

LampLighter

Cooper-Young — Many Voices, One Community



GOING THE DISTANCE

CY Festival Friday 4 Miler turns 20

BY LAURA JOHNSON

Other than the appearance of Cooper-Young 4 Miler runner Richard Coletta, a lot has changed since the first race in 1992. We no longer have to worry about the CD in our Discman skipping while we run; we now have our entire music collection available on a device smaller than a beeper. In 1992, no one could post a note on Facebook and instantly let thousands of people know that they just passed the 3 mile marker. In the beginning things were quite different.

Former Cooper-Young Community Association President, Richard Coletta, said, "The first year was very challenging. It was the first time we attempted this kind of fundraiser." He and another CY resident and running enthusiast, Tim Thomas, had an "ah-ha" moment standing at the corner of Cooper and Young. In that moment they came up with the unique features of the race. First, it would be held on the Friday night coinciding with the Festival; and second, a night race would allow for the creation of a distinctive post-race party.



The first race attracted around 200 runners, who celebrated afterward with pizza from Coletta's Restaurant and beer provided by the Festival vendor. Steve Bishop's band entertained the crowd and continued to play for the next four post-race parties. The race committee was then approached by Rodney Nash to see if he could play. Coletta said, "It was definitely nice to have people coming to us to be involved." Camy's Pizza, Easy Way, and Outback Steakhouse have been major contributors to the post-race party over the years. In fact, countless loyal sponsors have made this entire event possible, with some, such as National Economy Plumbers, Schwartz Electric, and Sowell and Co. Realtors (just to name a few), supporting the CYCA from almost the beginning.

One humorous memory that Coletta shared about the 4 Miler involved a food fight that resembled a scene from the movie *Hook*. Those involved will certainly remember the event. The post-race party was being held on Young down the street from a

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A fond farewell from John

Change is always upon us – seasons, times, fashions, and opportunities. For me there has been a recent change in employment opportunity, which means that for the CYCA, there is a change in leadership. It's with sadness that I resign as CYCA President as I move to a new city.

It seems like only yesterday I moved to CY and soon thereafter joined the board of the CYCA. In that time I've had the chance to see the organization grow in leaps and bounds. Our membership rolls continue to grow, new membership benefits are available, and we purchased our building.

It's been a personal honor to have led our organization in various roles over the past several years. It's refreshing to join an organization and not be pigeonholed as the Treasurer simply because I'm a CPA. Our organization is wonderful in letting people expand their talents and abilities.

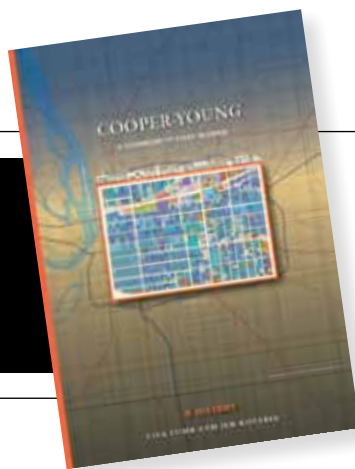
Vice President June Hurt has stepped into the role of President. Under her leadership I'm sure the CYCA will continue to prosper and be a force in keeping Cooper-Young the coolest neighborhood in Memphis. I wish everyone the best as life continues to change.

John Kinsey



Top: June Hurt will step up from Vice President to complete John Kinsey's term as President beginning in the month of June – how appropriate!

John Kinsey was surprised with cupcakes from Muddy's Bakery at the May CYCA board meeting. He is resigned at the end of May because he is moving to Ashville, NC.



History book

The CY history book, *Cooper-Young: A Community that Works*, is available for purchase at Burke's Books or online at cooperyoung.org.

LampLighter

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The *LampLighter* is published by the CYCA. The opinions and information presented here are those of the staff and volunteers of the *LampLighter* and do not necessarily reflect the entire Cooper-Young community. The *LampLighter* assumes no responsibility for errors or omissions. However, we commit ourselves to providing current and accurate information.

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New website celebrates upcoming Beerfest

The second annual Cooper-Young Regional Beerfest is all set for October 15! Stay up-to-date as this celebration takes shape by visiting the new Beerfest website – cooperyoung.beerfest.org.

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Cooper-Young for Clean Water progress report

Some may recall the *LampLighter* cover story from December 2010 was a call to return meaning to the celebration of Christmas. It was also a call to raise funds to build a well in a Peruvian community desperate for clean water. CY responded generously, and now the well is complete. See pictures and read about this amazing project organized by Neighborhood Church called "Cooper-Young for Clean Water."

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Justice for slumlords

Throughout Memphis and in CY we have some amazing landlords who provide residents with safe, well-maintained homes to live in. But unfortunately, this is not true of all landlords. If you find yourself in financial difficulties, feeling trapped in a rental with safety hazards along with a landlord who is unwilling to help, this article is for you. You have rights, and there are actions you can take to reclaim your dignity.

Deadlines for the July LampLighter

Article submissions: June 15

Advertising copy: June 20

Distribution beginning: July 1

Please send all articles and submissions to LampLighter@cooperyoung.org. For advertising rate sheet, or to submit ads electronically, please email ads@cooperyoung.org.

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CYCA

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info@cooperyoung.org

CYBA

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cyba@bellsouth.net

Meetings & Dates

PARALLEL LIVES ART SHOW

Now thru Saturday, June 11
2298 Young Ave.
Witness the first art show to be held at the CYCA offices. This show features the work of Memphis area artists Jean Holmgren and Paula Kovarik. For times and details see cooperyoung.org.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Saturday, June 4, 10am
2298 Young Ave.

CYCA GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, June 14, 6-7:30pm
Peabody Elementary
Playground

Come one, come all and kick off the summer with a neighborhood picnic! The CYCA will provide freezer pops, drinks, and good company. You provide a blanket to sit on and food for you and your family. Hope to see you there.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, June 7, 7pm
2298 Young Ave.

CYCA BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, June 21, 7pm
2298 Young Ave.

SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, June 27, 7pm
2298 Young Ave.

CYCA Board Officers

President	John Kinsey
Vice-President	June Hurt
Secretary	Andy Ashby
Treasurer	Jason Word

CYCA Committee Heads

Beautification	Demetrius Boyland
Ber Fest	Andy Ashby
Block Clubs	April Boleware
Building	Debbie Sowell
Code Awareness	Amanda Ball
Communications	Emily Bishop
Festival 4-Miler	Richard Coletta Michael Ham Emily Bishop
Finance	Jason Word
Safety	Sarah Frierson
Membership	June Hurt
Volunteers	Kevin Ritz

At-Large Board Members

Dan Atlas
Renee Massey

YARD OF THE MONTH

Beautiful families make beautiful yards

BY SYDNEY ASHBY



If you drive down Nelson Avenue between Barksdale and McLean, chances are you will see Georgia Woods outside either working in her yard or sitting on her front porch. She moved into 1845 Nelson in 2005, and the only item in her yard was a small white oak tree that needed some tender loving care. With help from her son, she transformed her yard and created two new beds by adding a variety of plants, bushes, and trees that bloom in waves. There are two beds containing an assortment of colorful flowers and plants with a border that Georgia's son installed. Unfortunately, he passed away two years ago, but Georgia keeps a cedar in a pot in the bed closest to her house that he gave to her when it was about a foot tall. Now it stands over five feet tall and is a reminder of his helpful spirit.

The next time you pass by, notice the purple shamrocks; the dark pink azaleas; the red, yellow, and orange lilies; the boxwoods; and the light pink climbing rose bush. There are also a variety of hostas, rhododendron, mums in pots, and the two most prominent features: the white oak (looking much healthier) and plum trees. And to make sure the beds have visitors, there is even a small birdbath.

Georgia enjoys living in Cooper-Young, with both she and her daughter remarking how much they appreciate the quiet of their street. Georgia enjoys being able to sit on her front porch listening to the sounds of nature and talking to her neighbors. So the next time you see her, give Georgia a wave and thank her for helping to make Cooper-Young a great place to live, worship, work, and play.

Midtown Nursery at Central and Cooper is now a CY Yard of the Month sponsor. In addition to providing a new sign to display in the winner's lawn, Midtown Nursery will also give each award recipient a \$25 gift certificate. Thanks Midtown Nursery for your participation and generosity!

Midtown Hardwood & Tile

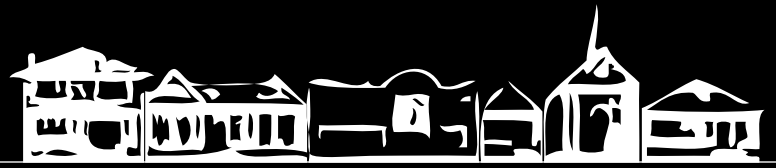
- Custom Hardwood and Tile installations
- Hardwood floor refinishing
- Hardwood floor recoating
- 10% Discount for contractors
- 10% Discount for Cooper-Young residents

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Greg King & Erin Sherman
William Patton

TRESTLE TENDER MEMBERSHIPS

Dana Bottenfield
Frank & Sue Guarino

SENIOR MEMBERSHIPS

Georgina Coker

LAMPLIGHTER BENEFACTORS

Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to the following people who have shown their support of the *LampLighter* by contributing financially toward our operation costs. These benefactors have made a contribution of at least \$60 either by making a one-time donation or a monthly donation of \$5 or more.

