

**INSIDE:**

Two decades of Underground Art:
Young Avenue tattoo shop celebrates. //
Inside

LampLighter

Cooper-Young — Many Voices, One Community

PLUGGED IN Energy builds behind 2013 art auction

BY DAVID ROYER

Cooper-Young's artists and art lovers will light the night up at Young Avenue Deli on April 13 to help the neighborhood's signature artwork run on the sun's power.

Thirteen years after the original Art for Art's Sake Auction raised money to install Jill Turman's signature sculpture on the Cooper Street trestle, this year's auction aims to be the biggest and best ever, with proceeds going to retrofitting the trestle art's lights to run on solar power.

Artists featured in this year's live auction include featured artist Karen "Bottle" Capps, Lisa Lumb, Mollie Riggs, Carol Robison and about a dozen others. There also will be a silent auction with gift certificates, smaller artwork and handmade jewelry.

"In addition to making your home more beautiful, you're going to be making the whole neighborhood more beautiful," said Daniel Atlas, the Cooper-Young resident whose simple idea spurred the drive to make the trestle art more sustainable.

Ric Chetter, radio personality and the brain behind Radio Memphis, will again take the helm as MC and auctioneer for the live portion of this year's event.

All auction attendees will be offered complimentary food from Young Avenue Deli, beer courtesy of AS Barboro, Yazoo and Memphis Made Brewing, and are eligible for the door

prize drawing, which includes an exciting door prize that will give one lucky couple a private dinner personally made and served by Ben Smith of the award-winning Tsunami restaurant.

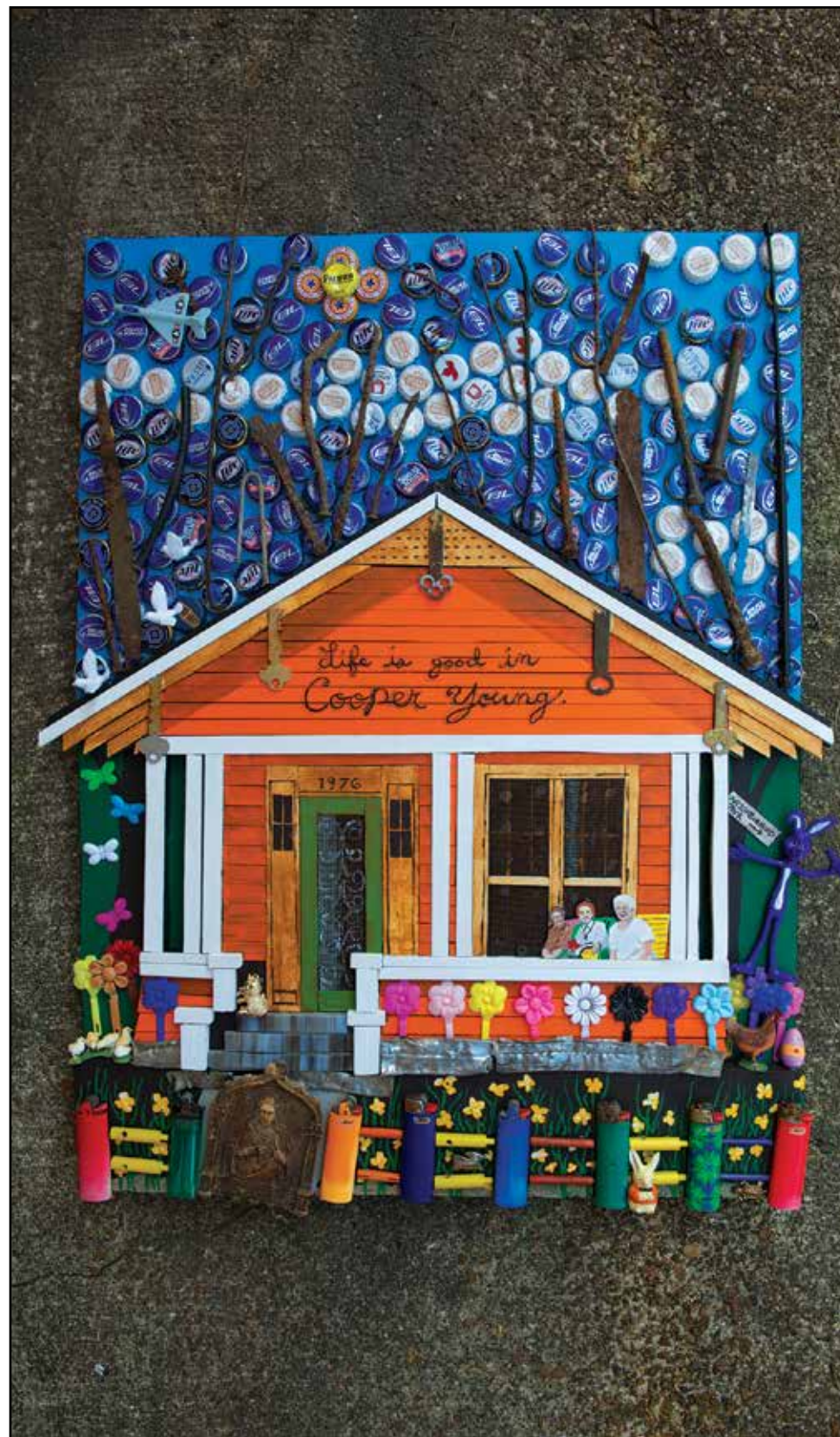
Smith said he's supportive of using alternative energy sources and said he thinks Cooper-Young has a bright idea with its solar project.

