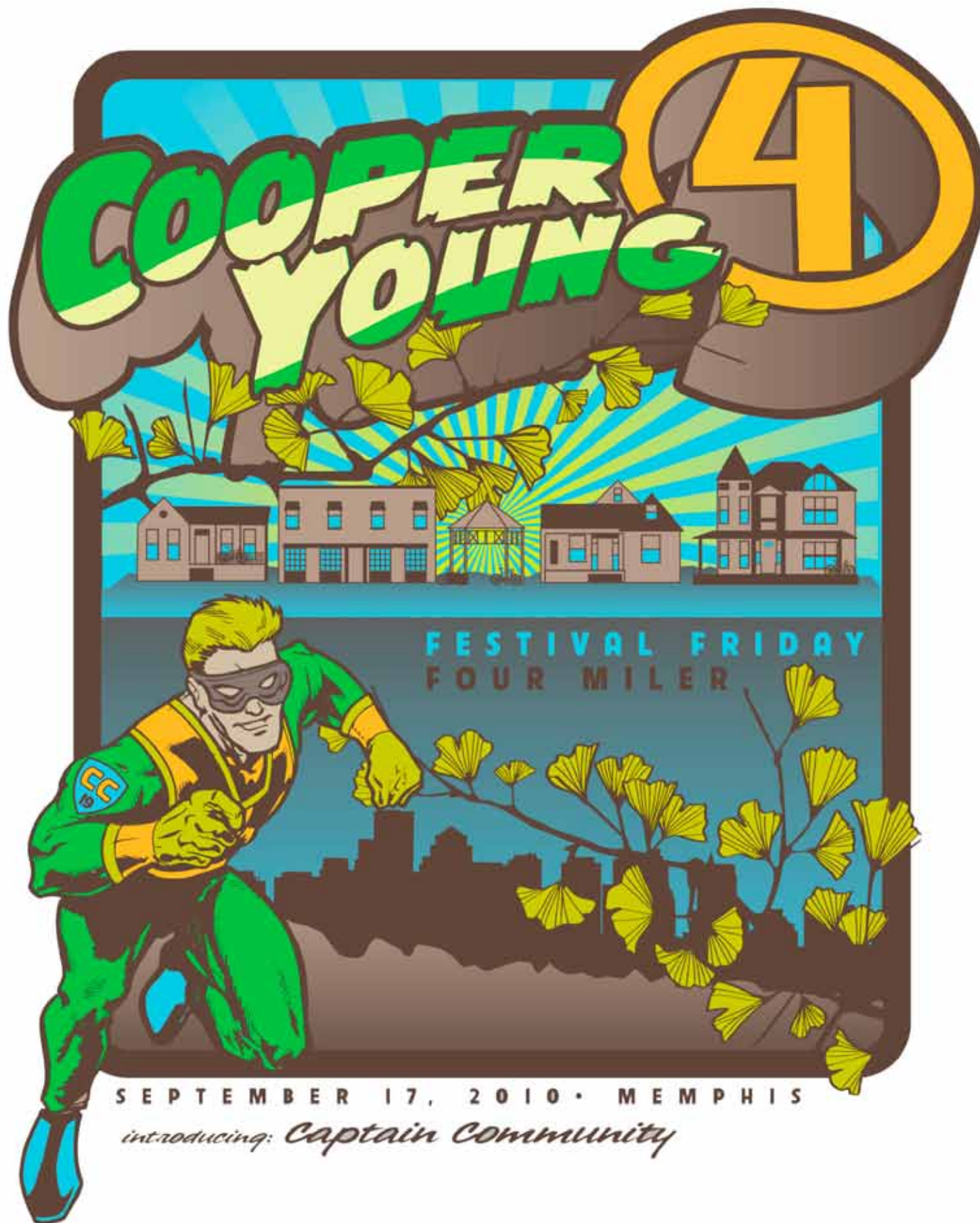


LampLighter

Cooper-Young — Many Voices, One Community



READY, SET, PARTY!

Festival Friday 4 Miler

BY LESLIE THOMPSON

They are packed like sardines in a can, corralled into a cattle drive of sorts, but nothing matters in these circumstances because excitement always prevails. Some stand still. Some fidget. Others wear ear-phones as a few hop up and down doing whatever it takes to keep those muscles warm. Suddenly, from the vantage point of a tiptoed stance, they see the front of the pack rush forward, and then they all know – it is race time.

One by one the runners rush through the neighborhood, gathering up bits of encouragement along the way. At the intersection, a group of kids with big grins reaches out for joyful, sweaty high-fives. A home on Walker blares Otis Redding from its front porch, and just two houses down a man dressed in a chicken suit cheers on the ever-moving crowd. Over on Young Avenue, an assembly of tiki torches lights the way in front of a luau where some runners get lei'd. A block over, a boisterous group surrounded by Christmas lights hands out Mardi Gras beads, and next door screaming teenage girls hold up posters, all brightly painted with reassuring words. A young woman serenades everyone with her acoustic guitar, and toward the end of the course, a man wearing Elvis sunglasses sits in a lawn chair off Evelyn, with his koozie-clad beverage in hand. He holds it up in the air and yells out to a friend, "Less than a half mile left. You can do it! We got a cold one waitin' for ya, buddy!" Running this race is like running through a 4-mile long party.

The Cooper-Young Festival Friday 4 Miler has been a neighborhood tradition since 1991. For two decades, the spirited people of Cooper-Young have made this one of the most anticipated races of the year. From the volunteers to the Neighbors Light the Way parties, it is the community that makes this run

Continued on page 12



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Community Association is financially sound

BY JOHN KINSEY

The Cooper-Young Community Association (CYCA) is **not** going bankrupt! I make this announcement because it has come to my attention that rumors to the contrary are beginning to surface. However, nothing could be further from the truth. We are led by a strong, dedicated board of directors, and our financial records and meeting minutes are open to the public for viewing. Our events continue to attract attendees and raise much of the money needed for our operations. Our newspaper, the *LampLighter*, continues to deliver news and ads monthly to over 3,000 households and businesses. We are a model for community associations nationwide.

Unfortunately, not all organizations promoting Cooper-Young can claim a healthy financial outlook. Due to economic setbacks the Cooper-Young Development Corporation (CYDC) is operating without paid staff and has limited operations at this time.

How do the CYCA, the CYBA, and the CYDC differ?

I know it can be confusing when all three community organizations use "Cooper-Young" in their names. Let me try to clarify.

The Cooper-Young Community Association (CYCA) is an alliance of residents and interested parties who work together to make our diverse and historic neighborhood a desirable and safe place to live, worship, work, and play. Our big events include the Art for Art's Sake Auction, the Friday Festival 4 Miler, and the new, upcoming Regional Beer Festival.

The mission of the Cooper-Young Business Association (CYBA) is to reclaim the buildings, streetscapes, and businesses of the district in an effort to promote a better business climate and to promote the neighborhood as a desirable place to live, work, and patronize. Their big events include the CY Festival in September and CY Night Out on the first Thursday of each month.

The Cooper-Young Development Corporation (CYDC) is dedicated to sustaining and growing our neighborhood by actively building and advocating for a vibrant, affordable, and beautiful community environment. Their recent big project is housing on Seattle Street.

The CYCA is a stand-alone entity and is not part of the CYBA or the CYDC. We maintain separate mission statements, boards of directors, and office space. At one time we did share the 2298 Young Avenue location with the others, but since April we have owned the building and have been the only one of the three organizations housed there.

The CYCA is a robust organization and it will remain viable and strong into the future. Questions regarding the future of the CYDC can be addressed to the CYDC Board President, Reb Haizlip at reb@haizlipstudio.com.

inside

4 CY Regional Beer Festival set for October

There is a new festival coming to CY! Read a preview of what is planned for this CYCA event and find out how you can attend or even get involved.

11 Be a part of the graffiti solution

Tired of tagging in our community? This article will help you know what actions you can take to make a difference in the aesthetic landscape of CY.

19 Community generated proposal for bike lanes

Learn more about the bicycle lane design plans that Revolutions and Livable Memphis will be presenting to City of Memphis Engineers on August 2.

All of these articles and more will be published online each month at lamplighter.cooperyoung.org.

Don't forget to register!

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■ CYCA Disaster Preparation Meeting

Monday, August 9, 6 pm
Fork it Over
2294 Young Avenue

Carol Yarbro with the Shelby County Office of Preparedness will discuss CERT training and the resources and plans that are already in place for our city. The CY Emergency Response team is working on a plan for our neighborhood to be prepared for when a disaster strikes such as an earthquake, windstorm, or flood. (See article on page 5 for more info.)