**Glenn Althoff and Mike Parnell • Chip Armstrong
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Barb and Jason Elder • Mavis Estes
Beverly Greene – in memoriam • David Huey
June and Justin Hurt • Chris and Jill Kauker
Terry and Cynthia Lawrence • Shannon Maris
Marjoire Palazzolo • Jenni, Andrew, Elena, and Cora Pappas
Doris Porter • Jacques and Joi Samson • Ronnie G. Smith
Betty Slack • Kobie and Bianca Sweeten
Joyce and Jerry Turner • Tura and Archie Wolfe**

If you love reading the *LampLighter*, please join us so that we can maintain the quality and frequency of the paper. Go to cooperyoung.org and click on the Membership tab to learn how you can become a recognized *LampLighter* Benefactor.

Thank you for your support!

These memberships & donations were received as of May 24. Donations received after the 24th will be listed in the next issue. Email info@cooperyoung.org for corrections or additions.

CHEERS!

New website celebrates upcoming Beerfest

BY ANDY ASHBY

The Cooper-Young Community Association has launched a new website to promote its local beer festival. The second annual Cooper-Young Regional Beerfest will be held 1-5pm, October 15, at the LifeLink Memphis parking lot near the corner of Cooper and Walker. However, its web location will now be cooperyoung.beerfest.org.

The new site features information, pictures, contact information, and our mission statement, among other things. Cooper-Young resident Patrick Miller volunteered his time and talent to design the page, which features a logo designed by fellow Nelson resident Adam Shellabarger.

The Cooper-Young Regional Beerfest committee is working hard to make this year's festival even better than last year's event. We'll have some new regional craft breweries and a few other surprises, so make sure you check our Facebook page, Twitter account, and our new website for information.



Cooper-Young Regional Beerfest's Mission
- reprinted from cooperyoung.beerfest.org

OUR NAME SAYS A LOT ABOUT US.

We are, first and foremost, a fundraising event for the Cooper-Young Community Association. That money is spent to keep our beloved neighborhood clean, friendly, safe, and welcoming to all who come here.

Our festival is regional. That means you can visit any of the brewers within a day's drive from Cooper-Young, and that's important.

WHY? FROM STRICTLY A BEER PERSPECTIVE, WE BELIEVE FRESHER IS BETTER.

We also want to support the hardworking local brewers who devote their time, talent, and energy to making beers that are uniquely their own. Their beers reflect their tastes, their creativity, their experiences: who they are. Their beers say a lot about the folks in our region, too. We're hard to pigeonhole, easy to love, and ready for celebration.

Also, we believe in living where we live. Supporting local breweries is just like supporting local farms, local restaurants, local bookstores, and local music, and we like that.

This festival celebrates the brewing tradition that has been alive in America since before its founding. We know there's a place for big-industry beers, and we certainly enjoy them. But those beers have enjoyed decades of national attention. We believe our friends and neighbors – again, all within a day's drive – deserve their time in the sun, and we hope there is plenty of it on Saturday, Oct. 15.

Thank you and please come see us.

- the Cooper-Young Regional Beerfest Organizing Committee

FUN IN THE SUN

CYCA neighborhood picnic

BY KRISTAN HUNTLEY

The temperatures are rising, and school is out for the summer. So, before everyone journeys out on summer vacations, let's have a picnic and playtime! The CYCA General Meeting for June will be a fun, laid back picnic at the playground of Peabody Elementary. It will be from 6–7:30pm on June 14, so mark your calendars now!

So who is bringing what? The CYCA will be bringing freezer pops, drinks, and bubble-blowing tools (yes, adults you can participate in blowing bubbles too). There are some picnic tables, but you will probably want to bring your own picnic blanket to sit on, as well as food and snacks for you and your child. Oh, and don't forget your hula hoop, football, or other favorite play thing!

It's time just to kick back for an evening and welcome summer to Cooper-Young. We hope that you can make it! If you have any questions, please email us at info@cooperyoung.org.

HOURS OF INSPIRATION

Still time to view *Parallel Lives* at the CYCA

BY KRISTAN HUNTLEY

If you missed out on the opportunity to see *Parallel Lives* in May, don't fret! There are still many chances to see the works of Paula Kovarik and Jean Holmgren on display at the CYCA office (2298 Young) before June 11.

Art Exhibition/CYCA office hours until June 11 will be:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: noon–5pm

Tuesday: 12:30–6pm

Closed Friday, Saturday, and Sunday

If you are unable to come by during those hours, we'd love to arrange a private showing for you. Please call 901-725-0308 or email us at info@cooperyoung.org to set something up.



Off to sea in a wire boat by Jean Holmgren

MEMBERSHIP SPONSORS

CYCA members enjoy discounted photography and massages

BY RENÉE MASSEY

It's June – the season of weddings. And did you know that being a member of the Cooper-Young Community Association can help you save money on wedding expenses? AM Photography is one of our generous membership sponsors. They offer discounted wedding packages and reduced session fees each time you show your membership card. If you're not familiar with membership sponsors, let me fill you in! In addition to all the important things you support with your membership (like community clean-ups, security updates, missing pet notices, and our wonderful community director), you get the added benefit of discounts from our membership sponsors.



Jonathon and Amanda Hill of AM Photography

When we recently asked Amanda Hill of AM Photography about her sponsorship of the CYCA, here's what she had to say: "My husband Jonathan and I love the attitude of community and unity that is present in CY. We love walking down the street with our dog and waving to people we know, eating outside on patios, and supporting local businesses. We love the community support of the arts and music, which was absent in the suburbs where we grew up. We both grew up in a neighborhood where we didn't know our neighbors, and we decided to move here simply because of

the community involvement, the easy access to Downtown, and the CY businesses. Being a membership sponsor has provided us with a chance to support the CYCA while advertising our services to our neighbors." Amanda also reminded us, "We will be at Junebugs and Juleps on June 11 selling some of our southern inspired art work to benefit the Woodruff-Fontaine House Museum. We will also have a booth at the summer Bridal Rhapsody Bridal Show on July 10 and will be running a contest to provide one lucky bride with a free day of wedding coverage! Don't miss it!" Check out AM Photography at amphotography.us or call 901-652-0432. And be sure to thank them for their support of our community!

Maybe you need to unwind before your scheduled photography session so that your photographs will reflect a relaxed and rejuvenated you. We have a membership sponsor that can help you with that, too! Calming Influence at 74 N. Cooper offers members a 5% discount each time they show their membership card on anything except gift certificates. Gene Elliott of Calming Influence recently discussed his sponsorship: "I've lived in CY for over 16 years. It's where I was drawn to immediately because it felt so open and inviting. I try to take every opportunity I get to be connected to the area. The diversity is amazing. You can get fine dining, country cookin', theatre, and massage all within a short distance from each other." When asked how being a membership sponsor for the CYCA has affected his business, Gene said, "I just love it when clients are paying for their services and pull out their CY membership card. The way they mention the membership discount always sounds like they're saying a secret password and makes me smile every time. It's great being positively connected to CY residents and businesses. The only way we are all going to grow and prosper is to support each other's endeavors." He also noted, "We are very proud of our bodywork salon. Besides massage therapy and spa treatments, we have added two new services; Ashiatsu Oriental Bar Therapy (barefoot massage) and Structural Integration (a Rolf technique). These new services wonderfully compliment our other items on the menu." You can watch a video of their therapist, Elena Akin, demonstrating Ashiatsu on the Calming Influence Facebook page or browse their website at CalmingInfluence.com.

Join Calming Influence and AM Photography in supporting the CYCA by renewing your membership. With 7 months left in 2011, there is still plenty of time to take advantage of their discounted services...several times! You'll be feeling our motto – life is good in Cooper-Young!



Gene Elliott of Calming Influence

Fill out the coupon in the *LampLighter*, stop by the office,

or

JOIN ONLINE TODAY!

at www.cooperyoung.org

Household memberships only \$20!