"We've always been green-leaning here at Tsunami anyway," Smith said. "We were the first Project Green Fork-certified restaurant in history, ever."

June Hurt, board president of the Cooper-Young Community Association and chairwoman of this year's auction, said the trestle art project has made the annual auction a bigger priority than usual. The CYCA board has set a goal of \$15,000 for the auction. Already, four neighborhood businesses have signed on as sponsors to fund the project.

"Because of the overwhelming support for this project, we are determined to make this project happen," Hurt said.

Tickets to the 2013 Art for Art's Sake Auction are \$20 in advance and are available online at artauction.cooperyoung.org or at the Cooper-Young Community Association office at 2298 Young Ave. Tickets will also be available the evening of the event for \$25. Cooper-Young Community Association members receive \$5 off the price of their ticket.



**Gallery of featured works from this year's auction
inside, pages 14-15.**

**More information online at
artauction.cooperyoung.org**

Inside

MAKING AUCTION ACTION

June Hurt hopes to make this year's Art for Art's Sake Auction the biggest and best ever. **PAGE 6**

CENTRAL AVE. SHOWCASE

Artist Cedar Nordbye has turned a vacant building where Casablanca Restaurant is moving into a canvas. **PAGE 9**

THANK YOU DONORS!

Hundreds of you have contributed to the CYCA. **PAGE 12**

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's the end of my 30's as I know it, and I feel fine. I don't think anyone who knows me well would be shocked to know that I almost drove myself crazy worrying about how I would spend my 40th birthday last Friday. I'm not even sure why I was so worried, but I resembled by late grandmother for a number of days, wrenching my hands and pulling my hair, thinking of spending the night staring in the mirror looking for new wrinkles.

Luckily, I did have the upcoming art auction to distract me some, but no one seemed to be surprised that I almost ruined my own surprise birthday party. I may have eventually known it was happening, but was still surprised at how many people were involved & showed up to



share my day. Long story short, it was the best birthday ever, and I am incredibly fortunate that my friends accept me for the neurotic mess that I am.

With the new solar project for the trestle within grasp and our "new" executive director stepping up in her new role in the CYCA, I now see my new life in my 40's as a new beginning, and know that life is only getting better. A simple sign now hangs in my kitchen, given to me by a dear friend, that reminds me of how blessed I am.

"The heart is not judged by how much you love, but by how much you are loved by others." I'm a damn lucky gal.

~ June Hurt

IMPORTANT DATES

March 31:

Happy Easter

April 4:

Cooper-Young Night Out, beginning at 5 p.m. Find great deals at stores and restaurants and enjoy music from the Vintones at the gazebo at 6 p.m. See details inside this issue.

April 6:

Crawfish boil to celebrate spring/summer season at Cooper-Young Community Farmer's Market, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot of First Congregational Church, 1000 S. Cooper.

April 6:

Ballet Memphis will present the "Wizard of Oz" special open rehearsal from 1-3 p.m. at First Congregational Church.

April 7:

Nancy Apple Song Slinger Showdown, 6 p.m. at First Congregational Church. See details inside.

April 9:

Cooper-Young Community Association general meeting, 6:30 p.m. at CYCA office, 2298 Young Ave. Plans will be presented for a new parking garage at Meda and Young. Residents are encouraged to provide feedback.

April 13:

Annual Art for Art's Sake Auction, benefiting the solar retrofit on the trestle art, 6-9 p.m. at Young Avenue Deli. See cover story for more details.

April 16:

Cooper-Young Community Association board meeting, 7 p.m. at CYCA office, 2298 Young Ave.

