). We have also been sending it to members of BHN by mail, and it is now available online at [www.belmont-hillsboro.org](http://www.belmont-hillsboro.org). If you prefer not to receive a print copy by mail, please let us know by emailing [info@belmont-hillsboro.org](mailto:info@belmont-hillsboro.org). This newsletter was edited by Gene TeSelle and laid out by Susie Campion. The printing was done at Midtown Printing, 120 20th Avenue South, by our neighbor Fred Von Colln. PLEASE NOTE: This newsletter is not to be put "in or on" mail boxes, according to the U.S. Postal Service.

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**BHN PHILANTHROPY GRANTS 2011**  
BILL WIGGINS, PHILANTHROPY COMMITTEE



The Belmont-Hillsboro Philanthropy Committee reviews and recommends applications for charitable contributions submitted to the association. In the past year 2011, upon the recommendation of the Philanthropy Committee, the Steering Committee of Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors approved donations to:

- **O.N.E./Barnes Scholarships**

The Barnes Scholarship is sponsored by the Organized Neighbors of Edgehill, and benefits students living in the Edgehill neighborhood adjacent to BHN. We have contributed to this fund for many years. The contribution for 2011 was \$1000.00.

- **Pre-College Scholarship Fund of the Blair School of Music**

The Blair School's Pre-College Scholarship Fund benefits students whose families demonstrate financial need through an application process administered by Blair Pre-College faculty and staff. BHN's donation is specifically targeted to qualified students who reside in the 37212 zip code. For 2011 two students shared the \$500.00 award.

- **The Nashville Ballet**

A grant of \$300.00 was awarded to the Nashville Ballet and provided tickets to the Holiday Magic performance of "The Nutcracker" for ten children and their family members, all invited through a social service agency.

- **Nashville RBI (*Reviving Baseball in the Inner City*)**

A donation of \$500.00 was made to Nashville RBI for support of their off-season programs.

Grant application forms can be found on the BHN website, [www.Belmont-Hillsbor.org](http://www.Belmont-Hillsbor.org).

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**NEW SEVIER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER**

GILL GELDREICH, STEERING COMMITTEE

In December, a third public meeting was held to present final designs for the new community center at Sevier Park. The community center has closed for construction, and the building will soon be torn down to make way for the new facility, which should be open for use in the first half of 2013. Plans specify that elements from the old building will be incorporated into the new building, and the new building will be at least LEED certified silver. The facility will include a new gymnasium, meeting/multi-purpose rooms, a yoga/dance studio, and a workout/weight area. It will be comparable in amenities to other new centers such as the one at McCabe Park and will certainly be a welcome addition to the area. For more information about the new Sevier Park Community Center, as well as information about the Sevier Park Master plan, you may visit [www.nashville.gov/parks/about/facilitydev/index.asp](http://www.nashville.gov/parks/about/facilitydev/index.asp).

**HELP FOR OUR DRAFTY OLD HOUSE**

RICHARD URBANO, STEERING COMMITTEE

The arrival of our gas bills in winter and electric bills in summer always produced a large dose of sticker shock. The TVA energy audit and the District 18 'Go Green for 18' programs were just the motivation we needed to seriously consider reducing our energy consumption.

We were one of the first homes in the BHN to have the TVA energy audit. The TVA auditor measured our house, crawled around the attic and basement, and took pictures as he went. Needless to say, the audit report showed what we already knew from our outrageous gas and electric bills. Our 1919 home could benefit from upgraded insulation in the attic, basement, walls and windows.

Insulating the attic had the biggest projected payoff. Two years ago we had Trace Ventures, Inc, install 6" of open cell foam insulation on the ceiling of our attic. They also closed and insulated around the vents in the sidewall of the attic. We also replaced our aging gas furnace with a high efficiency unit. Installing the insulation was relatively painless for us. We did have to move out most of the stuff, aka junk, from the attic to give the installers access to the ceiling. We gave the insulation a few days to dry and we moved mostly everything back into the attic. Goodwill was the beneficiary of some stuff.

The results are just phenomenal. The attic is not too cold in the winter or too hot in the summer. Heating and cooling are more consistent throughout the house. In addition, we have been able to lower the thermostats settings while maintaining the same level of comfort. Best of all, our gas bills are 50% lower, in part due to the new furnace, and the electric bills are on average 20% lower.