CYCA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS 2011

- **AM Photography** - \$25 off a session fee and \$100 off a wedding package when you show your CYCA membership card
- **Art for Art's Sake Auction** - \$5 discount on ticket purchase
- **Black Lodge Video** - One free video rental per month
- **Burke's Books** - 10% discount with any purchase all year (excludes text books, previously discounted or sale items)
- **Cafe Ole** - Buy one entrée get second entrée of equal or lesser value at ½ price
- **Calming Influence** - 5% off with membership card all year (excludes gift certificates)
- **Camy's Food Delivery** - Get a free dessert with any specialty pizza purchase
- **Cooper-Young Regional Beerfest** - \$5 discount on ticket purchase
- **Fork It Over** - 5% off food in the deli case or freezer all year (not valid with other discounts)
- **Hollywood Feed: Union Ave.** - 5% discount every time you show your CYCA membership card
- **InBalance Fitness** - 10% off group classes (excludes personal training and specialty classes)
- **June Hurt, Notary Public** - Free services to current members
- **Memphis College of Art** - 10% discount on Summer Art Camp and Saturday School tuition
- **Mr. Scruff's Pet Care** - 15% off purchase of the TLC Visit Package (incl. 24 TLC Visits)
- **Otherlands Coffee Bar** - 1 free cup of coffee or coffee drink up to \$3 value
- **Outback Steakhouse** - Free appetizer with the purchase of an entrée up to \$7.29
- **Painted Planet** - 25% jewelry discount every time you show your card. Not valid on previously discounted or sale items
- **Playhouse on the Square** - Buy 1 get 1 ticket free up to four tickets for Thursday or Sunday shows
- **Soulfish** - 1 complimentary Lunch or Dinner Entrée when a 2nd is of equal or greater value is purchased - Up to \$7
- **Tara Taylor, Personal Fitness Trainer** - 10% discount off one training session with Tara at inbalance FITNESS
- **The Nail & Skin Bar** - 10% discount off a Spa Pedicure every time you show your membership card
- **Young Avenue Deli** - Enjoy 30% off any one entree





I LOVE MEMPHIS MURAL ON COOPER STREET

BY BARB ELDER

If you have recently traveled south on Cooper Street and glanced at the parking lot across from Bluff City Sports under the Trestle Art, you've probably noticed a bright splash of orange and huge black and white lettering covering the retaining wall that use to be riddled with graffiti. Inspired by *ilovememphisblog.com*, a series of 10 murals are being painted throughout Memphis this summer to stir up pride in our beloved city. According to the *Memphis Business Journal*, these murals are being funded by the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau, the City of Memphis, and the UrbanArt Commission. With artists donating their talents and the use of a simple color scheme, the price of each mural is kept to a minimum. Thanks to local artist Brandon Marshall and everyone involved with the project for gifting CY with this new public art!

SUPPORT THE HOMELESS AT MEMPHIS CITY COUNCIL

BY JACOB FLOWERS

Mid-South Peace and Justice Center invites you to the Memphis City Council Chambers (125 N. Main St) on Tuesday, June 7 from 3:30-6:30pm to join us as we call out to our elected officials to support and fully fund the Mayor's Plan to End Homelessness, federally and locally. In the coming weeks, both Mayors will go before the City Council and County Commission to present their funding requests for the plan, and the needs of our brothers and sisters are great. We need your help to remind our leaders of just how important funding of this plan truly is.

We will also be calling on the Council for a percentage of jobs to be set aside for the homeless and graduates of the Shelby County Drug Court to do blight demolition, board ups, and yard work that the city needs done. We can provide jobs for those who have little chance of getting them and curb blight at the same time.

AU FOND AND EL DIABLO CLOSE THEIR DOORS

BY BARB ELDER

Change is one of the only things you can count on, and recently in Cooper-Young we have seen change come once again to the businesses on one of our main thoroughfares. Ben Vaughn, owner of Au Fond Farmtable and El Diablo taqueria on Cooper St., closed both restaurants this May. We wish Ben well, and we will miss his contribution to the CY community.

FREE MEN'S HEALTH SUMMIT COMING JUNE 11

BY JEFF HULETT

The Church Health Center's 4th annual Men's Health Summit will be held from 8:30am to 2pm on Saturday, June 11 at the UT Student Alumni Center, 800 Madison Ave. This free event will show men how to live a healthier life through prevention and awareness and will focus on hypertension, diabetes, and patient empowerment. You can register by calling 901-830-9886, but limited space is available. For more information, call 901-261-8833.

For a full listing of Church Health Center events, classes, and activities, many of which are free to the public, visit churchhealthcenter.org.



WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN JAPAN RELIEF EFFORTS

BY BARB ELDER

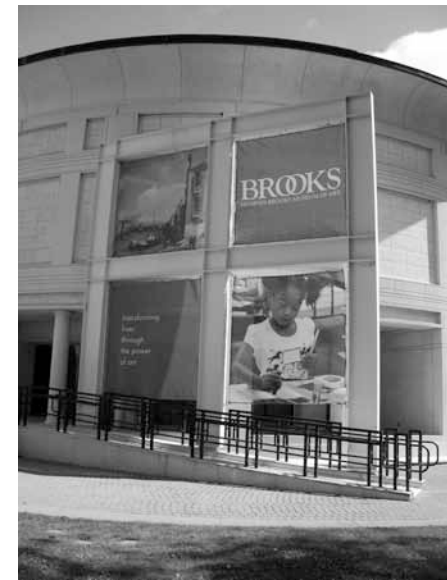
In the May issue of the *LampLighter*, one of our articles featured the story of a Japanese Cooper-Young resident, Asuka Taga Yow, and all that she is doing to mobilize our community in support of those in need in her home country. Although we may not hear much about Japan on the news these days, nearly three months after the earthquake and tsunami the needs in this part of the world are still overwhelming. For anyone interested in learning more or getting involved, don't forget that Asuka will be hosting a table at the CY Community Farmers Market (1000 S. Cooper) the first Saturday of every month from 8am-1pm to raise awareness, take donations, and sell origami creations and T-shirts. Thanks to your help, Asuka has already raised \$675 through her Farmers Market table and yard sale in May. All money that she raises will go entirely for Japan relief. While we kick back and enjoy the Memphis summer, lets not forget those hurting and in need in Japan.

WACKY WEDNESDAYS AT THE BROOKS PROVIDES FREE SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

BY BARB ELDER

According to a recent newsletter, each week in June and July, the Brooks Museum of Art in Overton Park will be showing a children's film and hosting an open studio from 10am-noon. Children of all ages and their adult friends

can drop by the Open Artworks Studio and create a variety of artwork using many different materials. They can also watch a multitude of films made just for kids. Museum admission and all activities are free.



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OTHERLANDS TO HOST BENEFIT FOR SHELBY FARMS AND THE GREENLINE

BY KAREN LEBOVITZ

Otherlands is soliciting 8x10 framed photos of the



Greenline and Shelby Farms Park from the community. You can bring these photos to us with all of your contact info on the back so that we can

return them to you at the end of the show. We want to plaster the walls of Otherlands in June with great images of this fantastic asset we all love to love.

Then, on Saturday, June 18, starting at 8pm we will be hosting a benefit for Shelby Farms and the Greenline featuring the Dan Montgomery Band and The Magic Kids. Tickets are \$10 or \$5 for current park members. If you don't have a membership, you can join at the door and get in at the member's price. For more info check the events on the Shelby Farms Park Facebook page and respond that you are attending.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OPENS RESTORE

BY LAUREN HANNAFORD

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis is holding their grand opening of the ReStore, located at 7130 Winchester Road, on Thursday, June 9. The ReStore offers new and gently used household items and building supplies for sale, and accepts donations of items such as furniture, appliances, books, cabinetry, windows, hardware, lumber, tools, flooring, lighting, and toys. The ReStore does not accept clothing, mattresses, or used carpet. All donations are tax-deductible.

Joe Davidson, manager of the Memphis ReStore, says, "The ReStore is not only a green alternative to disposing of unwanted items, but it's also a great way to support Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis." For more information about the ReStore, call Joe Davidson at 901-737-8673 or visit memphisrestore.com.



LOCAL ARTIST NICK CANTERUCCI OPENS THE NEW FRONTIER AT ODESSA

BY BARB ELDER

In a recent press release, local artist Nick Canterucci announced that there will be a public artist reception to celebrate his show, *The New Frontier*, at Odessa (2613 Broad Ave) on June 17, from 6-9pm. Canterucci is a self-taught artist who has collaborated with many artists within the Ann Arbor and Memphis art scene. He's been a fixture at many CY artist invitationals and did a successful show with Karen "Bottle" Capps in early 2006. In late 2010, he released his first solo show in 30 years at Odessa. On June 17, Canterucci will return to Odessa to showcase his new body of American Folk outsider art.

Office Space for Lease

The Community office at 2298 Young Avenue has space available for a small business or non profit. Rent would include use of wireless internet, shared conference room, and access to a copier.



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SCHOOL HAPPENINGS



Peabody Elementary
Global Learning in the Heart of Midtown

WORLD'S APART

Peabody students shine at this year's International Festival

BY GINGER SPICKLER

The students of Peabody Elementary have traveled the world this year, all from the comfort of their hundred-year-old classrooms, thanks to the school's international studies focus. And in May each year the kids and their teachers put on an International Festival to share all they've learned with their parents and community.

On May 13, this year's festival kicked off in the school's packed cafetorium with an incredible performance by Peabody's choir and dance ensemble, all under the very capable leadership of long-time music teacher, Mr. Jerry Sanders. The fourth graders, fifth graders, and third grade optional students formed the choir and sang songs from around the world. The fourth and fifth grade dance ensemble performed half a dozen numbers, each with its own costumes and props, including a dance honoring the people of Japan. The highlight of the performance was the finale, during which the students sang a moving rendition of "I Believe I Can Fly."

Among the appreciative audience at the festival's opening performance were such dignitaries as Memphis City Schools Optional Program Director Dr. Linda Sklar and Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Linda Kennard. Chief Public Defender of Shelby County, Stephen Bush, also made an appearance (the Public Defender's office is a Peabody adopter), as did state Senator Beverly Marrero. Senator Marrero honored the school by delivering a certificate to Principal Kongsouly Jones from Governor Bill Haslam declaring a day of recognition for Peabody Elementary School.


After dismissing from the cafetorium, students and teachers hurried back to their classrooms, which they had set up to make visitors feel as if they were being transported to the various locales the children had been studying all year. Parents and other community members were issued "passports" to get stamped as they journeyed through the different countries, eating and learning about world culture as they went.