■ CYCA General Meeting

Tuesday, August 10, 6-7:30 pm
Community Office
2298 Young Avenue

Volunteer sign up for CY Festival Friday 4 Miler and the CYCA booth at the Festival

Have fun with your neighbors while helping the CYCA raise money. Volunteers get a t-shirt to show their CY pride and a volunteer appreciation party in December.

■ CYCA Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 17, 7 pm
2298 Young Avenue

CYCA Community Director

Maggie Cardwell

CYCA Board Officers

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

CYCA Committee Heads

Ad Hoc	Shelley Thomas
Beautification	Kristan Huntley
Beer Fest	Andy Ashby
Block Clubs	Ginger Spickler
Building	Debbie Sowell
Code Awareness	Sharron Johnson
Communications	Emily Bishop
Festival 4-Miler	Richard Coletta, Michael Ham, Emily Bishop
Finance	Jason Word
Safety	Sarah Frierson
Membership	June Hurt
Volunteers	Beth Pulliam

At-Large Board Members

Peter Owen
Amanda Ball
Kevin Ritz



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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.

Deadlines for the September LampLighter

Articles, submissions: August 15
Advertising copy: August 20
Distribution beginning: September 3
Please send all articles and submissions to LampLighter@cooperyoung.org. For advertising rate sheet, or to submit ads electronically, please email ads@cooperyoung.org.

Cooper-Young Organizations

CYCA
Maggie Cardwell 901-272-2922 info@cooperyoung.org
CYBA
Tamara Walker 901-276-7222 cyba@bellsouth.net
CYDC
Reb Haizlip 901-272-1459

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reactions from Johannesburg, South Africa

I was distressed to see online in your June *LampLighter* issue that one of John Gaisford's beautiful buildings [the Union Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church on the corner of Union and Cooper] may be demolished to make way for a chain drugstore.

John Gaisford was the brother of my grandmother, and he was a well-respected architect. He was born the son of a carpenter and builder in Warminster, Wiltshire, England on October 6, 1875. In 1896, he immigrated to Memphis where he married twice and died on August 31, 1917. He was buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Memphis. He was a prolific architect and built many churches and public buildings during his short career.

I hope your conservation lobby can save this church for posterity. Best wishes.

Martin Pomeroy



The future of the Union Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church building at the corner of Cooper and Union is still uncertain. CVS Pharmacy wants to purchase the property and demolish the building. Preservationist want to save the building and encourage an adaptive reuse of the space.

This letter was written in response to an article titled "Drugstores take over historic corners and neighborhoods have had enough" by Robert Tom which was published in the June LampLighter.

July Memberships

BY MAGGIE CARDWELL

The following memberships were received as of July 23rd. Memberships received after the 23rd will be listed in the next issue. The Cooper-Young Community Association is supported by paid memberships, and anyone is welcome to join and receive the benefits of membership, which include discounts to local businesses.

Community Memberships

- Brad & Naomi Ragsdale
- Jason Jacobs-Lentz
- Melissa Ruleman
- Kevin Ritz
- Sam Marvin
- Ms. Terry Starr
- Morgan Dunnann
- Philip Vandermade
- Michael Bartha
- Alma Williams

HEARTS ON FIRE

A successful first Fourth of July celebration

BY SHELLEY THOMAS

Out in the heat there were families parading with kids in wagons and strollers decorated to the hilt. There were a few adults on bikes and in costume passing out candy and winning the affection of every child. Seventy-five people gathered at Peabody school for the first CY Fourth of July celebration last month. After a parade around the block, everyone returned to the intersection of Young and Tanglewood where Memphis Firefighters were passing out T-shirts and books to eager little ones. A blast of water from two fire trucks resembling Niagara Falls served as the grand finale. Even the parents got a little wet, but they didn't seem to mind in the sun's sweltering rays. Some stuck around to hear the band while children enjoyed popsicles and playing in the play area.

Fourth of July plans are already being discussed for next year with the hopes that this will become an annual event. If you attended this inaugural celebration, thanks for coming and everyone mark your calendars now to join us next year on July 4th.



Cooper-Young neighbors old and young came out to Peabody Elementary the day after Independence Day for the first-ever Cooper-Young July 5th parade! There was a tricycle/bike/stroller parade, as well as a visit from some firemen who cooled the crowd off with their fire hoses. Thanks to Shannon Dixon of Nelson and Shelley Thomas of Evelyn for organizing the event, and local photographer Amanda Hill of Cox, amphotography.us, for capturing it!

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Mission Our purpose is to form an association of residents and interested parties to work together to make our diverse and historic community a more desirable and safer place to live, worship, work, and play.



Enclosed is a check for my membership in the Cooper-Young Community Association

New Renewing

Household – \$20 Trestle Tender – \$50 Senior 55 and older – \$5

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Phone _____ Email _____

I want to hear about volunteer opportunities

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

in honor or/in memory of _____

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ for the General Operating Fund

Mail this form with your payments to:

CYCA Membership, 2298 Young Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104

You can also join online at cooperyoung.org. The CYCA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

ARE YOU SIGNED UP FOR OUR EMAIL ALERTS ON SAFETY, COMMUNITY EVENTS, AND VOLUNTEERING?

SIGN UP @ COOPERYOUNG.ORG.

YARD OF THE MONTH

Longtime residents add beauty to CY

BY SYDNEY ASHBY

August's Yard of the Month goes to Bryce, Judy, Ellen, and Emily Stewart. They have lived at 1902 Felix Avenue for seventeen years and have had the same plants for fifteen of those years, including the lantana that surrounds their front porch. Bryce says that the past winter was hard on the yard and many plants died. However, you can't tell by looking at the enormous, gorgeous 14" potted Perilla Magilla plants on their front porch which were purchased from Mike at Midtown Nursery at the corner of Central and Cooper. Two elephant ear plants are on either side of the front steps and a massive crepe myrtle anchors the side yard. The Stewart family says they love living in Cooper-Young and that their backyard is even prettier than their front yard! Congratulate them on making

Cooper-Young even more beautiful in August and all year.

If you would like to nominate someone for Yard of the Month, please email lamplighter@cooperyoung.org with your suggestion.



CHEERS

Cooper-Young Regional Beer Festival set for October

BY ANDY ASHBY

The Cooper-Young Community Association is holding a beer festival this October centered on one of the guiding principals of our neighborhood: locality. There are no chain restaurants or retailers in Cooper-Young and residents pride themselves on our neighborhood's uniqueness. Our beer festival should be no different.

The Cooper-Young Regional Beer Festival will be held from 1-5pm, October 9 at the parking lot south of LifeLink Memphis at 1015 S. Cooper St. The event will feature breweries, brew pubs, and brew clubs within a one-day drive of Memphis. Three Memphis brewers, Ghost River Brewing, Boscós, and Bluff City Brewers & Connoisseurs, have committed to the event, in addition to Yazoo Brewing Co. (Nashville, TN), Lazy Magnolia Brewing Co. (Kiln, MS), Schlafly Beer (St. Louis, MO), French Broad Brewing (Asheville, NC), and Asheville Pizza & Brewing Co. (Asheville, NC). This list is expected to grow.

Only 400 tickets will be sold to allow people ample time to taste the beers and ask questions of the brewers. In addition to the brewery tables, there will be an education tent where brewery representatives and beer experts will share their philosophy of brewing and talk about their beers. Tickets go on sale August 20 and will only be available online at the CYCA website, cooperyoung.org. Tickets are \$25 for CYCA members and \$30 for non-members. All proceeds go to support the work of the CYCA.

This event will be held rain or shine. Visible School, a music college currently located in LifeLink Memphis, will provide live music, while Au Fond Farmtable sells food on-site. In addition, chef Ben Vaughn and his crew will prepare a dinner for visiting brewers and Country Hearth Inns & Suites at Union and McLean will provide hotel rooms. Yellow Cab will be on-site, offering cab rides to festival attendees. Volunteers will enjoy free food and beer at Celtic Crossing following the festival.

If you are interested in volunteering at this event, please contact Trevor Kearney at cybeerfest@gmail.com. Please let him know if you have Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission training. For all other inquiries, please contact Andy Ashby at cybeerfest@gmail.com or call (901) 691-2396.



Yellow Cab will be at the Beer Festival offering rides to festival attendees.



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PREPARE YOURSELF

Resident's ideas needed for CY Emergency Response plan

BY SARAH FRIERSON

Cooper-Young is a close-knit community, and the board of the CYCA has realized that when and if a disaster ever strikes we will turn to each other for help. The recent floods in Millington and Nashville were a reminder that it is important to plan for the unexpected. Cooper-Young has always been at the forefront when it comes to community organization, and we'd like to set a precedent for other neighborhoods, once again, by putting together a Cooper-Young Emergency Response (CYER) plan.