April 22:

Earth Day

April 27:

Cooper-Young Community Yard Sale. See details inside this issue.

April 29:

Beautification Committee meeting, 7 p.m. at CYCA office, 2298 Young Ave.



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The *Lamplighter* serves the Cooper-Young area, an eclectic neighborhood and historic district in Midtown known for its mix of shops, bars, restaurants, and strong sense of community. 4,000 issues are hand-delivered to every home in the Cooper-Young neighborhood as well as many Midtown businesses. CY residents pride themselves on supporting local business. Don't miss this opportunity to reach this highly-desirable and diverse demographic. Call Susan today at 901-652-7092 or email her at ads@cooperyoung.org

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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.

LampLighter

Cooper-Young — Many Voices, One Community

APRIL 2013

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Huntley promoted to CYCA director

It's official — Cooper-Young's popular part-time community director Kristan Huntley was promoted last month to a full-time executive director's role by the board of the Cooper-Young Community Association.

Huntley's duties with the CYCA include everything from organizing neighborhood cleanups and public art projects to reuniting lost dogs with their owners. (Huntley recalled that she once handled seven lost dog sightings in a single week.)

CYCA board president June Hurt said she is "pretty sure" Huntley's promotion makes Cooper-Young the only community association in the country with a full-time executive director.

"We are all incredibly excited to see Kristan step up and thrive in her new role," Hurt said. "We weighed the additional cost on our organization to make sure that the neighborhood's generous donations and membership dues were used in the best way possible, and felt that our director is by far one of the most valuable assets that we offer our community."

"From helping residents with blight concerns, working as a liaison with the Memphis Police Department on safety issues to wrangling lost dogs and chickens, Kristan has proved that she is dedicated to making Cooper-Young a better place to live, work, worship and play. It is almost hard to imagine Kristan doing more for our community, but we are looking forward to seeing what she will be able to get done in a full-time capacity."

Huntley, who has served in a part-time role since Dec. 2009, said the new position will give her more time to dive into a range of new initiatives to keep Cooper-Young a great place to live.

"I want to dig in more with issues like safety education, blight reporting, and general community improvements," Huntley said. "I would also like to use more time to develop better relationships with local businesses and stakeholders. The additional time will also allow me to research and develop grant opportunities, which nowadays are hard. Also, I want to do more tangible, fun things with residents such as a Saturday workshop on how to build a little free library — projects that are hard to organize with a 25-hour week."

Cooper-Young is a diverse neighborhood with about 4,500 residents that was named by the American Planning Association last year as one of that group's Top Ten Great Places, thanks in part to its level of community involvement. Huntley said that residents' passion for their neighbors and neighborhood makes Cooper-Young unique.

"I honestly think that any neighborhood has the potential to be a Cooper-Young, but what tends to set us apart is that we are invested in one another and our community. Although I know of several residents that may not have attended one single General Meeting, I know that they still watch out for their neighbors, are involved in helping curb litter and care about where they live. I think that this position is a natural progression of that pattern and passion."

Huntley moved into her new role March 1. She can be reached by email at info@cooperyoung.org, on Twitter at @cooperyoung, on Facebook or by stopping in the office at 2298 Young Ave.

- Cooper-Young Community Association



Join the party at Cooper-Young Night Out

First Thursday Night Out is when the hip business owners of Cooper-Young open up their doors and invite you in. This month's party starts at 5 p.m. April 4 with retail, dining and drink specials, live music, drawings and discounts on everything from sweet potato fries and vinyl records to tattoos and rum.

The Vintones will be playing at the gazebo starting at 6 p.m. The Vintones are a four-piece band that hails all the way from Vinton Avenue, featuring Mike Crouse, Steve Bishop, Ron Pope and Zach Pretzer. They will get you dancing to the best rock hits from the '60s and '70s. If you are a fan of the Beatles, Pink Floyd, the Rolling Stones, Badfinger or the Zombies, this is your band.

Kick off the night at Bar DKDC. Just think street food, rum bar and vintage photo booth and you will get a small idea about the big fun happening here. This month, enjoy the cuisine of Jamaica and the sounds of Memphis and New Orleans soul music from the '50s and '60s while you enjoy sip-and-dine discounts in the neighborhood's newest and bar.

Underground Art has a buy one piercing, get one free (bring a friend) and 10 percent off all tattoos that night. It's all about martinis and manicures at The Polish Bottle starting at 4 p.m.

Be sure to get your reservation. Stop by Allie Cat Arts to enjoy a showcase of more than 50 local artist's work including painting, pottery, clothing and glass items.