From the preschool class, which studied Memphis this year and treated guests to barbecue sandwiches while they admired their model of the river and other Memphis landmarks; to the fifth grade classes, which studied Japan and got lessons not only in Japanese history, geography, and culture, but also in how to help suffering people a world away, students demonstrated a depth of understanding about the world around them that many adults probably couldn't match.

Principal Jones summed up the International Festival experience, "International Festival is a unique opportunity for Peabody students to be exposed to cultural knowledge and experiences not seen in most elementary schools. In this era of standardized testing, we feel that these are indispensable experiences and lessons that give our faculty and staff an opportunity to teach the whole child."



Kindergartners Arianna Humphrey and Virginia Grace Winter (of Oliver Ave.) sport their USA tie-dyes while mom Lurene Kelley looks on.



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Cooper-Young for Clean Water progress report

BY GINGER SPICKLER

Quick! Name one present you got for Christmas last year in five seconds or less. 5 . . . 4 . . . 3 . . . 2 . . . 1 . . . time's up! Couldn't do it? You're probably not alone. But in a small village along a tributary of the Amazon River in Peru, there is a whole community of people who will never forget the Christmas gift that was given to them by Cooper-Young – a well that brings fresh, clean water to a people who previously had none.

You may remember that the *LampLighter's* cover story in December was about Advent Conspiracy, a movement by hundreds of churches across the country (including Neighborhood Church in CY) to restore meaning and significance to the celebration of Christmas. One of the ways Neighborhood Church decided to participate in the conspiracy was to work toward raising enough money to build a well, and we asked our whole community to participate as part of a project we called "Cooper-Young for Clean Water."

After all the money came in from the church and church members, friends and family who gave us donations

instead of Christmas presents, the kids of Neighborhood Church and Peabody Elementary, and the rest of our community, the total funds raised amounted to more than \$6,200! Considering that in previous years



Neighborhood Church alone had given only about \$500, it was truly amazing to see what a difference it made when our whole community participated.

And now, the well has been built in Colonia de Caco, a San Miguel neighborhood in Iparia, Peru. In areas like this, the infant mortality rate is 50 percent or higher, and many residents suffer and die from diseases such as cholera, dysentery, typhoid, and malaria. Because of the remoteness of their tribe, these people have been largely forgotten by their government.

But today there are more than 250 people with access to clean water who formerly were getting water to meet all their needs from the dirty river. They have been trained on proper care of the pump (and who to contact if it needs maintenance), hygiene methods, disease transmission, and how to keep their water clean.

Fifty-eight year old community member and local fisherman, Rogelio Davila Rengifo, stated, "The old water source was far away and contaminated. I am happy now that our community has a new well with good water."

So thank you to all who participated. The generosity of our community has truly made a difference to the people of another one.

Idlewild Neighborhood Association elects President

BY MARY BAKER

Rodney Nash was elected by acclamation of all members present at Idlewild Neighborhood Association's April meeting. Rodney has an impressive history of volunteer service to the community.



He has been involved in many activities in the Cooper-Young neighborhood. He volunteered in the Curbside Recycling Campaign and was a Neighborhood Watch and Neighborhood Night Out Coordinator. He served as Vice President of the CY Community Association and was a CY Development Corporation board member for 6 years. He was a Neighborhood Cleanup Coordinator for Cooper-Young and works as a CY Community Farmers Market volunteer.

However, Rodney's service does not stop in CY. Rodney worked on the Storm Drain Labeling Project

for the City of Memphis Division of Public Works Storm Water Program. In that capacity he has assisted in getting storm drains labeled in Cooper-Young, Central Gardens, Walnut Grove and Prescott, Walnut Grove and Shady Grove, and the Soulsville neighborhood. He is a Memphis in May Transportation Committee volunteer, a member of the Midtown Action Coalition, a MIFA Souper Bowl Fundraiser, and a member of Memphis Heritage.

Rodney's first objective as President of the Idlewild Neighborhood Association is to organize residents into Block Clubs for efficient sharing of information and to promote shared goals and responsibilities. Under his leadership several residents have volunteered to be Block Club Captains. Idlewild Neighborhood Association is very pleased to have Rodney as President.

BOOKWORM

Nothing to fear but this book

BY KIMBERLY RICHARDSON

My review of Alexander Brown's book *Traumatized* begins with a funny story. While I was a guest at the Southern Fried Comic Conference in Jackson, Mississippi last June, I had the pleasure of meeting Alex and picking up a copy of his book. It is a collection of short stories, so I thumbed through it and settled on a story entitled "From Midnight to One." Fifteen minutes later, I was absolutely scared out of my mind and refused to read the rest of the book. Not only had Alex scared me beyond belief with such detail regarding three witches and their victims, but he had also shown just how far into the darkness he was willing to write. When I saw him at another conference, I politely told him that his book had scared the absolute crap out of me and that I could not read the rest of it. He, much to my surprise, found it to be quite a compliment that the Goth Librarian was terrified of his work.

Traumatized is not for the faint of heart. The stories are beyond conventional horror and yet done with an original style not to be matched by many others in the genre. The stories drip with great helpings of Southern Gothic while the unrelenting gore is just behind that door, curtain, or even shoebox. The stories begin with the set up of the plot and characters; however, one realizes quickly that all is not well and will not even resemble a fragment of sanity once the stories come to their own ends. Several stories that stood out in originality were "From Midnight to One" (of course!), "Live Through This" (a tale of obsession gone horribly, horribly wrong), "Two Miles" (Judgment Day in Hell), and "The Acquired Taste" (you'll never want sushi again). These stories are excellent representatives of Splatterpunk; each story forces the readers to stare into a dark abyss that will not go away, no matter how many times we say our prayers at night.

If you like reading books that make the things that go bump in the night quiver in their boots, then *Traumatized* is for you. But don't say I didn't warn you.



CY 4 Miler turns 20

Continued from page 1

vacant building. There was a surplus of fruit leftover, and the organizers started a fruit throwing contest at the vacant building. Coletta explains, "It must have been a release of energy. We had been working so hard on the race and needed to let loose. We got to a 'that's enough' moment when we realized that it was shameful, because we had just been trying to get people to behave."

Since CY has a large artist community, it only made sense to feature a piece of art on the signature race T-shirt. According to Coletta, the T-shirts were a nightmare the first year. Over time and with the help of Bluff City Sports, the popular race T-shirt has become much less stressful. A very important accomplishment of this year's race committee and the CYCA Board is that the artwork is finalized. This is the earliest in the year that it has ever been completed. For a sneak peak look carefully at the cover photo of Coletta holding the artwork.

The four mile route around CY has changed to give different blocks the opportunity to hold "Neighbors Light the Way" parties to support the runners. Coletta worked with the Memphis Track Runners Club the first year to figure out a race route that was the correct distance. The changing route has also coincided with the changing location of the post-race party; as participation grew they needed to find larger spaces to hold the event.

This past year over 1800 people ran the race. All of the hard work from those who were involved with the race in its inception has paid off in a big way. The funding that the CYCA receives from the race each year is turned into services and support for CY residents, truly making the neighborhood a better place to live, work, worship, and play.

While a lot has changed since 1992, a few things have remained the same – Cooper-Young neighbors still pull together to put on an exciting and unique race to raise funds and to kick off the Festival weekend.



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10 LampLighter June 2011

Much to celebrate with *Crazy for You* at Theatre Memphis

BY RANDALL HARTZOG

The George and Ira Gershwin-inspired *Crazy for You* will open at Theatre Memphis on the Lohrey Stage June 3 and run through June 26. As the final show of our 2010-11 season, *Crazy for You* is one of the largest musical productions ever attempted by Theatre Memphis, which is celebrating over 90 years of community performing, service, and involvement.

Other reasons to celebrate *Crazy for You* are the triple-threat stars Jordan Nichols and Emily Pettet as the lead characters, Bobby Child and Polly Baker. Singing and dancing fills the stage as Bobby, a wealthy son of a banking family, dreams of being on Broadway, but his audition goes awry. So, it's off to Nevada where his family insists he must foreclose on a failing theater. Instead, he mounts a show and wins the heart of lovely Polly, the ingénue. Some of the Gershwin songs included in the show are "Someone To Watch Over Me," "Embraceable You," "I Got Rhythm," "They Can't Take That Away From Me," and "Nice Work If You Can Get It."

Nichols, 25, is known for his roles and relationship to Playhouse on the Square and is excited to be performing at Theatre Memphis again. His last role at TM over 10 years ago was in Neil Simon's *Lost in Yonkers*. Only last year an undetected medical condition sidelined his promising professional career, but that condition has since been identified and treated, and Nichols is back on stage ready to entertain. "This experience has been a challenge in more ways than one," he says. "Yes, there are pages of lines to memorize, an ample amount of songs to sing, and dance steps galore, but the sheer stamina of having to remember all of those things while rarely getting a second to go off stage has been the biggest hurdle. Last year I was diagnosed with a rare heart disease known as Brugada Syndrome, and while it has not prevented me from performing, it has certainly made things more interesting. This is, by far, the biggest role I have ever had in a musical, and it is such a great role! Thanks to the lengthy rehearsal process, I have had plenty of time to build up the endurance I need to perform this role with ease and finesse. Returning to Theatre Memphis these many years later, I could not be more thrilled. Everyone from the staff to the creative team to the actors has been so accommodating and supportive throughout the whole experience. People sometime underestimate how much goes into a big show like this, especially when it looks as polished as our show, but I think it just speaks to the dedication and hard work of everyone involved."