Local and state governments have emergency plans in place, and first responders will act as quickly as possible to assist us. Nevertheless, in an emergency situation we also need to be ready to take care of our families and our neighbors for the first 7-10 days, if necessary. Our goal is to create a comprehensive disaster plan for the neighborhood and to provide training for CY residents so that we may effectively support one another and efficiently communicate the needs of our community to emergency personnel.

An immediate priority is to create a Certified Emergency Response Team (CERT) for Cooper-Young. CERT training is free and open to any city resident. There are 15 training spots available for Cooper-Young neighbors on Saturday, August 21 and 28 from 8am-4:30pm.

The CERT program offers hands-on training in basic disaster relief skills that can be used to assist neighbors in a variety of emergency situations like earthquakes, floods, tornados, or fires. Light search and rescue techniques (such as how to safely lift a wall off of someone who is trapped), fire safety (including how to turn off electricity and gas lines), and disaster medical operations will be covered in the two-day training. All participants will receive a CERT kit.

Please join us for the next meeting of CYER, on Monday, August 9, 6:30pm at Fork it Over, across the street from the CYCA office at 2299 Young Avenue. Refreshments will be provided courtesy of Fork it Over. Cheryl Yarbrow, Manager of Operations and Training with the Shelby County Office of Preparedness HLS/EMA/UASI, will discuss CERT training, as well as the resources and plans that are already in place for our city. A CERT kit will also be on hand, so that you can see what you get if you decide to become a community CERT volunteer. Everyone is welcome and no special skills are required.

For further information about disaster preparedness, please visit readyshelby.org.

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LampLighter

Cooper-Young — Many Voices, One Community

BRING IT ON!

Cooper-Young takes the lead in the Smallest User competition

BY DEBBIE SOWELL

Those of you in attendance at the July CYCA meeting were probably surprised to learn that, after some number glitches were corrected by MLGW, Cooper-Young is now winning the Smallest User contest! But wait. Don't rest on your laurels! We are not winning by much and both neighborhoods are still consuming more energy in 2010 than in 2008. There is a lot of work to be done.

At the CYCA meeting, CY residents were asked to make a pledge to take simple steps to change their habits and conserve energy in their homes, from turning off lights in unoccupied rooms to changing thermostat settings. If you were unable to come to the meeting but are interested in making a similar pledge of participation, please email Ashley Akin at akin.ashley@gmail.com. You may also email her with a brief account of what you are doing in your home to conserve energy. These submissions will be posted on the Smallest User website, smallestuser.com, as well as the CYCA website, cooperyoung.org, and will serve as an encouragement to your fellow neighbors. Everyone knows that CY is green. Let's hear about it!

The neighborhood with the best numbers will receive a small cash prize and a 10-foot, public sculpture that absorbs the sun's rays during the day and glows at night. This artwork definitely needs to be in CY, wouldn't you agree?



The Zombie Boys interviewed Debbie Sowell about the Smallest User Competition at the July CYCA meeting.

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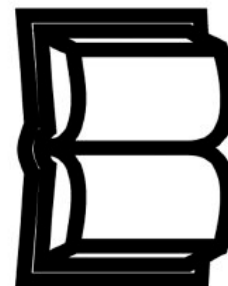
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Second Progressive Potluck sizzled

BY EMILY BISHOP

Saturday, July 24 was one of the hottest days of the year, but the hosts of the second fundraiser for the McLean Mural project stayed in the kitchen and showed that they could take the heat. 26 people bought \$20 tickets so that they could go to three homes and enjoy good food and conversation. A last minute attack on one of the families by a stomach bug meant that plans were shifted to entertain at just two homes. Leslie Thompson and Mark Morrison of Young Avenue were first on the list followed by June and Justin Hurt of Evelyn Avenue. The fundraiser was enjoyed by many CY residents as well as friends from Central Gardens and the Overton Square area.


The Progressive Potlucks provide a fun way to raise money and meet new people, but the name of the event is a bit misleading. Although the event is progressive (going from one house to



another), it is not acutally a potluck. The hosts provide all of the food and beverages. Watch for annoucements from the CYCA about the next Progressive Dinner for the McLean Mural on the website cooperyoung.org.



Leslie Thompson, Mark Morrison, and June and Justin Hurt hosted the Second Progressive Dinner, a fundraiser for the McLean Mural project, on July 24, 2010.



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General Sessions Criminal Court

DIVISION 7 JUDGE

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Allie Prescott, Campaign Chairman

August festivities

BY TAMARA WALKER

Thursday, August 5 is the next Cooper-Young Night Out. We are excited to have Darien Clea bringing her musical combination of indie, pop and folk to serenade us at the gazebo from 5:30-9pm. Darien and her addictively rhythmic songs take listeners on an emotion filled voyage through all territories, from whimsy to melancholy. With a growing presence in the Memphis music scene and a self-released EP under her belt, she is winning the heart of many music lovers. You can give her a listen at myspace.com/darienclea.

Shopping and dining discounts at businesses throughout Cooper-Young start at 5pm. Browse one of our popular art or antique shops like the David Perry Smith Gallery, Gallery Fifty Six, Painted Planet, Market Central, or Memphis Waterworks, or paint your own 2x4 miniature free at ArtJAMn during the Night Out.

We have a number of specialty shops that offer wine and refreshments while you browse. Be sure to look for the latest trends at Stash-the Midtown Yarn Shop, Loudean's, Goner Records, Worlds Apart, and Lux. At Lux receive 10 Lux bucks for every \$100 purchase excluding tax. The Enchanted Florist offers a rose special and other half off bargains throughout the store. Be sure to bring a friend to Underground Art where piercings are buy one, get one half off.

Pass the time by people watching while you eat at one of our fabulous restaurants. Lou's Pizza offers buy one, get one half off on all pizzas. It's Family Night at Au Fond Farmtable, so bring the kids and your favorite bottle of wine. The Beauty Shop and Do Sushi have special appetizers and rolls made especially for the Night Out, so be sure to ask your server. It's Happy Hour Margaritas at Café Ole, with a late night DJ starting at 9pm. Central BBQ's nachos are half price along with



Darien Clea will perform at the gazebo during the Cooper-Young Night Out on August 5.



specials on PBR beer and live music on the patio at 6pm. Bob and Susie Salley will be singing at Celtic Crossing, where you can get half off the Celtic Combo and discounts on beer. The Reef offers food and beverage discounts at the bar all night. At Soulfish and Young Avenue Deli, buy an adult entrée, get a child entrée free. Don't forget Trivia fun at the Deli. Make a patio reservation at Grace, Tsunami, or Sweet Grass and enjoy the festive atmosphere. Afterwards, go for discount coffee drinks at Java Cabana and join locals for Open Mic Night. But whatever you do, have a great time in CY.



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Mid-South ACT provides services to people with disabilities

BY TAMARA WILLIAMSON

Mid-South Access Center for Technology (ACT) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing services to people with disabilities in Memphis and the Mid-South. The center is partially funded by Tennessee Technology Access Program (TTAP) and the Tennessee Department of Human Services. Mid-South ACT is located at 530 Patterson Street on the University of Memphis campus.

The center provides access to and training with assistive technology for people with disabilities. Assistive technology is defined by the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988 as "any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities." Assistive technology helps individuals with disabilities become more independent in their personal and professional lives.

Through a partnership with Mid-South ACT, TTAP uses the Reutilization program to encourage the donation, repair, and reuse of assistive technology and medical equipment for individuals with disabilities. The program is similar to Freecycle in that donated items are able to have a second life rather than wasting away in a landfill.

People can donate gently used electronic and non-electronic items such as:

Close Caption TVs	Magnifiers and Illuminated Magnifiers
Desktops/Laptops – 512 or more MB of RAM; 1.5 or more GHz processor	Wheelchairs
Monitors – 15 inches or bigger	Walking Canes
Speakers	Timers
Headphones	Braille and Blindness Aids
Printers	Large Print Books
Keyboards/Large Print Keyboards	Handheld Shower Heads
Mouse	Anti-Glare Magnifier Screens
Scooter/Electronic Wheelchairs	Augmentative Communication Devices (for individuals who are unable to speak)
Low Vision Clocks	Other durable medical equipment
Talking Clocks	

Dr. Lavonnie Perry Claybon is the director of the center, which also has a loan library for those who wish to try equipment before purchasing it and a demonstration program to show new users how to utilize the equipment.

In addition to the Reutilization program, Mid-South ACT performs evaluations to determine what assistive technology devices will improve a client's ability to function in home, school, and work environments. Professionals at the Mid-South ACT conduct evaluations, facilitate training, and have expertise in areas such as vision, literacy, early intervention, counseling, augmentative communication, seating, and positioning. Mid-South ACT also provides client training for people with disabilities, which includes instruction in the use of assistive technology and practice focused toward vocational and educational skills. Representatives from Mid-South ACT also work to spread awareness of the organization in the Memphis community.