"Get Yazooed" at Celtic Crossing with Yazoo pint specials and half off food specials. Celtic has live entertainment by Jason Evans and Tony Boyd starting at 6 p.m. followed by The Craig Davis Band. Over at a newly remodeled Café Ole, it's happy hour. Try some of their new flavored margaritas and menu items out on the patio. Java Cabana has open mic night and discounts on coffee drinks. Drop the kiddies off at Midtown Martial Arts or Cooper Cottage Daycare to get in on discounted baby care while you enjoy yourself out on the town.

Mulan Bistro is offering a 15 percent discount on dine-in food and drinks for the evening. New spring arrivals on furniture and accessories are just in at Toad Hall Antiques; come get your inspirations while you drink their libations.

Get special priced appetizers only available during Night Out at the Beauty Shop and try one of their specialty drinks. Shenanigan's is hosting a wine and cheese party and giving customers 20 percent off their entire purchase. Burke's Book Store has a large assortment of books priced at \$1 plus a grand selection of signed titles just in. Half-price nachos and discounts on beer is the menu at Central BBQ. House of Mews is offering 50 percent off all cat adoptions and 20 percent off retail purchases. Soul Fish Café and Young Avenue Deli want you to bring the youngsters in to enjoy a buy one adult entrée get a child's entrée for free special. Loudean's spring collection of FLAX is in and they also have a whole room with discounts in the back.

- Cooper-Young Business Association



Zach Pretzer with the Vintones will bring you rock and roll straight from the Beatlemania era starting at 6 p.m. April 4 at the gazebo.

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The following have made donations to the Cooper-Young Community Association in 2013. The community association depends on your donations to make Cooper-Young a great place to live, worship, work and play. We thank you for your support!

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Cooper-Young Community Yard Sale Set for Saturday, April 27th

Do you have knick-knacks and what-nots cluttering up your basement, attic and every available inch in the closet? Do you ask yourself "Have I actually used _____ in the past year?" and find out that the answer is "No". Could you use a few extra bucks? Well then it sounds like you need to take part in this year's Cooper-Young Community Yard Sale on April 27th!

The Annual Cooper-Young Community Yard Sale will take place on Saturday, April 27th from 8 am until 2 pm. Please keep in mind that this is a RAIN OR SHINE event. You may use your discretion in choosing to reschedule your yard sale if the weather is bad, but we will only have the one "official" date of April 27th.

How Will People Find Out About the Event?

The Cooper-Young Community Association (CYCA) will help get the word out about the Community Yard Sale by way of The Commercial Appeal, Craigslist and posters around the area. We will also utilize Facebook and create an event that can be shared.

The best form of advertisement is always word of mouth though, so remember to tell your friends and colleagues, share the Facebook event with them and encourage them to attend! You can put out your own yard sale signs, but we ask that you please take them down after that Saturday to avoid litter.

How Much Does It Cost to Participate?

There is no fee for participating in the yard sale, though if you like the event, we strongly encourage you to purchase a membership so that we may continue great events like this.

Will There Be A Yard Sale Listing?

This year there will not be an official listing of households participating, so there is no deadline by which you must decide to have a yard sale. You are welcome to comment on the Facebook event and give the address of your yard sale, along with a brief description of what you will be selling. If you are not on Facebook, you can email us the information to info@cooperyoung.org.

Some Helpful Tips

If you are new to the world of yard sales, here are some helpful hints to keep you sane and safe:

- Yard sale shoppers like to find a price easily. Use stickers or, for a bunch of items like books or stuffed animals, place them in a box labeled with a price (i.e. \$1 per item).
- Remember to leave room for bargaining when you set your price. Yard sale shoppers like to haggle.
- You will be up early the day of the yard sale, so remember to get change beforehand so you can sleep in a bit longer.
- Be honest. If an item doesn't work, be truthful and reflect that in the price.
- Instead of having your yard sale alone, invite a friend to share your yard. You increase safety and can alternate refilling each other's coffee. The buddy system is great for swimming and works for yard sales too!
- Keep your money on you at all times. A money belt or fanny pack works well.
- Close your front door, shades, and garage door so that the contents of your house are not visible to yard sale shoppers.
- Decline the use of your restroom unless you know the individual.

If you have questions, email info@cooperyoung.org or call the CYCA offices at 901-272-2922.

Best wishes for a prosperous yard sale!

LED lights bring down trestle art utility bill

BY KRISTAN HUNTLEY/COOPER-YOUNG COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

We are proud to say that the LED lights installed in early February have already had positive impact on the monthly energy use of the Cooper-Young landmark.