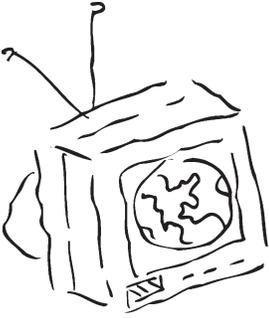
This past December we took the next big step and insulated the basement ceiling just before we refinished the wood floor on the first floor. This time around we used closed cell foam, which is denser and takes less space for the same R-value. It also has the effect of sealing the unfinished basement from the rest of the house. Open cell foam 'breathes' and would not be effective a sealer. The foam is light colored and has the side effect of making the basement lighter--easier to see the dirt floor and stone walls.

We are thrilled with improved livability of the house and expect to recover the cost of insulating the attic in about three years. Time will tell how much additional money we will save from the basement insulation. Best of all, we don't have a musty smell coming into our house through the floorboards after a heavy rain.

From our experience, it is well worth the time and effort needs to upgrade you insulation. Your historic but drafty home and its people, will appreciate the foam that seals the little nooks and crannies that develop over time.

## WHAT TO DO WHEN THE TV GOES OFF!!!

VIRGINIA SPINI, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE



In 1945, there were fewer than 7,000 televisions in the United States. That number was less than .005% of the population of the United States at that time. Today, 99% of all households in the United States have at least one television set and most have more than two. With all these television sets, it is no surprise the average number of hours

Americans watch TV increased to an average of 34 hours per week, or 4.8 hours per day.

Now with all that time sitting and watching a glowing square box, sometimes we don't quite know what to do with ourselves if the TV goes OFF!!! In summer, we might think to go outside for a walk, mow the grass, shop at the mall, or maybe go see a movie. In the winter months, our choices are reduced to mostly indoor options. Summer or winter, it doesn't matter, I would like to challenge BHN to try a day without TV once a month or more often.

Now, I'm not crazy, I would suggest we not pick a day when there is a playoff game, but doing something different might be fun. Some of you might want to drive to these locations, but since we have such a great walking neighborhood, these suggestions are close to home, with many of the suggestions less than a 20-minute walk!

- Hillsboro Village for some good eats or go out for their Art Walks (1st Thurs of each month)
- Belmont Blvd and 12th South areas of restaurants
- Visit Troutt Center at Belmont University for some live theater
- Belcourt Theatre for a movie or see one of the live music or theater shows
- Walk to Vanderbilt or Belmont and support the basketball teams at a home game
- And let's not forget what you can do in your own home, such as playing a board game, card game, or spend time reading a good book you picked up at Bookman Bookwoman in the Village.

No one really likes to admit to how much they watch TV per day, but lucky for us we live in such a great neighborhood, that turning off the TV won't be such a burden.

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## 18TH DISTRICT COUNCIL UPDATE

BURKLEY ALLEN, 18TH DISTRICT COUNCILMEMBER

Greetings from the Metro Council! There are lots of interesting events and issues happening in and about District 18. Two themes stand out – Hillsboro Village issues and BHN's Conservation Zoning Overlay.

Public meetings have been held recently to discuss traffic and development issues in Hillsboro Village. A proposed connector from Acklen Avenue to the southwest-bound side of Magnolia Boulevard was the subject of a public meeting on Jan 10. Residents, business owners, and church members discussed their concerns about slowing down the expected increased traffic on Acklen and about preserving parking spaces. The Metro Public Works department is reviewing its preliminary plans to determine ways to take those concerns into consideration. The decision whether to move forward will depend on Public Works' ability to accommodate those needs relative to the amount of traffic the change is expected to divert from 21st Avenue. A second meeting later in January focused on proposed changes to the village's Urban Design Overlay in light of an upcoming development project. The overlay was developed in 1999 to provide guidelines that would protect the character of the village while allowing for growth and progress. The proposed changes would increase the allowed height of some buildings on the south side of the street and allow residential uses on the first floor on side streets.

BHN's Conservation Zoning Overlay has served the neighborhood well in terms of preserving the historic character of the neighborhood in the face of new construction. However, a number of residents have expressed concern over recent interpretation of the CZO guidelines, and a series of charrettes have been held by the Metro Historic staff to identify all the issues that have come up. The major ones involved size of the new structures, lot coverage, and storm water run-off problems related to the reduction of yard area. Because these issues actually span several Metro departments, the third and final meeting is being reconfigured to include all the departments concerned with the plan to come up with comprehensive solutions. That meeting will be announced on the listserv as soon as it is set up. As those adjustments are being made, the CZO continues to offer an appealing framework for future development, and two streets are working to have the overlay expanded to include them. Residents on Cedar and Gale Lanes have indicated support for extending the overlay, and the process has begun to inform neighbors, collect signatures, and submit an ordinance to the Metro Council. That process will be on-going through the spring.