Director Robert Hetherington, Chair of the Department of Theatre & Dance at the University of Memphis, cheers the talented Nichols for his professional approach. Hetherington stated, "Jordan was perfect for this role, and I know I was right about this. He sets a very high bar for the rest of us to reach and brings the optimism and determination to his work that perfectly matches the character of Bobby Child and the effect he has on the characters of Deadrock, Nevada. We have worked together 4 or 5 times in the past, and I cannot say enough great things about the person he is."

Nichols co-star, Emily Pettet, has most recently starred at Theatre Memphis in *Curtains* but charmed many as the young Edith "Little Edie" Bouvier Beale in *Grey Gardens* at The Circuit Playhouse earlier this year.

Director Hetherington says, "*Crazy for You* is a modern take on the classical Broadway format that weaves many of the greatest songs of the 20th Century by the Gershwin's with outrageous humor, excellent singing, and spectacularly inventive tap dancing. At the first meeting of this talented cast I told them this show allows us to indulge in two themes that account for why we do this thing: the love of making theatre and the opportunity to make people happy." Hetherington's other directing credits at TM include *Cyrano*, *Inherit the Wind*, and *The Who Came to Dinner*.

Kathy Caradine, a veteran dance instructor and choreographer who has worked on numerous productions at Theatre Memphis and other stages across the city, is also working on this show. Hetherington holds Caradine in high regard and says, "Kathy Caradine, whose belief in this show informs every single minute of stage time, is the real hero of this production. It has been a pleasure to see her energy and skills at work."



Performance dates for *Crazy for You* are June 3-26. Shows are at 7:30pm on Thursdays (and Wednesday, June 15) and 8pm on Fridays and Saturdays, with matinees on Sundays at 2pm. Tickets are \$28 for adults, \$15 for students with a valid ID, and \$10 for children under 12. Call 901-682-8323 to purchase tickets or go online to theatrememphis.org. Theatre Memphis is located at 630 Perkins Extended, at the corner of Perkins Extended and Southern.

A WORD TO THE WISE

Adopting a shelter cat

BY KATIE PEMBERTON

June is Adopt a Shelter Cat Month, and what better way to celebrate than by bringing home a shelter cat of your own? No matter which type of cat you're seeking, you can probably find your new furry feline friend at one of our area's many rescue organizations and shelters, such as the Humane Society of Memphis & Shelby County (HSMSC) or CY's House of Mews on Cooper Street.

Adopting a shelter cat can be a simple and rewarding process; however, there are a few things to consider according to Dani Kiddy, cat kennel technician at HSMSC.

"The first question I ask potential adopters is what kind of cat they are looking for," said Kiddy. "Often, people have a very specific idea of the type of cat they want. However, I always caution against adopting a certain type of cat simply because you previously owned that type of cat and loved it. Every cat is different."

Kiddy adds that expecting your newly adopted cat to live up to your former is unrealistic. For example, just because your previous Maine Coon was highly intelligent, never destructive, and loved to chase plastic bags does not mean every Maine Coon will have those same characteristics. Additionally, there are many factors much more important than simply color or looks, such as personality, temperament, and whether you connect with a certain cat.

"Also, ask yourself why you want to adopt a shelter cat," Kiddy suggests. "If part of that reason isn't that you enjoy the company of cats and that a cat would fit well with your lifestyle, you may want to consider finding other ways to help, such as volunteering or fundraising. But if a love of cats and a desire to spend much of your time with them is part of your reason for adopting a shelter cat, you are a great candidate."

Another important reason many people want to adopt a shelter cat is that they simply want to help a cat that needs a home. There is a special breed of person who looks to adopt whichever cat is least likely to be noticed or chosen. Kiddy explains that several types of cats fit the bill of not being most people's first choices, including older cats, overweight cats, black cats, very reserved cats, and bonded pairs (meaning two cats that must be adopted together because they are so bonded to one another). If you are someone who truly wants to help a cat that needs you, ask your local rescue organization or shelter about these types of cats.

"It helps to be open-minded when you're looking to adopt a cat," Kiddy said. "If you let yourself, you could fall in love and find a perfect match in a cat you never would have noticed had you stuck to rigid parameters."

For example, with bonded pairs, staff or rescue volunteers think their quality of life would be compromised by being separated. But it can be exceptionally difficult for a bonded pair to find the right home where they can be together. For many households, having two cats is an ideal option, as they will keep each other busy playing and experience less boredom, which typically leads to destructive behavior. Additionally, black cats are difficult to adopt out due to superstition and simply because they don't fit into some of the more popular breeds of cats, like Maine Coon, Calico, Siamese, Orange Tabby, or Ragdoll.

Keep in mind that the shelter environment can be stressful for some cats, and when you meet a cat, he might not be his usual friendly, whimsical self. For any cat you're strongly considering, make a point to visit him more than one time to get a better feel for his personality.

To see Humane Society of Memphis & Shelby County adoptable cats go to memphishumane.org or visit them at 935 Farm Road, Tuesday through Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-5pm, or Sunday 1-5pm. You can get more information about any of their cats by calling them at 901-937-3900.



Buffy and Eve - available bonded pair at HSMSC.

Wood and ceramic works on display at Gallery Fifty Six

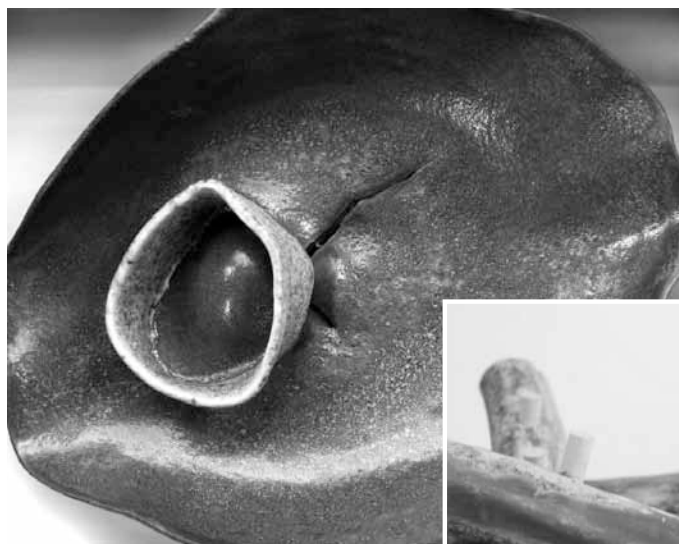
BY RICHARD KENDRICKSON

University of Memphis ceramics professor Niles Wallace will have a one-man exhibition of his work *Sticks and Stones (one thing follows another)* at Gallery Fifty Six (2256 Central) during the month of June. An artist's reception will be held on Friday, June 3 at the gallery from 5-8pm. The exhibition dates are June 3 through June 25, and gallery business hours are Wednesday through Friday from noon-4pm and Saturday from 11am-4pm.

This exhibition includes two current, loosely connected bodies of work – small gestural porcelain and stoneware bowls, and natural branch assemblages placed on roughly made tables.

Niles' initial interest in art was ceramics, and the use of clay has sustained him, with a few lapses, for over thirty-five years. These small bowls are wheel-formed and altered while they are still wet to suggest flower blossoms or feminine imagery. They are generally glazed with one glaze that is of a strong but complex color that follows the topography of the bowl as a pool of chromatic and textural relief from the unglazed portions of the bowl. The artist finds these pieces to be unabashedly beautiful and sensuous. They are gestural sketches that he has organized into groupings and collections but that the artist finds satisfying individually.

The branch assemblages are made from found wood pegged and glued together. The artist uses crepe myrtle limbs that have been pruned and discarded. This wood has a curved and folded form and surface that is much like what he is doing to the ceramic forms. In building these pieces, he tries to find wood that fits naturally, puzzle-like, together. The pegs that join the limbs may seem brutal and unfinished, but Niles likes the no-nonsense and fixed finality about them. He wants them to be complex, tangled, and masculine. The tables should be viewed as tables rather than pedestals. They are the part of the work that suggests home, intimacy, and humor.



Niles Wallace was born in Western Pennsylvania in 1948. His serious interest in art began in high school and extended to college. He graduated from Edinboro State University of Pennsylvania in 1970 with a degree in Art Education. At Edinboro he became interested in Ceramics and subsequently attended graduate school at Alfred University, Alfred, NY, where he studied under Val Cushing, Daniel Rhodes, Robert Turner, Ted Randall, and Wayne Higby. He received his MFA in Ceramics in 1974.

After short teaching stints at The Philadelphia College of Art and The State University of New York at Albany, he began teaching Ceramics at Memphis State University, which later became The University of Memphis. For the past fifteen years his work has focused on mixed media sculpture. His work has been exhibited nationally and is included in many private and corporate collections.