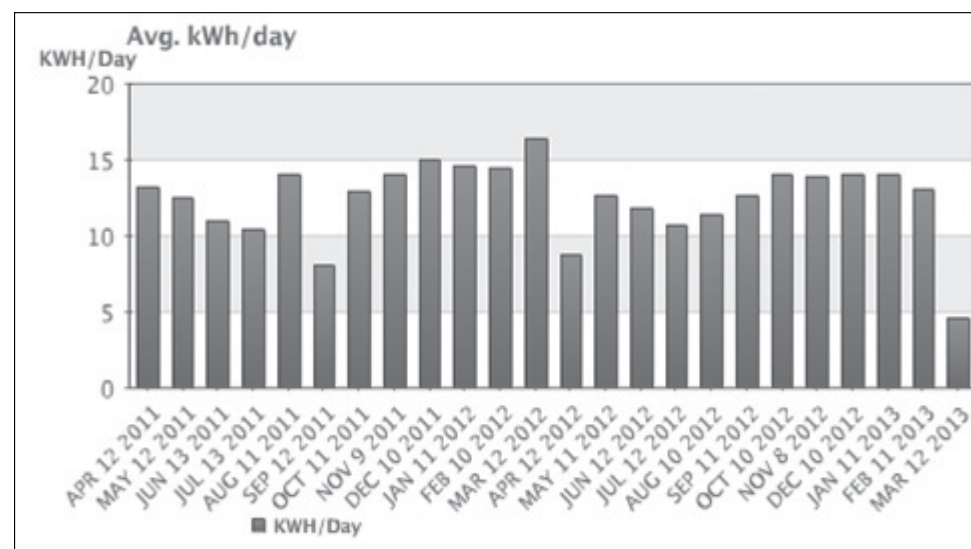
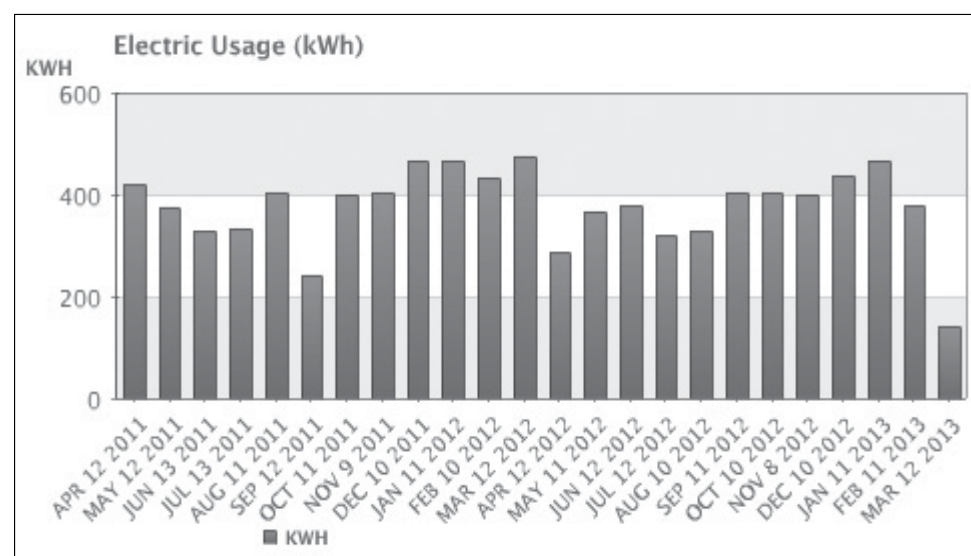
Our bill for March 2013 was significantly lower than previous bills, decreasing by more than \$20 from February 2013, and by more than \$30 from March 2012. To truly realize the difference these energy efficient bulbs are making, let's take a look at last year's figures.

Last year, we used 475 kWh in the billing cycle for March. The average cost per kWh was \$0.1368, for a total bill of \$64.97.

This year we used only 142 kWh in the billing cycle for March. Even though the average cost per kWh was higher than the year previous year (\$0.2189) our bill was significantly lower at only \$31.08.

Thank you to all of our generous donors who have helped with this project and a very special thank you to Daniel Atlas for having the initiative to look into this complex topic and develop a feasible implementation plan with the help of our neighbors, Schwartz Electric. It just goes to show you how one resident can make a difference.

The Cooper-Young Community Association maintains the Cooper Street trestle art.



KEEP MEMPHIS CLEAN

Farmers Market kicks off season with crawfish boil

The Cooper-Young Community Farmers Market is kicking off its spring/summer 2013 season with a crawfish boil from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 6 in the parking lot of First Congregational Church, 1000 S. Cooper.