"I organize demonstration meetings in various neighborhoods to educate people about low-tech and high-tech assistive technology devices," said Birdia Arnett, an AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer. "Often the people I talk to have no knowledge of Mid-South ACT. It is nice to be able to inform them about the program and its services."

If those seeking to donate items cannot take their assistive technology equipment to the Mid-South ACT office, they can call (901) 678-1489 to arrange for a pick-up. For individuals with disabilities, Mid-South ACT is an invaluable resource that helps improve quality of life.

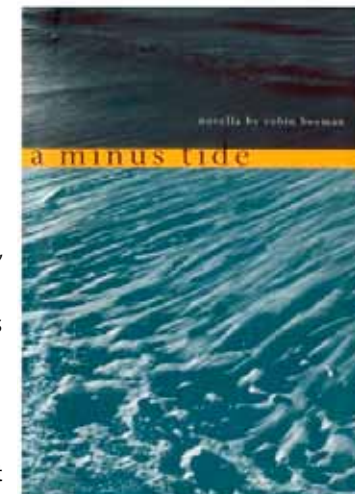
Mid-South ACT's AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers will host a community outreach event at the Raymond Skinner Center in Peabody Park on August 6. This event will focus on the organization's reutilization efforts. For additional information about Mid-South ACT, please visit memphis.edu/act.

Small books can tell big tales

BY KIMBERLY RICHARDSON

"No man is an island," truer words were never spoken. No matter how much one may want to live apart from the world, the reality is that no one truly can. Whether we like it or not, our lives and choices affect many others: some who know us well and others who do not know us at all. Sally, the main character in Robin Beeman's novella *A Minus Tide*, lives and dies as an example of this truth. After her car and body are found off a cliff on a highway north of San Francisco, the rest of the story is told in the voices of those that knew her well and not so well: her sister Mattie, Mattie's husband, Evan (Sally's lover), Joel (another one of Sally's lovers), and Joel's ex-wife, Anna. With each chapter, the reader is given pieces of Sally's life, a life filled with alcohol and low self-esteem, while providing more questions than answers in the search to discover why she died.

To be honest, I had never heard of this author until I picked up this slim volume at a library book sale. The picture of crashing waves on the cover drew me in. The synopsis on the inside flap interested me and I finally read the book weeks later. Instantly, I was drawn in by the character Evan's words, and I immediately felt as though I had known him for years. Beeman's writing makes you feel as though you just stopped at Mattie and Evan's house for a cup of tea on a lazy Saturday not knowing of the tragedy they were about to tell you. When I opened the book, I sat rooted to the couch and then later in my cubicle during my lunch break wondering what kind of person Sally was and why I should even care about her. Strangely enough, I wanted to care about her. I wanted to take her sister and her lovers' loss and recently discovered regrets and make them my own until the end of the book. These are not characters one can read about and immediately walk away from. Long after I finished the book, I could still smell the ocean water as it hit the rocks far below the California highway. I wanted to place a hand on Joel's arm when he heard about Sally's death, knowing that he would need a shoulder to cry on. I wanted to talk to Anna after she met her ex-husband's lover for the first time asking her how she was able to do it. Later still, I wanted to make Mattie a cup of tea and let her know that it would be okay while she dealt with her own inner demons that suddenly came to light after her sister's death. Beeman made me want to care because she cared when she wrote the novella; it is just that obvious. This is more than a novella. This is a slice of life in a place far enough away to be considered foreign to most yet close enough to our own experience that we, the readers, can feel a sense of understanding when someone we know suddenly leaves our lives for good. No man is an island and quite honestly, would anyone want to be? I know I would not.



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Extreme passive energy works for you

BY GLENN ALTHOFF

"What is passive energy?" you may be wondering. Passive energy is energy that you don't have to do anything to in order to use. It regulates and, for the most part, maintains itself with little or no attention from you. The best example of this is the effect that a deciduous tree has on your home's heating and cooling. During the summer the tree leaves block the sunlight from hitting your house keeping your home cool, but in the winter it allows the sunlight to come through and heat the house up. Thus, the reason why you should utilize passive energy is simple; after it is installed it requires no additional energy to function - not from MLGW and not from you.

How do you tap into the passive energy potential in your home? There are many types of passive energy, but I am going to focus on how manipulating the air that passes through your attic can regulate temperature and reduce heating and cooling costs. Most homes in Cooper-Young were originally built to function without air conditioning. What most people aren't aware of is that their attics were designed to allow southwesterly breezes to pass through creating a cross breeze and regulating attic temperatures. What that requires is freeing windows that have been painted shut in the gables and putting in screens. If you are worried about the expense you can even make your own screens with very little effort. This is an easy, first step toward passive energy utilization.

But for those of you ready for the next steps, what I call extreme passive energy, here is how I modified my attic and shaved \$40 a month off my MLGW bill. First, I cut a hole along the ridge line of the house using a circular saw. It was a little warm that day, and if I had put a beach ball on top of the opening when I first cut it that ball would have been lifted six feet in the air by all of the hot air rushing out. Then I put on a ridge vent. The best ridge venting to use is metal and has a mushroom shape. It is able to withstand rain that is blowing sideways, and even if it gets crushed it will still keep the water out.

Next, I took off the plywood skins that were covering the overhang rafters and brought the house back to its original design. I made my own screens for the fascia in the overhang spaces between the down rafters using cheap furring strips with a lap joint configuration. I knocked out the wood that the original builders put between the down rafters in the fascia and screwed in my screens, caulking them in around the edges.

Here is how these modifications work to regulate my home's temperature. The sun heats the roof and heats the shingles through radiation. The heat in the shingles radiate and warm the air underneath, in the attic rafter cavities. The warmed air will rise and push out of the ridge vent. When this happens a vacuum is created, and cool, shaded air is pulled in through the fascia vents while the gable screens contribute by allowing a cross breeze. By doing this, my attic temperature is about five degrees hotter than it is outside in the shade. The attic went from a roasting 140-160 degrees to below 105 on the hottest days. As a result, my one window air conditioner is

able to cool the whole house without running all the time. I now use my other air conditioner as a fan, along with other fans, to keep the air circulating. Not only has my MLGW bill gone down, but I can expect my roof shingles to last longer because of the cooling from underneath.

This is as far as I have gotten in my extreme passive energy quest. Next on my list, for those who are wondering, is to put a vapor retarder in the crawl space underneath the house. I plan to use a friend's old pool covers to save money and to keep them out of the landfill. Vapor retarding is important because it stops the earth below from emanating moisture in the summer, allowing your home to feel 5 to 10 degrees cooler. In the winter this barrier will also cause your home to feel 5 to 10 degrees warmer by absorbing the moisture that is in the air.

I hope this article gets you thinking about the joys of passive energy, and I hope that it inspires you to take some steps with me toward wiser energy consumption.



Overhang after fascia vents have been installed.

VOTES COUNT

Polling sites need staff

BY JOHN KINSEY

Election time is quickly approaching with election days scheduled for August 5 and November 2. No matter which candidate you plan to vote for, you can count on a crew of helpful polling staff to be there ready to make sure you can cast your ballot and fulfill your civic duty. The Shelby County Election Commission staffs 236 polling sites on Election Day and more than 20 early voting sites and they are looking for a few good men and women to fill these positions.

This is a great opportunity for retirees, college students, stay-at-home parents, unemployed people, and anyone else who might be able to work during the elections. Workers must be registered to vote in Shelby County and must attend a three-hour training session. Hours are flexible depending on the assignment and could last from as little as one day to several weeks. There is a need for people with computer skills to work as computer operators at early voting sites.

The pay varies by position, ranging from \$100-\$120 for a day's work. Other assignments pay \$12.01 to \$14.28 per hour. Workers are paid \$30 for attending the mandatory training.

Election officials are vital to the democratic process and this is an ideal position for anyone who is interested in providing registered voters in our community the opportunity to exercise their right to vote. If you are interested in becoming an election official, please contact the Shelby County Election Commission at (901) 379-4090 or visit shelbyvote.com.



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Goodwill donations make a difference

BY CRISSY LINTNER

Goodwill Industries International has launched the Donate Movement, an innovative public awareness movement emphasizing the positive impact that donating clothing and other household goods can have on our communities and the planet. Goodwill is introducing the Donate Movement with partner and leading consumer brand Levi Strauss & Co. and spokesperson Lorie Marrero, who is the creator of *clutterdiet.com* and author of *The Clutter Diet: The Skinny on Organizing Your Home and Taking Control of Your Life*. Memphis Goodwill Industries will participate in the Donate Movement locally through its twenty-one attended donation centers throughout the Midsouth.