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The beach party films (1959 – 1967)

BY MATT MARTIN

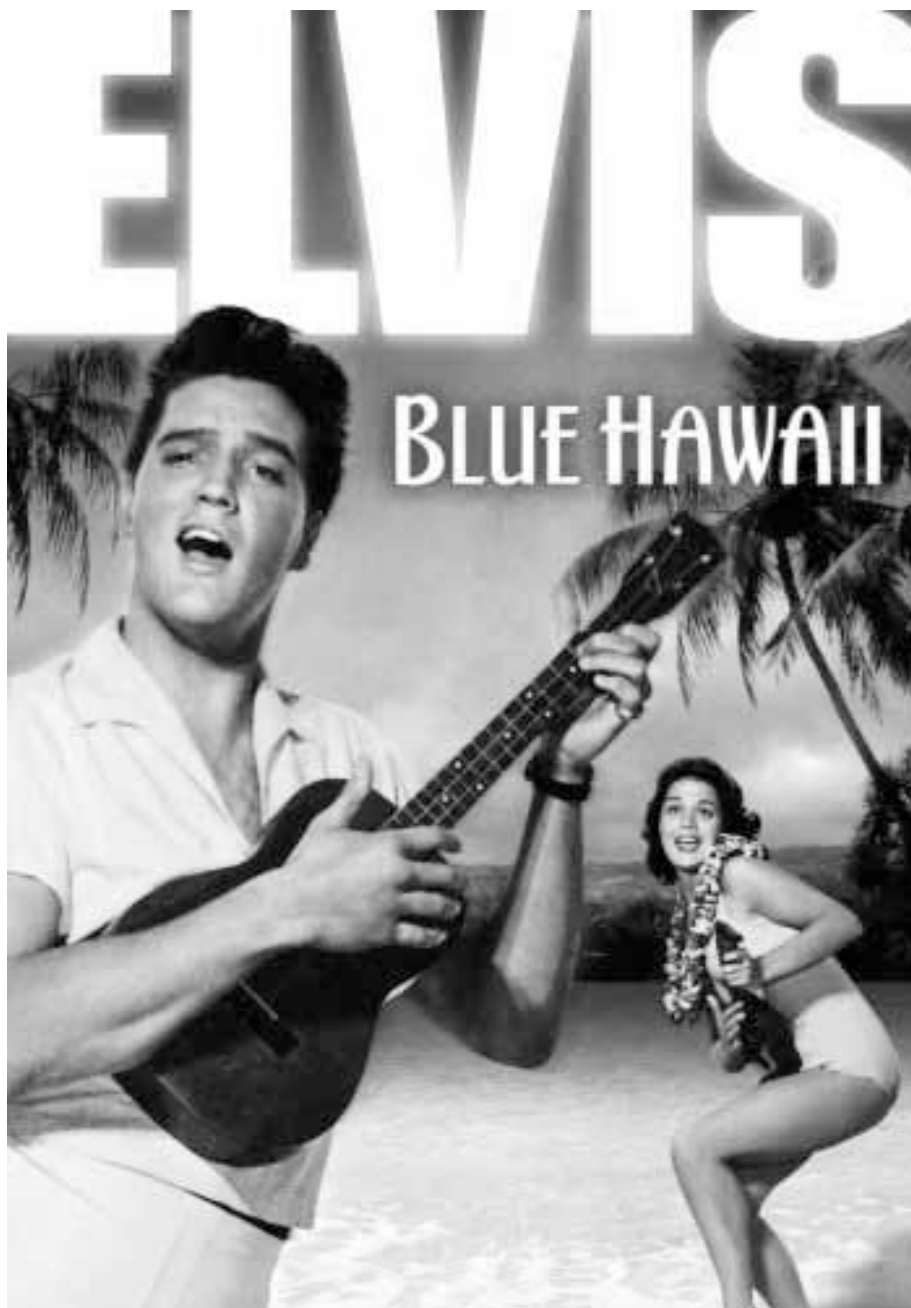
By the early sixties, American teenagers had grown bored with the greaser, juvenile delinquent lifestyle, made popular by Marlon Brando in *The Wild One* and James Dean in *Rebel Without a Cause*, that had dominated youth culture throughout the fifties. Spurned by a prospering economy and the beginnings of the sexual revolution, teenagers believed better times were ahead, unaware that Vietnam and massive social change was looming. The time had come, however brief it would be, to just have a good time. It was time for a different kind of teenage, hedonistic escape in cinema: the beach party films.

America's obsession with beach culture exploded in 1959 with the creation of Hawaii as a state. Instantly, people everywhere flocked to all things Hawaiian and tropical, from hula lessons to tiki torches. Surf rock filled the airwaves as The Beach Boys and other California bands rocketed to quick stardom. Out west, the California coast became a Mecca for bored teenagers. In the east, college students on Easter break began flooding Florida every year, creating the modern ritual of spring break. As always, Hollywood responded quickly to the cultural change.

In 1960, two films were quickly made to capitalize on this overnight phenomenon. First came *Gidget*, with Sandra Dee as a young beach bunny who whiles away the last days of her teenage years amid the sand and surf. The film was an immediate smash and would go on to spawn several sequels and a TV show starring Sally Field. That same year MGM released *Where the Boys Are*, the story of four female students who head to spring break to cut loose, meet guys, and maybe fall in love. Both films set the standards for the genre: young, adventurous, naïve teenagers on the edge of maturity; a complete absence of any parental/authority figures; random musical numbers; and a happy-go-lucky air of anything goes and everything is fine.

But sure enough, it took a star to take the beach bash flicks from teenage fascination to nationwide obsession. In 1961, Elvis Presley starred in *Blue Hawaii*, a playful tale of escapist fantasy. After leaving the army (in the movie and in real life), Presley returns home intent on living a better life. Much to the chagrin of his more ambitious parents, he decides he just wants the beach life and his Hawaiian girlfriend over empty careers. The film would be remembered as one of Elvis' most beloved, and its soundtrack became his most successful chart album. It stayed at the #1 spot for 20 consecutive weeks and was the top selling album of 1961. Elvis' musical marriage on a luau barge at the end remains one of his most iconic cinema moments. With that scene, America was beach crazy.

Soon after, legendary B-movie producer/director Roger Corman hired teen pop idol Frankie Avalon and former Mousekateer Annette Funicello to play what would be considered the definitive surf couple in his landmark film of eternal summer known simply as *Beach Party*. Released in 1963, the film hit a mark with young people, merging California free-living culture with an old-fashioned romantic musical. They would star in four sequels, each more over-the-top than the last. Aside from never-ending parties and quiet kisses by moonlight, the



focus of each film was the constant confrontation between beach kids and the delinquent biker teenagers hell-bent on spoiling their good time. This culture clash between the rebellious teenagers of the fifties and the peaceful, fun-loving teenagers of the early sixties was never more obvious.

Over the next three years, no less than 30 different beach party movies followed. Kids loved them, and the plot formulas rarely strayed from its simple origins. Boys meet girls, one couple falls in love, party ensues, bitter delinquent types try to stop the fun, kids fight back with goofball antics, and the beach is reclaimed for the surfers – all sealed

with a kiss at sunset amid the breaking waves. Occasionally, the studios would even merge them with other genres to expand the fun, using sci-fi (*Pajama Party*, where a Martian explorer is studying beach culture 'etiquette') and horror (*The Horror of Party Beach*, where a laughable seaweed monster threatens the surfers).

By 1967, the beach flicks ran out of steam, as more and more teenagers embraced the growing counterculture. Ultra clean-cut, tanned, happy teenagers gave way to long hair, shaggy clothes, and self-seriousness. Surfing, beach cookouts, and old-fashioned romance gave way to drugs, war panic, and free love. But those sun drenched, Technicolor summers live on and are still the ultimate vacation escape cinema. Kick back in the sun with these other unforgettable beach bash movies and let waves of sixties summer schmaltz wash over you. Hang ten, surf kings and bikini bunnies!

Beach Blanket Bingo
Paradise, Hawaiian Style (also with Elvis)
Muscle Beach Party
How to Stuff a Wild Bikini
Ride the Wild Surf
Catalina Caper
The Ghost in the Invisible Bikini
Surf Party
Dr. Goldfoot and the Bikini Machine (with Vincent Price!)

Matt Martin has written movie reviews for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and is co-owner of Black Lodge Video, located on the corner of Cooper and Evelyn. Black Lodge is the largest video store in the eastern US and is a faithful CYCA membership sponsor.

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Building happy family memories

BY DR. D. JACKSON MAXWELL

Upon becoming a father, I have spent a good deal of time reflecting on my childhood. From this I have come to realize that childhood memories are very important and go a long way in determining the future adult. As parents we need to be careful in what kind of memories we are building for our children – a point to which I can personally attest. This article tackles the fine art of memory building.

First, be aware that attempts at memory building may have unintended results. I grew up in Florida with a father who loved fishing. He particularly enjoyed deep sea fishing. Unfortunately, I was prone to sea sickness. Initially my dad figured that if he took me out often enough, I would get my sea legs and overcome my motion sickness. After hundreds of trips and years of trying, he finally realized that this theory was seriously flawed. His next plan was to pump me full of motion sickness pills, even though these were not recommended for a child my age. The end result of this doping was that I slept the day away on the bow of the boat, baking in the sun. I hate fishing with a passion to this day.

A second potential problem with ill-conceived attempts at memory building is that the memories created may come back to haunt you. Once my dad's dream of making me a deep sea fisherman failed, he devised a new plan to develop in me a love of boating. He decided to keep out of the big waves and boat within sight of land. In this way I was able to go boating and keep my breakfast down. We now spent our time trolling the channels and exploring the islands. This scheme worked well until one day my parents decided to check out an area they had heard of called Shark River.