The event will take place in conjunction with the market's first day of the spring/summer season, as a celebration of all the fresh foods, artisan goods, and local products that CYCFM has to offer. Patrons will enjoy two pounds of succulent crawfish, red potatoes, and corn, as well as one complimentary drink. Tickets are \$13 and can be purchased in advance at the market or on the day of the event.

Though the Cooper-Young Community Farmers Market is a year-round market, the spring/summer opening and crawfish boil celebrates the start of earlier market hours — from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday — as well as the beginning of warmer weather and all the delicious seasonal produce that comes with it. Come enjoy the start of spring and eat some crawfish with the friends and farmers of the Cooper-Young Community Farmers Market. Proceeds benefit the market and go towards creating a vibrant local foods economy in Midtown. For more information, please visit our website: www.cycfarmersmarket.org.

“Oz” ballet blows into First Congo

Ballet Memphis will present the “Wizard of Oz” April 20 and 21st The Orpheum Theatre, 203 South Main, with a special open rehearsal from 1-3 p.m. April 6 at First Congregational Church in Cooper-Young.

Back by popular demand, “Wizard of Oz” is a timeless and uniquely American fairy tale that follows Dorothy and her friends as they learn the meaning of friendship, of love and that there's no place like home.

The April 6 rehearsal at First Congo is free and open to the public, with time afterward for the audience to ask questions.

The Orpheum performances are at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. April 20 and at 2 p.m. April 21. There is a character meet-and-greet after each show. Tickets are \$10-\$72 and group rates available. For tickets or information visit balletmemphis.org or call 737-7322.

Golden, Seagle and Weddle at Gallery Fifty Six

Gallery Fifty Six, 2215 Central Ave., will present three artists for its April exhibition. In the Main Gallery is “Roads Home,” paintings and drawing by Jeanne Seagle and sculpture by Fletcher Golden (Seagle and Golden are husband and wife). In Gallery C is “Piece Be Still,” still-life paintings by Shamek Weddle.

The opening reception, which is free and open to the public, will be 5-8 p.m. April 5 and the exhibit continues until April 26. For information, contact Rollin Kocsis, director, at 276-1251 or visit galleryfiftysix.com.



V&E Greenline Artwalk set for April 20

The second annual V&E Artwalk is set for 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 20 at 1625 Tutwiler, and organizers are sending out a call for artists who want to participate.

The V&E Artwalk will raise money and awareness for the V&E Greenline, a community-owned trail that travels through the heart of Midtown and the Vollintine-Evergreen Community. The event will feature the work of artists from all over the Greater Memphis area as well as local academic institutions.

This will be a large family event that is now an annual occurrence in the Midtown area. It will not only raise awareness about sustaining the V&E Greenline as an important Memphis and neighborhood asset, but also provide an outlet for local artists to gain exposure and highlight the thriving art community which exists here in the Memphis area.

Artists will be selling their creations at affordable prices. There will be a silent auction from items donated by the artists. Memphis area nonprofits will also be advertising their organizations and causes. Food and beverage vendors, children's activities and music will be present throughout the day. We expect over 50 booths and many, many people from both surrounding neighborhoods

and throughout the metropolitan area. All proceeds from the event will go to the V&E Greenline to keep the V&E Greenline attractive and useful for all to enjoy.

For more information or to reserve a booth, visit vegreenline.org/ve-artwalk, send a message to vegreenline@gmail.com or call 276-1782.

Memphis Heritage plans auction, door event

The historic Sears Tower on Watkins will be the site of the 2013 biennial Memphis Heritage Architectural Auction at 7 p.m. April 20. Architectural elements and other great items from across the city will be auctioned. Proceeds go to Memphis Heritage to aid in our mission to protect properties that are vital to Memphis' history. Guests will enjoy drinks, food, entertainment and live and silent auctions that include rare and interesting pieces of Memphis history. The cost for MHI members is \$50, \$75 for non-members.

MHI also is challenging all artists, architects, woodworkers and amateurs to adopt a door, then repurpose it anything — tables, shelves, rocking chairs, “canvas” for painting, whatever the artists' inspiration. At the Adapt A Door Auction and Party on Oct. 12, MHI take your creations and auction them to the highest bidder. Cost to enter the competition is \$25 (\$15 for students) per door. For \$25 commitment fee participants will receive two tickets (students receive one ticket) to the event, and will be eligible for the grand “Best of Door” award. Find out more at memphisheritage.org.

Parking garage plans presented April 9



Plans for a parking garage in Cooper-Young are back on the table and developers are asking for feedback from neighborhood residents before presenting their proposal to the city.