I appreciate all the great communication I've had from many members of the district. Please contact me at [burkley.allen@nashville.gov](mailto:burkley.allen@nashville.gov) or 383-6604, and I will get back to you as quickly as I can.





PO BOX 120712  
NASHVILLE, TN 37212

## CLEANING UP THE NEIGHBORHOOD

MELINDA NEWPHER, BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Keeping the neighborhood clean and tidy is a big job. The BHN Beautification Committee works to see that trash, neglected junk, and illegal paper postings are removed through spring and fall neighborhood clean-up days. BHN would like to say thanks to those who participate toward the upkeep of the neighborhood.

This past fall, Melinda Newpher, BHN Beautification Chair, coordinated the BHN semi-annual clean-up day held on Saturday, September 17, 2011. Public Works donated a 40 yard roll-off dumpster and BHN rented another 30 yard roll-off dumpster from PDQ. She also coordinated with the Sheriff's department. They donated a truck and workers to help us by cleaning up bulk items illegally dumped in the alleys. Also, for everyone's convenience, Goodwill was on-site collecting donations. There were 25 to 30 trips of trash that filled the roll-offs that day all made possible with the help of about 20 volunteers.

Many picked up trash along Belmont Boulevard and took down illegal posters from poles. We hope that everyone will continue to remove the illegal posters throughout the year. The poles have been looking a lot better than in years past. Thank you for your continued help.

BHN would like to thank everyone who participated in last fall's clean-up day. And a special thanks to Tyree/Helios and Belmont Bi-Rite for allowing us to place our roll-off dumpsters in their back parking lot for this semi-annual event.

**Our next neighborhood clean-up will be Saturday, April 21, 2012 -7 AM - Noon**  
(the weekend prior to the Music City Marathon)

The following are numbers and an address that may assist YOU in the future in getting rid of your junk.

**BULK PICK-UP:** Call 862-8750 (Sheriff's Dept) – Limit of six (6) items per address; Accepted bulk items are: old furniture, mattresses/box springs, sofas/couches, lawn furniture, lawn mowers, bicycles, baby furniture, exercise equipment, toilets, refrigerators, freezers, water heaters, air conditioners, ranges, washers, dryers, automotive parts, including: fenders, hoods, metal bumpers, motor frames,

transmissions, starters, alternators, radiators, rear ends, drive shafts, and brake rotors. Please go to [www.nashville.gov/Recycle/bulkitems.asp](http://www.nashville.gov/Recycle/bulkitems.asp) for additional information. Call them with any questions.

**For paints, oils and other waste, etc.** you can drop off at the East Center - 943A Doctor Richard G. Adams Drive (off of Trinity Lane), phone 862-8631. Hours of operation are Mon-Sat 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM and Sunday, Noon - 4:00 PM. Electronic waste can also be taken to the Omohundro Waste and Recycling Facility, 1019 Omohundro Place, 37210 (entrance on Freightliner Dr. phone 880-1955). Hours -Tues – Sat. 8:00 AM– 4:30 PM. Please take advantage of this facility.

If you would like to sign-up for the Beautification Committee, please go to the BHN website or contact Melinda Newpher at [melinda.newpher@gmail.com](mailto:melinda.newpher@gmail.com). Thanks to everyone for their support.

## CONNECTING WITH BHN

### BHN's Website:

<http://home.belmont-hillsboro.org>

### BHN's Listserv Sign-Up (Google Groups)

<http://groups.google.com/group/belmont-hillsboro?hl=en>

### Neighborhood Announcements

#### Send Email to:

[info@belmont-hillsboro.org](mailto:info@belmont-hillsboro.org)

### BHN on Twitter:

[http://www.twitter.com/bhn\\_online](http://www.twitter.com/bhn_online)

### BHN on Facebook:

(Belmont-Hillsboro Neighbors):

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Belmont-Hillsboro-Neighbors/201564203200500?ref=ts>

### Please renew your membership to BHN at:

<http://home.belmont-hillsboro.org/membership>