Through the Donate Movement, Goodwill is challenging people to rid their closets and homes of unwanted items and put them to good use by donating them. Goodwill also is unveiling a new "D" donation icon with the goal that it will become a universally recognized symbol stamped on donatable items.

"When you donate the items you no longer need to Goodwill, you are helping someone find a job, strengthening your community, and preserving the planet," said Tony Martini, president and chief executive officer of Memphis Goodwill Industries. "Your donations help the environment by allowing other people to repurpose the items so they can be diverted from landfills."

Goodwill Industries International has also rolled out *donate.goodwill.org*, a new website Goodwill member affiliates can use to engage shoppers and donors in the movement's major tenets. The most prominent feature of the new site is a public education tool, the Donation Impact Calculator. The calculator features three categories of frequently donated items – clothing, household goods and electronics – and calculates the hours of donation-powered services program participants receive from the sale of those items.

Last year, 67 million donors gave items to Goodwill. These donors helped Goodwill agencies provide critical services to nearly 2 million people. Goodwill provides job training programs, employment placement services, and other community-based services to people with disabilities, those who lack education or job experience, and others facing challenges to finding employment. Goodwill's mission is fulfilled through the collection and sale of donated goods, which fund these critical programs.

"The Donate Movement starts with all of us," Martini said. "Donations are the lifeblood of Goodwill's mission and, at a time when Goodwill's services are in great demand, it is crucial that we grow our mission by increasing donations."

Memphis Goodwill Industries was founded in 1927 as a territory of the nationwide Goodwill Industries movement. Today, the organization employs more than 500 people in Tennessee and Mississippi who would otherwise face significant barriers to employment. For more information about Goodwill in Memphis, for store and donation center locations, or for hours of operation, call (901) 323-6221 or visit goodwillmemphis.org. For more information about how donations support Goodwill's mission visit donate.goodwill.org.



Turn-ma-loose

BY J. EVERETT

Ah, the hound-dog days of August in Memphis. Heat, mosquitoes, music, and Elvis Week...and all the fans that come to keep the pop-phenomenon's flame ablaze. At Gallery Fifty Six one artist pays tribute to the hungry musicians who were turned loose on the insatiable public, while two other artists' feature the fans who will never let them go.

Michael Whitaker's objective lens captures the individuals who make up the masses that refuse to forget the King. Whitaker explains, "After a twenty-five-year career in social psychology documenting some of the most disturbing human behaviors...I pursued a second career in fine art and documentary photography, documenting brighter aspects of human nature...spotlighting unpretentious persons with gentle spirits who traditionally go unnoticed." Beginning on the 25th anniversary of Presley's death, Whitaker spent two years documenting the Elvis phenomenon, intrigued by "the extraordinary manner in which fan devotion continues to grow across generations extending from those who first experienced Elvis in 1954 to those unborn at the time of Elvis' death." He adds, "Along the way I interacted with hundreds of persons who readily articulated the impact Elvis had upon their lives... ensuring the legacy of Elvis will remain on the road to forever."

Pop-music inspired graffiti grabbed the attention of M.J. Reeves. She turned her camera lens toward concrete walls to give us glimpses of sentiments so heart-felt that the words had to be written for all to see. Her photographs are mounted on tiles bringing the illusion of real walls into the gallery.

Then, to really turn up the heat, Jeannie Reynold's oil paintings (on canvas and guitars) evoke memories of a sexy, mellow voice on vinyl. In vivid colors she captures the energy and expressions of a certain sensuous singer leaving us all to plead, "Turn-ma-loose!"

The public is invited to the artists' reception on Friday, August 6 from 5-8pm, at Gallery Fifty Six, 2256 Central Avenue. Turn-ma-loose runs through the month of August, Tuesday-Saturdays from 10am-5pm. For more information, call (901) 276-1251 or go online to galleryfiftysix.com.



Rose Guitar (oil on guitar) by Jeannie Reynold.



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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 crimes were reported from June 24th, 2010 to July 23rd, 2010.

CASE #	ARREST	OFFENSES	DATE	100 BLOCK
1007012005ME		Other Theft/Scrap Metal	07/22/10	700 TANGLEWOOD
1007011968ME		Other Theft/Scrap Metal	07/22/10	700 TANGLEWOOD
1007011937ME		Burglary/Non-residential	07/22/10	1900 OLIVER
1007010186ME		Burglary/Residential	07/19/10	1000 S COOPER
1007010178ME		Burglary/Residential	07/19/10	1000 S COOPER
1007007727ME		Other Theft/Non-Specific	07/14/10	800 S COOPER
1007006535ME		Burglary/Residential	07/12/10	900 S MCLEAN
1007005490ME		Theft from Motor Vehicle	07/11/10	2000 YOUNG
1007004595ME		Shoplifting/Misdemeanor	07/09/10	2100 CENTRAL
1007004576ME		Shoplifting/Misdemeanor	07/09/10	2100 CENTRAL
1007004287ME	yes	Burglary/Non-residential	07/08/10	800 SOUTH COOPER
1007004095ME		Burglary/Business	07/08/10	2200 CENTRAL
1007003896ME		Vandalism/Misdemeanor	07/08/10	2200 CENTRAL
1007003728ME		Theft from Motor Vehicle	07/07/10	2200 CENTRAL
1007003097ME		MVT/Passenger Vehicle	07/06/10	1800 OLIVER
1007002854ME		Burglary/Residential	07/06/10	2200 WALKER
1007002493ME	yes	Other Theft/Non-Specific	07/05/10	900 SOUTH MCLEAN
1007001582ME		Shoplifting/Misdemeanor	07/03/10	2100 CENTRAL
1007000275ME		Theft from Motor Vehicle	07/01/10	2000 YOUNG
1007000011ME		Shoplifting/Misdemeanor	07/01/10	2100 CENTRAL
1006017051ME	yes	Drugs/Narcotics Vio/Misd	06/29/10	900 PHILADELPHIA
1006014336ME		Other Theft/Non-Specific	06/25/10	2200 NELSON
1006014154ME		Vandalism/Misdemeanor	06/24/10	2100 NELSON
1006013415ME		Theft of Vehicle Parts/Access	06/23/10	1000 BRUCE



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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.



STOW IT



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Did you know that theft from vehicles represent a large percentage of property crimes reported in Memphis?

www.memphispolice.org

Be a part of the graffiti solution

BY PEGGY WILLIAMSON

Cooper-Young businessman Frank Roberts, owner of The Palladio Group, and the Union Station Police Precinct led by Colonel Lori Bullard deserve our heartfelt thanks for their collaborative efforts in addressing the persistent graffiti problem in Midtown. As a result of Frank's leadership, a meeting of interested Midtowners was held at the Union Station precinct to talk about how to eradicate graffiti from Midtown. In addition, at our June Midtown Security Community meeting we heard from a Union Station officer who specializes in gang activity. He showed pictures of gang graffiti and pictures of tagging and taught us to recognize the differences.

For the most part we are dealing with tagging in Midtown. Young artists show their spray can savvy by decorating everything from railroad cars to sides of buildings to memorials in Overton Park. It is not hard to find their work in Midtown. Through this recent meeting of concerned individuals and Union Station we have established a strong communication link with the tagging community to let them know we do not want this type of artistic endeavor going on in Midtown. When you see graffiti in Midtown you are asked to take a picture of it and forward it to an email account that we are in the process of setting up. That picture will be shared with Union Station police and with our link to the tagging community. This contact has pledged to work with us to inform the tagging community that their work is not welcomed in Midtown and to get the taggers to remove their work.

Already we have seen positive results. Graffiti has been reported, our contact has passed along the specific sites to the taggers, and the work has been removed. This is not a quick process so we will have to measure success over time, but we are extremely grateful to Frank, to the Union Station precinct, and to the taggers who are responding positively to our request to stop tagging.

You can make a difference in this effort! Check our blog at midtownsecuritycommunity.org where we will post the email account for you to report graffiti sightings. In the meantime, take pictures of graffiti you see and date the pictures. Your efforts will contribute to an important overall upgrading of the aesthetic landscape of Midtown by just saying no to tagging.

The next Midtown Security Community meeting will be held Thursday, September 2, at 5:30pm. All are welcome. See our website, midtownsecuritycommunity.org, for more details. Peggy Williamson is the Midtown Security Community Chair.



Graffiti whether from artists or gangs is a problem for midtown.