The three-deck garage is planned for Young Avenue between Meda and Blythe, said Kristan Huntley, executive director of the Cooper-Young Community Association.

The plans will be presented at the April 9 general meeting of the CYCA, which is set for 6:30 p.m. at their offices at 2298 Young Ave. The public is encouraged to attend the meeting and offer feedback. Huntley said developers are interested in getting support from Cooper-Young neighbors.

The Cooper-Young Business Association has advocated for more parking in the neighborhood recently. Another parking garage had been proposed near The Beauty Shop restaurant last year, but that plan met with resistance and has been retooled for the new parcel, Huntley said.

Coming to Theatre Memphis this season

Theatre Memphis has announced its play selection for the 2013-14 season.

On the Lohrey Stage: “The Royal Family” by George S. Kaufman and Edna Ferber, Aug. 16-Sept. 1; “Young Frankenstein,” a musical by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan, Oct. 11-Nov. 3; “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens, Dec. 6-23; Theatre Memphis' 36th Annual Production of “Death of a Salesman” by Arthur Miller, Jan. 24-Feb. 9, 2014; “Jesus Christ Superstar” by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, March 7-30, 2014; “Harvey” by Mary Chase, April 25-May 11, 2014; “The Music Man”

by Meredith Willson, June 6-29, 2014.

On the Next Stage: “Proof” by David Auburn, Sept. 6-23; “The Musical of Musicals (The Musical!),” Nov. 8-23, 2013 and Jan. 10-19, 2014; “As You Like It” by William Shakespeare, Feb. 14-March 2, 2014; “The Submission” by Jeff Talbott.

Visit www.theatrememphis.org for a complete listing of the 2013-14 season. Season memberships are available by calling 682-8323 and are \$120, which includes six tickets. All tickets are good for any performance and can be used in any combination on any show, excluding “A Christmas Carol,” TM/PM cabarets and summer showcases which are not part of the membership package.

Season members do, however, receive discounts on tickets to holiday offerings and special events. Memberships secured prior to April 9, 2013 will receive a \$10 discount off the regular membership price. All shows are at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays with matinees on Sunday at 2 p.m., unless otherwise designated. Single ticket prices for adults are \$28 for musicals and \$23 for dramas/comedies, \$15 for students with a valid ID. Children under 12 admitted for \$10.



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Neighbors pitch in for cleanup

Many, many thanks to all who came out and participated in our Cooper-Young Community Clean Up on March 9. The weather turned out to be quite nice and the rain held off until the afternoon.

We picked up several bags of trash, some discarded tires, a broken TV, an animal hay feeder (yes, really) and who knows what else along the way. Afterwards, the neighborhood looked much cleaner and more loved!

A big thank you goes out to: Demetrius Boyland, for leading the effort, Imotep Kyser, Kirkland Thompson, Andy Ashby, Mark Morrison, Beverly Cooper and Doug Campbell. Also, a very special thanks to Memphis City Beautiful for loaning us clean up supplies to make the event easier.

Want to participate in our next clean up? Email us at info@cooperyoung.org so we can get you on the volunteer email list!

- Kristan Huntley/CYCA



At least seven Cooper-Young neighbors joined in a neighborhood cleanup sponsored by the community association March 9, beginning at the gazebo. Participants included Doug Campbell, Beverly Cooper, Andy Ashby, Mark Morrison, Kirkland Thompson, Imhotep Kyser and Dee Boyland of the CYCA beautification committee. Photo by Andy Ashby.



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Nancy Apple's songwriter series returning April 7

'The quality of GPAC in an 80-seat venue'

BY KRISTIN RODGERS/MICROMEMPHIS REPORTER

First Congo church has been ringing with music lately since Nancy Apple returned to the stage with her Song Slinger Showdown. Three shows have already been performed this year and Apple is planning a fourth. This version in the series is being billed as an all-female show. Artist Susan Herndon of Tulsa, Okla. will take the stage along with Nancy Apple on April 7.

The concert series got its start in 2005 at Kudzu's Bar and Grill. Apple and her guests were so successful that they even garnered media attention with performances being aired on local television stations. After staging shows for a few years Apple thought it best to go on hiatus. She cited "personal problems" as the reason behind the break, but her enthusiasm was palpable as the singer-songwriter discussed her work.

Apple describes her music as Americana, with musical influences such as blues, rock 'n' roll, country, and folk music to even out her sound. Herndon's website says that her music is "genre-spanning" and that her songs range from country, pop, blues, reggae, rock, and even a French song. Her site also mentions that she is working on a collection of French songs due to be released in the fall.