Shark River is a wide yet shallow channel between two islands in the Florida Keys. Once there, we saw sharks everywhere. They were readily visible in the clear water, gliding along sandy paths through fields of seaweed just a foot or so below the surface. Still the consummate fisherman, my dad saw an opportunity. He decided we were going to catch the sharks. First, he baited a hook and threw it just in front of the sharks as the boat idled along the sandy paths. The sharks, however, were not interested. Next, he tried the gaff – a sharp metal hook on the end of a pole used to skewer hooked fish and pull them into the boat. The water being so shallow, my dad could lean over the side of the boat and almost gaff them, but alas, the sharks were a bit too quick. Finally, both of my parents decided they would snag the sharks using fishing nets. So while they ran from side to side trying to net the sharks, the boat's steering wheel was left unattended. Needless to say, in short order the boat was grounded in shark infested waters.

Without missing a beat, my dad threw me a rope and ordered me overboard to extricate the boat from the sandbar. At first I assumed he was joking, but low and behold, that was not the case. In fact, after a few choice words it became painfully clear that if I did not join the sharks with my rope, I would not be sitting down for the foreseeable future – captain's orders. So, I did indeed go swimming with the sharks. I did eventually pull the boat into deeper waters so we could be on our way. However, the final result of this traumatic memory is that I no longer care to even wade in the ocean.

I do have a few good memories of boating. For instance, we would occasionally visit the deserted mangrove islands that dot the Florida coast. I would spend hours exploring the islands, collecting seashells, and having a picnic with my family. I would image myself a pirate searching for buried treasure or an explorer discovering a new land. Most of all, I loved being on an island with just my family.

As I said, once I had my own kids I began reflecting on my childhood and realized that memories can be a double edged sword. For better or worse, childhood memories last forever. So as summer approaches and plans are made, learn from my experience and think about your family when making decisions. Be wise and make sure to include activities that will please everyone while building happy, lifelong memories for the whole family.

Dr. D. Jackson Maxwell is a National Board Certified Teacher and a freelance writer. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Dr. Maxwell at djacksonmaxwell@gmail.com.

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Library's summer reading program available for children, teens, and adults

BY LILLIAN JOHNSON

Summer slide – it's not a new dance or children's playground equipment. Unfortunately, the phrase refers to a phenomenon that occurs when students forget what they have learned while on break from school during the summer months. Learning loss affects all school subjects, can have cumulative effects, and isn't limited to elementary-aged students.


There is an antidote: reading. Reluctant or even voracious readers can benefit from the

Library's Summer Reading Club (SRC). Weekly incentives and prizes motivate children and teens to open a book while on vacation from the classroom. Children's department Senior Manager and Youth Services Coordinator Mary Seratt explains how the SRC can help prevent learning loss: "Reading gets better when children practice it, and encouraging children to join the Library's Summer Reading Club is a painless way to make their practice fun. The small, tangible prizes are just the icing on the cake. The real reward is becoming a better reader. When a child's reading improves, his/her writing improves, and very often he/she will do better in other subjects as comprehension improves."

Teens 12-17 have age-appropriate prizes and activities to get them engaged. For the 18 and older crowd, magazines, newspapers,

eBooks, books on tape, and even reading to a child all qualify for weekly prize drawings. The adult grand prize is a Nook e-reader device. "Literacy is important from the cradle to the grave," says Adult Services Coordinator Wang Ying Glasgow. "We want to make reading fun and accessible for everyone."

SRC signup for children and teens takes just a few minutes at any library location. Adults can signup online at memphislibrary.org/adult-summer-reading or in person. For more information, call 901-415-2700.



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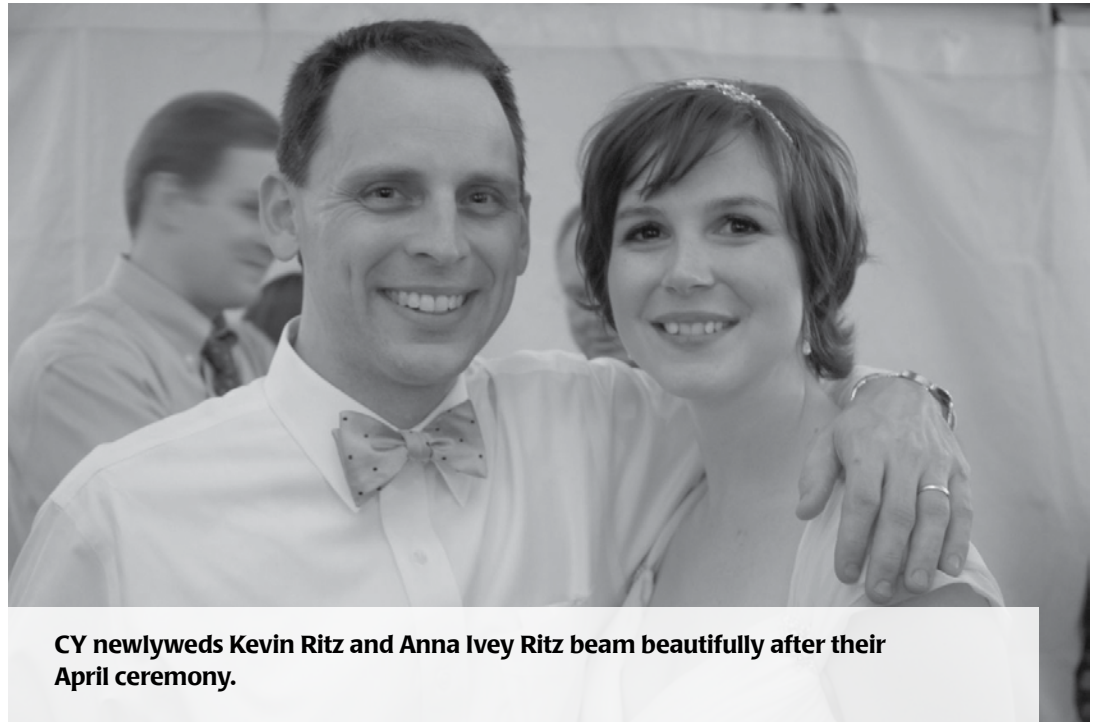
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Every spring Doris Porter and Joan Foley host an Evelyn porch party for their neighbors. This year two officers from the Union Precinct happily agreed to judge the dessert competition. Here are Patrol Officers Murphy and Greer with 3rd place winner Chris Sinnick, 1st place winner Anna Ballam, 2nd place winner Lorraine Lovell, and hostesses Doris and Joan. For all of you block club participants out there, it might be time to join this Evelyn group and begin your own traditions.



Maddox Kelley, Walt Spickler, Blake Jones, and Adam Grisham celebrate together after Peabody Elementary's kindergarten promotion ceremony. They can't wait to welcome more Cooper-Youngsters to the school in August!



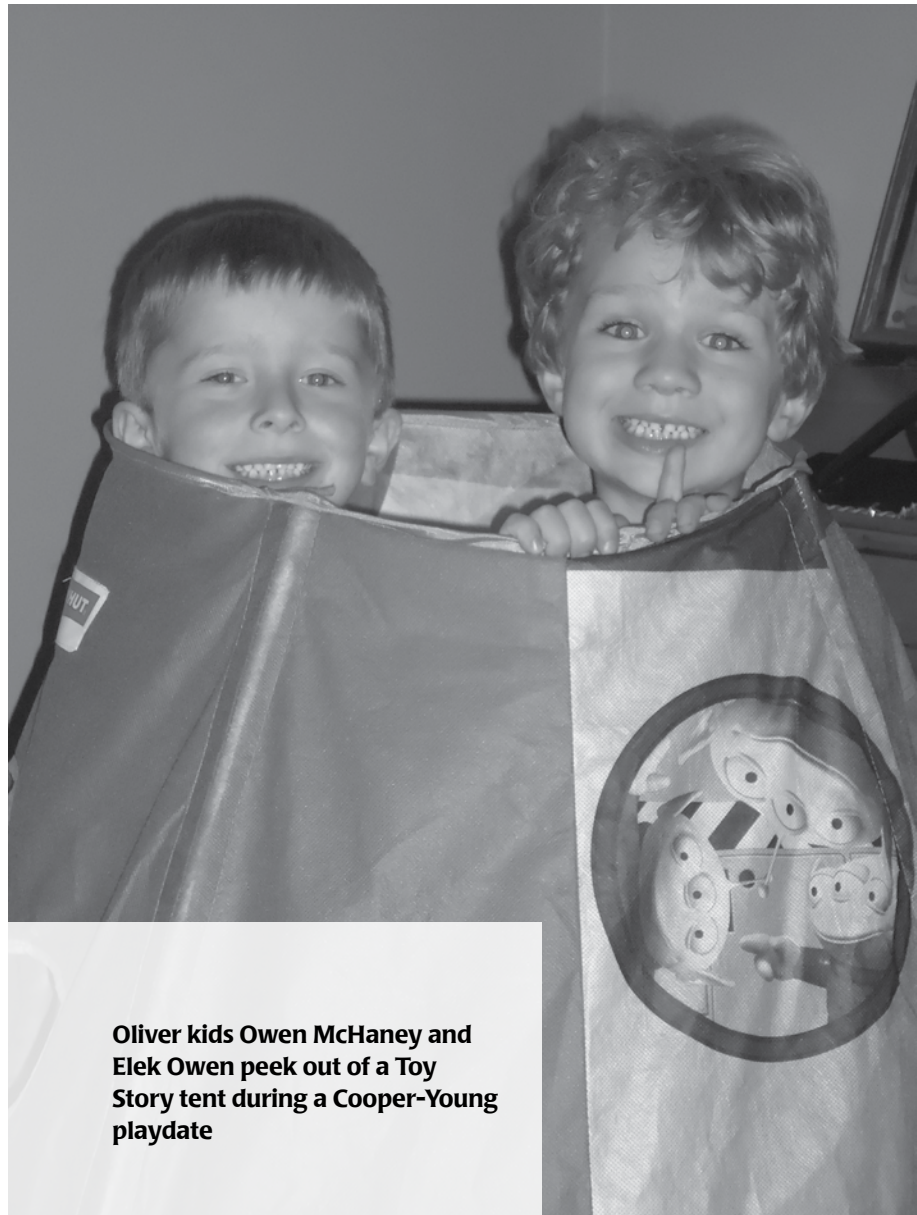
CY newlyweds Kevin Ritz and Anna Ivey Ritz beam beautifully after their April ceremony.