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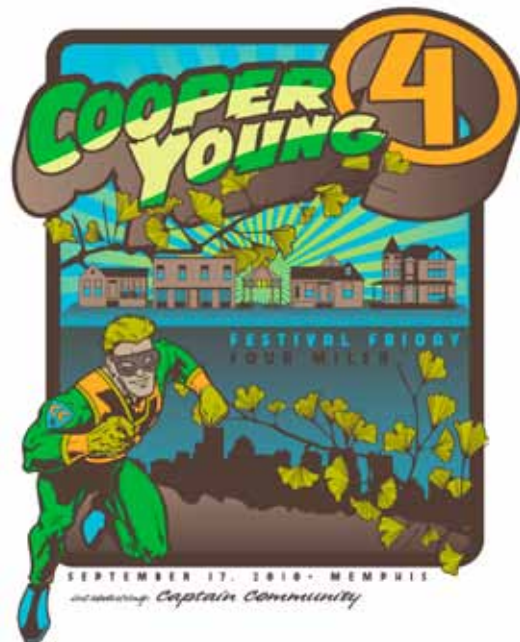
Motivation:
Lawyers and their clients, come to courts seeking justice. I want to meet them there, both plaintiffs and defendants, ready and willing to do what is right. I want to give them the justice they seek.

Festival Friday 4 Miler

Continued from cover

such a success. The Cooper-Young Community Association hosts each year's 4 Miler event in order to raise funds for the beautification and greater good of the neighborhood. Another September is just around the corner, and once again your help is welcome. Whether you are running in the race, volunteering, or simply cheering on the runners, you can help make it all happen.

This year's run will take place on Friday, September 17 with a race start time of 7pm. Bluff City Sports will present this running event with the start/finish line located in front of their shop at 769 South Cooper, right next to the beloved Trestle Art. Start2Finish Event Management will control the registration and will have early race packet pick-up at three locations, and the Memphis Runners Track Club will set up the course.



to assist the runners, new features have been added this year including large LCD screens at the start/finish line that provide pertinent race information and will help keep the event organized. A professional announcer will also be added to the race, as well as new, state-of-the-art Jaguar disposable bib-tag timing provided by Precision Race. Like last year, the race will have a staggered start, and three water stations will be provided, two on the race course and one large station at the finish line. Target, one of this year's sponsors, will provide eco-friendly bags for the runners, and each bag will be full of goodies, including a Dri-Balance race shirt by Bluff City Sports with new art that features our neighborhood's very own super hero, the almighty and powerful Captain Community.

The 4 Miler post-race party promises to be a fun time for all. This year runners can help themselves to an assortment of



Neighborhoods Light the Way parties will be on the race route and prizes will be awarded for the most creative, energetic, and original parties. Parties must be registered with the CYCA to be eligible for prizes.

delicious food provided by Outback Steakhouse, Camy's, and Easy Way. Target and Miller Genuine Draft 64 will make sure that plenty of cold beverages will be on hand to help beat the heat. In addition to this year's wonderful food sponsors, several other sponsors will offer giveaways. All runners will be registered to win a free bicycle from the Peddler Bike Shop, and Chris Kauker with Douglas & Associates of Ameriprise will be on-site conducting drawings for free gift certificates to local businesses. Between race announcements live music will be provided by The Memphis Snake Doctors, a blues band fronted by bass player and longtime Cooper-Young resident, Steve Bishop.

What better way to get the energy pumping for Saturday's Cooper-Young Festival than to attend the Festival 4 Miler on the night before? If you're not a runner perhaps you might want to join in on the fun by hosting a Neighbors Light the Way party at your home. To get even more involved, you can contact the CYCA to inquire about volunteering at the event. If you have always wanted to run this exceptionally fun-filled race, but you just could not get past the front porch, now is the time to start training. Cooper-Young's Inbalance Fitness has already started their "Couch to 4 Miler" training program, and it will have you running those seemingly impossible four miles in no time.

Please visit cooperyoung4miler.racesonline.com for more details and information regarding race registration and packet pick-up. For volunteer information and the latest community news from the CYCA, visit cooperyoung.org. Find details for the Inbalance Fitness "Couch to 4-Miler" program at InbalanceFitness.com or call (901) 272-2205.



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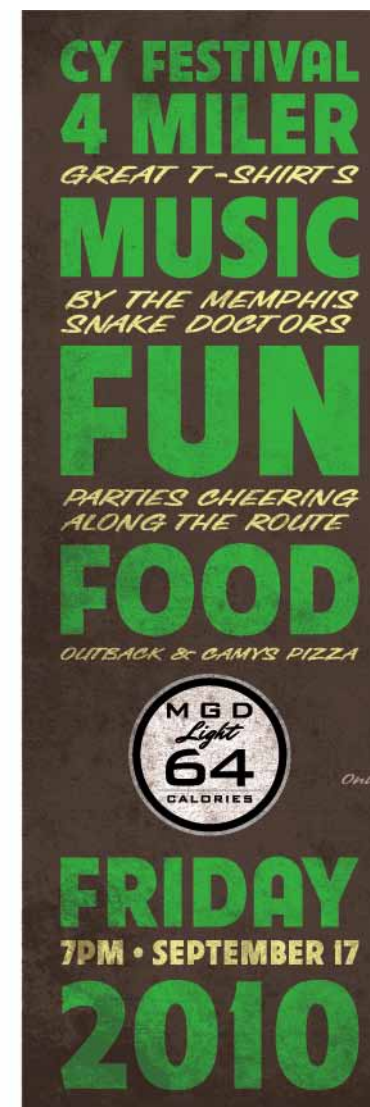
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Considering Peabody as an option for your child

BY MANDY GRISHAM

I've heard people say it but I chose not to believe it. Carrying around my baby boy close to my body in a sling people would stop to say, "Cherish these days. You will blink, and before you know it, he'll be starting school!" Blink.

In just a few short days my baby will be starting kindergarten at Peabody Elementary and I am filled with hope about his experience. For me it is more than just sending him to school, but it is seeing a dream come to fruition. Peabody is a great school, and, in many ways, it always has been. Nevertheless, in recent years it has not been the school of choice for most young families in our neighborhood. I am happy to be a part of a great group of Cooper-Youngians and Midtowners who have decided to embrace Peabody and make it the neighborhood school once again.

Over the last three years I have organized five informal education discussions for neighborhood families with toddlers and preschoolers. In the beginning these were a part of my own quest to discover what I desired in my child's education. However, as my choice became clear, I became impassioned with the desire to help others along in their journey, hoping that they too would find Peabody to be a great option.

Ms. Jones, Peabody's wonderful principal, has made many positive changes in the school in her three year tenure. I have worked with her personally for those years as the Community Representative on the school's Leadership Team. From the beginning she has had a vision for Peabody to become the neighborhood school that young families in Cooper-Young dream of sending their

children to. She has partnered with the CYCA for the KaBoom! playground grant as well as three annual Chili Cook-Offs. Gradually more Cooper-Young families have chosen Peabody with enthusiastic support. The teachers are amazing. The Optional program is stellar. The variety of clubs and extra-curricular activities offer endless opportunities for students to

explore. The list goes on.

I am happy to say that Adam will be classmates with many other Cooper-Young and Midtown kindergarteners, most of whom he has grown up with on the swings of Peabody Park, the parties of the Cooper-Young Parents Network, and the nursery at Neighborhood Church. All of these families have demonstrated extraordinary support for the school, choosing it over other great options such as Downtown, Richland, Grahamwood, Snowden, and Idlewild Elementary Schools, not to mention numerous private schools.

I will probably cry a little bit that first day as I walk Adam to school, but these will be tears of joy and hope. And to the parents who are carrying their babies in the sling or bjorn I say, "Cherish these days. You will blink and before you know it, she'll be starting school!"



YOUR TWO CENTS

Neighborhood survey asks for asset opinions

BY SARAH BOGDWIECZ

As an MA candidate at the University of Memphis in anthropology, I will be conducting research this summer and fall with the residents of Cooper-Young and households within the Peabody Elementary school zone. I will be asking for your help by completing surveys and interviews about your experiences, perceptions, and opinions of the neighborhood and its assets, including Peabody Elementary. To find out more about the project and how to get involved, please contact me at sbgdwecz@memphis.edu or (330) 321-5067. Thank you in advance!




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Cooper-Young's neighborhood school: a call to action

BY GINGER SPICKLER

Picture a hundred-year-old elementary school building in the heart of an eclectic, artistic, urban neighborhood. It looks a little shabby on the outside, but, on the inside, students are learning about their world through a special-focus international studies program. Test scores are not great but have shown improvements in recent years.

Despite the fact that it sits in the midst of a predominantly white, middle-class neighborhood, the school's student body is made up almost entirely of low-income minorities. One of those white, middle-class moms wonders why and goes inside to check it out. She finds a principal who has already started making positive changes and is looking for the surrounding community to invest its resources – and its kids – in her school.

This scenario may sound very familiar, especially if you just read Mandy Grisham's article about her experiences with Peabody Elementary. But, in fact, this is a description of The Nettlehorst School in Chicago's East Lakeview neighborhood – the school featured in *How to Walk to School: Blueprint for a Neighborhood School Renaissance* by Jacqueline Edelberg (the mom) and Susan Kurland (the principal).