Kathy Fisher of Evelyn took advantage of Bike to Work Day on May 20 and rode to Lifeblood East on this beautiful spring morning.



The CYCA office space was transformed into an art gallery for the opening of *Parallel Lives* on May 20. Enthusiastic art lovers attended the event and celebrated the work of Memphis area artists Paula Kovarik and Jean Holmgren. The show is still available for viewing through June 11.



Oliver kids Owen McHaney and Elek Owen peek out of a Toy Story tent during a Cooper-Young playdate



Chris McHaney and Debbie Sowell of Oliver are caught high fiving a bicycle policeman – just one of the 12 tasks they had to complete at the 2011 Great Urban Race that took place in downtown Memphis on Saturday, May 21. Notice they proudly wore their Smallest User tees.



State Senator Beverly Marrero congratulates Peabody Elementary music teacher Mr. Jerry Sanders on a job well done after his choir and dance ensemble put on a fantastic performance for the school's International Festival on May 13. Senator Marrero also delivered a certificate from Governor Bill Haslam declaring a "Day of Recognition" for Peabody!



Evelyn residents Glen and Shelley Thomas and their team, the Pit and Pigulum II, participate every year in the Memphis in May BBQ Cooking Contest. Here they are smiling for the camera as they work hard to create some of the best BBQ in the world.

Betty's World

Justice for slumlords

BY BETTY LAMARR

Mark Twain once said, "One may make their house a palace of sham, or they can make it a home, a refuge." This quote, by one of the most famous authors of all time, strikes a chord in some of us. For many, home is an amazing



place. It is where we go to relax and to be ourselves after a long day at the office. Home is where we feel loved and at peace. For others, "home" and "refuge" are polar opposites. Home is a place of chaos, discomfort, anger, sadness, and despair.

So what makes the difference between a home of refuge and a home of distress? There are many things that make a home more than a place to live, but respect plays a large role. We must respect ourselves, respect others, and respect our belongings. For some people fortunate enough to own a home, they have control over many of these aspects. But what about the rest of us? There are many of us who rent instead of own, sometimes living paycheck to paycheck in the midst of chaos. What I want to talk about this month is those of us who have respect for ourselves, others, and what we own but are forced to live in a state of filth or in hazardous conditions because of those bottom feeders of society we call slumlords.

If you are unfamiliar with the terminology, a slumlord is defined by *USLegal.com* as "an unscrupulous landlord who milks a property without concern for tenants, neighborhoods, or their own long term interests." These individuals buy up properties in poor neighborhoods faster than floor seats to the Grizzlies game and then let the properties deteriorate into shambles.

How do you know if you live in a slumlord property? Just look around and you will have a pretty good idea. If there are consistent hazards to your safety and your health, most likely you are living in one of these establishments. Many of you have noticed these hazards and have told your landlords and the maintenance staff of these issues to no avail. It seems nothing ever gets worked on, and you hear phrases such as, "Oh, I thought I fixed that." or "Just put a towel around it and it will stop leaking." Calls often go unanswered, but somehow these slumlords always show up on time to collect rent. It's funny how that works.

The reason that this subject hits so close to home is because during an unfortunate time in my life, I rented from a slumlord. Before that, I ran a successful business, owned my own home, drove a Porsche, and had very good credit. But when it rained, it poured, and I lost it all. My mom always said that I

was the strong one in the family, and therefore, I had to pull myself up by my own bootstraps. But at that point in my life, I barely had bootstraps to pull myself up with. I was deceived by the nice looking façade of a property and decided to rent. It was a disaster! Mold in the walls made us sick, rodents and other animals inhabited the roof, and the neglected common areas became a haven for drug addicts and dealers.

During this very tough time, I realized something. Despite my credit score and my financial situation, I did not have to live like this. When talking to your landlord seems futile, there is still something you can do. Report your landlord to the necessary authorities. Keep track of all neglected complaints, and take pictures of hazards or damages. Check out *Nolo.com* and their Renter's Rights resource center. Remember that legally a landlord cannot evict you for reporting him or her, and have confidence that you are not alone.

A credit score does not define you as a person. However, when you start to lose respect for yourself, others, and your property, you are losing something much more valuable than economic status. You are losing your self worth. Be proud of who you are no matter what situation you are currently in, and work to make it better. No situation is hopeless, and together we can help put those corrupt landlords in their place and start creating homes and neighborhoods that are true refuges in times of despair.

For questions or comments you can email Betty LaMarr at askbettylamarr@aol.com or visit her at askbettylamarr.blogspot.com.

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To Our Readers

The *LampLighter* is working with the CYCA to bring you meaningful crime information. In addition to the crime map, which details crimes within a one-mile radius of the Cooper-Young intersection, we also included a list of crimes that happened within our neighborhood. This list includes the case number, which you can use to contact the police. The following crimes were reported from April 24 to May 23, 2011.

CASE #	ARREST	OFFENSES	DATE	100 BLOCK
1105015686ME	n/a	Shoplifting/Misdemeanor	05/21/11	2100 CENTRAL
1105014986ME	n/a	Vandalism/Misdemeanor	05/20/11	2200 YOUNG
1105015067ME	n/a	Vandalism/Misdemeanor	05/20/11	1000 PHILADELPHIA
1105013443ME	n/a	Burglary/Non-residential	05/18/11	700 TANGLEWD ST
1105011642ME	n/a	Simple Assault/DV	05/16/11	1000 MEDA
1105010546ME		Simple Assault/DV	05/15/11	2200 YORK
1105010395ME		Simple Assault/DV	05/14/11	1900 OLIVER
1105009991ME	n/a	Other Theft/Non-Specific	05/14/11	900 PHILIDELPHIA
1105009880ME	n/a	Other Theft/Non-Specific	05/14/11	900 S COOPER ST
1105009852ME	n/a	Vandalism/Misdemeanor	05/14/11	1000 NEW YORK
1105009853ME	n/a	Vandalism/Felony	05/14/11	2100 YOUNG
1105009799ME		Drugs/Narcotics Violation/Felony	05/14/11	CENTRAL & COOPER
1105008800ME		Simple Assault/DV	05/12/11	800 S COX
1105005579ME	n/a	Burglary/Residential	05/08/11	1900 FELIX
1105004121ME	n/a	Other Theft/Non-Specific	05/06/11	1000 PHILADELPHIA
1105003657ME		Simple Assault/DV	05/05/11	2000 SOUTHERN
1105002165ME	n/a	Vandalism/Misdemeanor	05/03/11	900 S COOPER ST
1105000324ME	n/a	Forcible Rape	05/01/11	1000 MEDA
1104017687ME	n/a	Burglary/Business	04/25/11	2200 CENTRAL
1104017469ME	n/a	Other Theft/Non-Specific	04/24/11	2200 CENTRAL
1104017461ME	n/a	Vandalism/Felony	04/24/11	1000 NEW YORK

SUMMERTIME TUNES

Music Mondays at the gazebo

BY TAMARA COOK

The CY Business Association is excited to announce Visible Live Music Mondays starting on June 6 at 6pm. Music Mondays at the gazebo, located at the corner of Cooper St. and Young Ave., will be every Monday in the month of June and July from 6-8pm. All entertainers will be students, alumni, friends, or teachers of Visible Music College.

Visible Music College understands that creative young people need a place to develop technical and artistic skills. Visible is an independent college designed to prepare artists, technicians, and business professionals for skilled, relational service in the arts industries and the church.

Come down to Cooper-Young this summer and join in the Visible revolution.

Sign up for free safety alerts.
www.cooperyoung.org



Crime Map

Do you want to know what crime is taking place in our neighborhood? The Memphis Police Department offers a tool on its website (memphispolice.org) that allows you to locate crime information. Crimemapper allows you to input an address and search in quarter-mile increments for a specific type of crime. It then returns with the results of your search for the previous 30 days.

The crime map for this issue was compiled by June Hurt.



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