However, Mandy is no copycat. This book came to her, and consequently to me and other neighborhood moms, only recently. We were shocked to discover the parallels to our own story of wanting to see our neighborhood school become not only the kind of place where we want to send our own kids but the crown jewel of our beloved community.

In many ways Peabody was already so much further along when we started considering it than Nettlehorst was the day that Chicago mom first stepped through its doors. Unlike Nettlehorst, whose population consisted largely of students bussed in from other over-crowded schools, Peabody is already a school of choice for many Memphis families. Half of its students choose to transfer in, seeking the small-school atmosphere, the stable team of experienced teachers, and the incredible array of extra-curricular activities that Peabody has offered for years.

And yet, one look at the playground during recess will tell you that the residents of Cooper-Young are overwhelmingly choosing to educate their children elsewhere. There are certainly valid reasons for that decision – one that I know is intensely personal for each family. Nevertheless, for many, Peabody was never even a consideration and I believe it doesn't have to be that way. I believe that Peabody Elementary has the potential to be a school of choice not just for the rest of the city but for the families who could actually walk their children there.

Those of us in the neighborhood who have decided to send our kindergarteners there this year recognize that we are new to this and probably a little naive. We've not yet had our first run-in with Memphis City Schools' red tape. Our 5-year-old has not yet asked us why most of his classmates do not look like him. We know the road will not always be smooth. It's possible we'll have to eat our words.

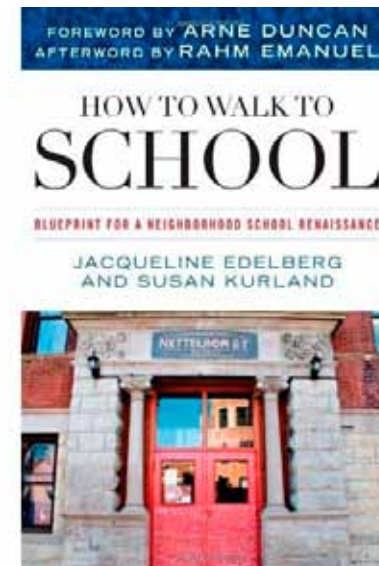
But, as Mandy said, we are hopeful. We're hopeful that our kids will be able to get an excellent, free education in a setting that echoes the diversity of the city we live in and love. We're hopeful that, just as Nettlehorst has since become, Peabody will become one of the best schools in the city.


We believe that Peabody has something going for it that no other school in Memphis can boast – it is at the center of a neighborhood that values community above almost anything else. Even if your kid doesn't go to Peabody, you want to see it succeed, just because you value it as part of our community.

There are many residents and business owners who have already shown their support of Peabody over the years through their donations of money, goods, and services. They know, like we do, that a strong neighborhood school benefits, not only the students that attend it, but everyone else in the area as well in the form of higher property values, increased support of local businesses, and generally a more positive neighborhood atmosphere.

So, we thank our neighbors for what they have already done for the little elementary school on Young Avenue. We especially thank the neighborhood parents, few and far between though they may be, who have gone before us and have assured us that their kids are indeed thriving there. However, if Peabody Elementary is truly to become Cooper-Young's school of choice – one realtors will name as a selling point on their listings – we're going to need even more help, and we're going to be asking for yours, so get ready.

Ginger Spickler is a Nelson Avenue resident, a CYCA board member, and the mother of Walt – a member of the 2010 kindergarten class of Peabody Elementary.





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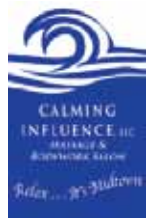
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GETTING A GOOD START

Is pre-kindergarten right for your child?

BY MARGARET PORTER AND DR. D. JACKSON MAXWELL

Schools are getting ready for a new school year. Many kindergarteners, with a good deal of excitement mixed with a bit of trepidation, are preparing for the first day of school. Other students are looking forward to meeting their new teachers while seniors are looking ahead to proms, graduation, and hopefully college. However, despite this late hour some parents have yet to decide on whether or not they should enroll their child in pre-school or wait until kindergarten. For these parents, I asked a co-worker and respected, certified pre-kindergarten teacher, Margaret Porter, to offer some insight into the pros and cons of pre-kindergarten. Here is what she had to say.

Not long ago, pre-school or pre-kindergarten was only for wealthy families. It was not affordable for low-income or even most middle-class families. Times have changed. Last year thousands of 4-year-olds attended various public and private school pre-kindergarten programs in Memphis. In fact, Memphis City Schools recently announced plans to expand both its traditional and CLUE (Creative Learning in a Unique Environment) pre-school programs. That means that eventually all parents who want their child to attend a pre-kindergarten program but can not afford to pay will have access. Despite this the question remains, why should my child go to pre-kindergarten?

Research has repeatedly shown that children who attend pre-school programs are better prepared academically and socially when they progress to required schooling (i.e. kindergarten or 1st grade). Low-income, at-risk children attending early education programs, like the federal government supported Head Start, have a remarkable advantage through their early primary school years. Further, children who attend pre-kindergarten are more likely to graduate high school, less likely to be involved in crime, and score higher on IQ tests than those who did not (publicpolicyforum.org/Matrix.htm).

There are some disadvantages to pre-school. For families able to have a parent at home during the day, pre-kindergarten removes the child from home 6-8 hours per day. Additionally, children attending pre-kindergarten are more likely to be exposed to germs, thus at risk of contracting any number of childhood ailments such as the flu, colds, lice, or chicken pox.

Despite these risks, children who are in a developmentally appropriate pre-school program are statically inclined to outperform peers who skip these early childhood educational opportunities. What entails a good pre-school program? First, the pre-kindergarten curriculum and teacher must match your child's individual needs. The program should expose your child to a wide-range of learning experiences not available at home. These activities should include music, arts and crafts, sensory and block play, storytelling, sharing, and dramatic play. An added bonus is that by attending a quality pre-school program children learn the skills they will need to be kindergarteners.

Ultimately, you as the parent need to commit and feel comfortable with any decision to send your child to a pre-school program. I suggest going to visit the classroom and talking to the teacher. Make sure the student-teacher ratio is the government mandated 1 teacher for each 10 students. Children should appear happy and should be moving around the room to various learning stations. Most importantly, pre-kindergarten should be a fun, positive socialization experience that paves the way for your child's future academic success.

Margaret Porter is a highly accomplished pre-kindergarten teacher and National Board candidate at Downtown Elementary School. Dr. D. Jackson Maxwell is a National Board Certified Teacher with over 25 years educational experience. If you have any questions or comments, please email Dr. Maxwell at djacksonmaxwell@gmail.com.

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Finding a way to keep kittens at bay

BY TRISHA GURLEY

It's 2am and my husband Kris and I have just been roused from sleep. Our cat Milton is meowing and pawing inside our bedroom window. Outside the window, we hear scratching and pulling at the window screen.

I suppose this scenario could be unnerving to some, but neither Kris nor myself even bother to get up. We know it's not a potential intruder or some threat lurking outside. It's one of the few feral, or wild, cats that live on our street paying a nighttime visit to a fellow kitty, albeit through a shut window.

I must admit that I know of no solution for the feral cat population aside from the obvious spaying and neutering. However, when I've spotted the gray feral cats that like to visit Milton, they've always turned and run, never letting me near. So I decided it was time to do some homework on feral cats.

Given the tough street life these ferals live, injuries are common. However, a feral is not likely to approach a person, even if it is in pain. The only safe and humane option is to trap these cats in order to provide them with medical attention or to spay/neuter.

There are two rules when trapping a feral. One, never attempt to pick up a feral cat! A feral may have never been touched in its life.

Trying to pick it up will do nothing but scare the cat. A human trying to wrestle such cats into a carrier or trap will no doubt be scratched, bitten, or full on attacked. Two, do not use any sort of tranquilizing method or net to trap a cat. Again, this is nothing but frightening and stressful to a cat.

As barbaric as trapping a cat sounds, traps for cats are humane and painless. They can be purchased at any home-based store like Lowe's or Home Depot.

The best local resource for feral cats is the Mid-South Spay and Neuter Services. They have humane traps that can be borrowed for a \$50 deposit. Their website has an entire page devoted to trapping feral cats and bringing

them in to their facility to be spayed or neutered. Go to spaymemphis.org and click on the Feral Cat Information link on the left side of the page. There is



Trapping feral cats is the humane way to catch them.

more information there than could possibly be contained in this column!

Once you have read up on what you need to do and have trapped a feral cat, you can call (901) 324-3202 to make an appointment to have the cat spayed or neutered. Bear in mind that cats brought in to be spayed/neutered must be in a humane trap.

With my research complete, I now have a humane trap at the ready for Milton's nighttime visitors. Hopefully soon we can rest easier, not just because of the silenced cat chorus, but because we have helped prevent more ferals from being born and dying on the streets.



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	Saturday, Sept 4 2-4pm Van Duren	Thursday, Sept 23 5-7pm Jeff Hulett

Community generated proposal for bike lanes

BY KYLE WAGENSCHUTZ

There has been a flurry of discussion these past few months about what Cooper Street will look like once bike lanes are installed. Will the bike lanes be wide enough? What will happen to the on-street parking? What happens at the intersections?

Not wanting to sit by and let city engineers alone decide the fate of our neighborhood's first bicycle infrastructure, the staff at Revolutions Community Bicycle Shop began meeting with Cooper-Young business owners, neighborhood residents, local stakeholders, and community interest groups like Livable Memphis to clearly define the concerns and needs of each group. While differences presented themselves, through collaboration and compromise, a set of preferred scenarios were drawn that respect the unique concerns of each party while setting a precedent for innovative and safe bicycle and pedestrian facility design in Memphis. Of special note are the positioning of the bike lanes, the intersection treatment, and the preservation of on-street parking.

The proposed design positions 6-foot wide bike lanes next to the curb in each direction. Instead of being located at the curb, on-street parking is moved closer to the center of the road as a buffer between the bike lanes and automobile travel lanes. This design is already being used in some US cities, like NYC's 9th Avenue. Placing the bike lanes on the inside of on-street parking creates a safe barrier for pedestrians and cyclists as they travel along the roadway and has been shown to increase cyclists while decreasing injuries.

The treatment of intersections is a paramount safety concern for cyclists as they interact with automobile traffic. The proposed design takes note of best practices from both European and US cities that lead the way in design safety. The bike lane will end prior to reaching the intersection. Arrows painted on the roadway will direct cyclists to a position adjacent to, and then in front of, the automobile traffic through the use of a bike box. The bike box allows cyclists to stage themselves in front of the automobile traffic, whose stop line is moved further away from the intersection. Following a painted crossing stripe through the intersection, the cyclist will be

directed back into the bike lane once through the crossing. Clear queues on how bikes and cars should behave at intersections are necessary to prevent accidents.

Finally, perhaps one of the most contentious issues has been the availability of on-street parking for patrons of local businesses. In the proposed design, 4 to 5 existing parking spaces would be lost along the southbound lane of Cooper Street, south of Young Avenue. The parking spots along this stretch of road do not conform to existing safety standards, and, in reality, will likely be removed when the road is repaved regardless of bicycle lanes. With parking concerns in mind, the proposed plan calls for a reanalysis of blocks along Young Avenue currently designated no

parking zones and for small investments in lighting, signage, and landscaping to direct patrons to available off-street parking spots. However, through installation of additional bike racks, Cooper-Young will actually realize a net increase in available parking when combining both automobile and bike parking.

On August 2, 2010, representatives from Revolutions and Livable Memphis will meet with City of Memphis Engineers to present these plans for approval. Through a careful process of discourse, we believe this plan best represents what everyone wants – a neighborhood that is safe, economically successful, and enjoyable. No doubt, further compromise may be necessary and teaching the public how to use the facilities will be required. However, we cannot afford to have Cooper-Young's bike lanes be lackluster. Like everything we do here in CY, the new bicycle facilities should set an innovative example that other Memphis neighborhoods can follow.

The proposed plans can be viewed at Otherlands Coffee Shop located at 641 S. Cooper Street.



This bike lane in Eugene, OR is painted a bright green at the intersection to increase cyclist safety.



Madison, WI leads the way in bike lane design safety in their use of bike boxes at intersections.

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CY Jabberwocky

BY KARA CHAMBERLAIN

Cooper-Young is making news. The CY Jabberwocky is a list of events in or about CY that other media found interesting and buzzed about.

Lux reopens in new CY locale

Lux owner Tad Fezell has reopened his recently shut down clothing store. The store is now open at 944 South Cooper. Fezell changed his plans when he was approached with an option to reopen at the vacant storefront along the same strip as Burke's Books and Au Fond, and Fezell could not resist the offer. Cooper-Young welcomes back Lux and it's owner!



Spa Studio By Alis opens

Native Memphian, Alis Smith, is opening a spa at 889 South Cooper. The business specializes in facials, body wraps, and other day spa services. Go see Alis if you need to relax.



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Mayor thanks resident's efforts

Brad Christian received a facebook thanks from Mayor Wharton for his detailed bike lane map that he designed based on Mayor Wharton's description in his blog. Read about Mayor Wharton's blog post "Giving Memphis the Bike-Friendly City You Deserve."

Kids of Cooper Street

The *Commercial Appeal* recently printed a great story about a group of children they called the Kids of Cooper Street. These kids have found innovative ways to beat the heat during the summer months.

With the help of Tsunami restaurant owners', Ben and Colleen Smith, 4-year-old daughter Ayden and her friends are learning

their way around the kitchen. Some Cooper Kids, like Chloe Mesler, have taken refuge at Burke's Books over the summer. The Severs boys use their parent's restaurant, Bari Restorante e Enoteca, as their summer haven. Keep an eye out for the Kids of Cooper Street as they learn the business from the best in the business.

While not in CY, here are a couple of interesting ideas to kick around.

CASA Raffle and Kickball Tournament

CASA, a nonprofit that trains volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in

Juvenile Court, is hosting two fundraising events. The first is the 5th Annual CASA Raffle. Tickets are sold online at casataffle.org for \$10 each or 11 tickets for \$100. Enter to win great prizes such as 50" HD TV, \$500 shopping card, or dinner for two at the Butcher Shop and courtside Grizzlies tickets. Tickets will be sold until August 28. CASA is also hosting a Charity Kickball Tournament on August 28 at Willow Road Park at Mt. Moriah and Willow Road from 9am-4pm. It will be a day of summer fun! To enter a team or to become a sponsor, call Amber Norris at (901) 522-0200 or send her an email at anorris@memphiscasa.org.

Memphis Friendship Force

Memphis Friendship Force is a community-based volunteer organization that works to increase international understanding through home hospitality. The organization contains over 100 members and is still recruiting more. If you are interested in learning more about this organization or are interested in joining, attend the upcoming meeting at 6:30pm on September 13 at Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5530 Shady Grove Rd. or contact Jane Kikel at (901) 574-0022 or jane_kikel@aol.com.

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1. Independence Day parade participants line up on the Peabody School parking lot and prepare to show off their stars and stripes. Strollers, wagons, bikes, and trikes were all part of this demonstration of national pride and old-fashioned fun.



2. Oliver resident Katie Suda hams it up for the camera during an Oliver block party on Saturday, July 17, at the home of block club captains Peter and Diana Owen, and their son Elek.



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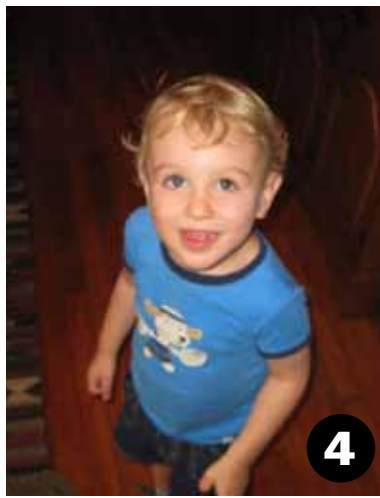
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9

3. Violet Elder enjoys a doughnut while mom and dad, Barb and Jason, snap a picture at their massive yard sale on Felix on Saturday, July 10. The Elders will be using the proceeds from their yard sale for their upcoming adoption. Can't wait to welcome young Elder to the neighborhood!
4. Robby Huserik pauses for a photo op at the Oliver block party.
5. Oliver resident Owen McHaney poses with a fireman at the July 5th parade.
6. Jonathan and Libby Flynt were married in May and moved into the home they purchased on Evelyn after they honeymooned in Hawaii.
7. CYCA board members Debbie Sowell and Emily Bishop (wo)man the CYCA table at the Cooper-Young Community Farmers Market on Saturday, July 10. If you haven't gotten your CYCA membership yet this year, it's not too late. There's still plenty of time to enjoy all the membership benefits and support your community at the same time!
8. The Memphis Snake Doctors played the patio at Cafe Ole on July 19th for their Margarita Monday music night. CY resident Steve Bishop along with bandmates John Sanders, Gary Wagoner, Greg Taylor, and Tom Stafford will also be playing the race party after the Festival Friday 4 Miler on September 17 in the Bluff City Sports parking lot.
9. Karen Capps and Kristan Gallaty came out to hear the Memphis Snake Doctors on the patio at Cafe Ole with Kristan's children Lilly and Jasper.

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