Attendees of the March 3 show that featured Sandy Carroll and Delta Joe Sanders gave glowing reviews via Apple's Facebook page. Singer Sandy Carroll (Just As I Am, Blessed Be) was among those who praised Apple and Aaron James for producing a great show. She also thanked them for the special crowd, space, and songs that she shared with Apple and Sanders.

Aaron James describes himself as being "Nancy's right arm, volunteer labor, and head cheerleader." He said the new series is "infinitely" better because of the intimate theater setting. "It's a show for music lovers. Not bar flies." James says that the only requirement in terms of genre is that all songs performed have to be original. "The format lends itself best to Americana, singer/songwriter, but there's no restriction."

When asked what a newcomer to the Showdown series could expect, James had this to say: "A beautiful, entirely unique musical experience. The quality of GPAC in an 80-seat venue."

Next up after the all-female show April 7 will be an all-male show May 12, with Billy Don Burns, R.T. Scott, and Waylon and Willie headlining.

A donation of \$10 is suggested, but not required. Showtime is at 6:30 p.m. with doors opening at 6.

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Nancy Apple and Delta Joe Sanders entertain a capacity crowd at the March Song Slinger Showdown at Theater South in the basement of First Congregational Church. The Song Slinger Showdown is held the first Sunday of each month at First Congo. Doors at 6 p.m., show at 6:30, \$10 suggestion donation for this family-friendly concert in an intimate setting.

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Midtown Market owner shaping up shop

BY GREG WILLIAMS/MICROMEMPHIS REPORTER

It's a small store that's going through some big changes. Midtown Market is not only remodeling and updating the store inside and out, but also redoing the way it does business. New store owner Kevin Park and his family are transforming an outdated convenience store into a cleaner, more upscale market.

"I wanted to turn this place into a place that would bring the people back," he said. "But first, we had to make this place more friendly to people, and a safer place to shop."

He wasn't kidding. When Park took over the shop at the beginning of this year, the first priority was to make sure the store had good food to sell. To say that the store had some work to do in this area, would be putting it lightly. "I went through all the shelves and in storage, and

threw out over \$5,000 worth of spoiled food," Park said. "I saw my son with a candy bar and I grabbed it, and I noticed that it had expired. There was a lot of food on the shelves, and in the back that was the same."

But Park didn't just limit the improvements to the indoors; he also worked on the parking lot. "There was a telephone booth outside, and I mean, who uses payphones nowadays? So I got rid of that, and put a clothing donation box there," he said. "Why not put something there that would be good for the community?"

The Cooper-Young community was an inspiration to Park to better his store for his customers. "I recently went to a community meeting, the people of Cooper-Young spoke, and basically...we



Midtown Market owner Kevin Park, family and store employee Mr. Jimmy in front of Kevin's collection of beer boxes that took "one month to collect, and six hours to build," according to Park. All of which are available for the store's "make your own six pack." Photo by Greg Williams

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listened. I know how important it is for people to be healthy, and we wanted to promote their way of life," he explained. "Beginning March 11, we will have fresh produce, meats and deli available. We'll also be carrying a food line that is more wholesome, and has no preservatives."

The store was recently in the news when it was trying to retain their beer license — which they recently did. "We can all celebrate again," Park said, laughing. He made sure to mention that fact to the customers as they left the store. "Looking back, we lost about \$10,000 in sales in February because we couldn't sell it."

Responding to customer requests, Park has been stocking Midtown Market's coolers with a selection of hundreds of craft beers, including Memphis' own Ghost River.

The customers have also taken notice of the improvements to the store. One of the regulars, who wanted to be called simply Mr. Garrold, prefers this store over others, even those that are closer to his house.

"I live just up the street, but I pass by a couple stores on my way here. They're just better here. The amount of work they've put into it in such a short time ... it's turned out pretty good."

Park also has his sights set on the future. "I'd love to open more stores. That's my main goal for the future. I'd want to try to open a few more stores right here in the Midtown and Cooper-Young area."

The shop is now a family-owned business, and joins many others in the neighborhood. From the local food brands and Memphis restaurants they promote, to their build-your-own six packs of beer, Midtown Market is revitalizing their image and Park and his family invite everyone to see what's in store.

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Cortona Italian rolls out new menu

BY CRYSTAL RUSSELL/MICROMEMPHIS REPORTER

Former Erling Jensen's Chef de Cuisine Nate Olivia has cooked up a fresh menu at his new home kitchen of Cortona Contemporary Italian. Olivia started as the new executive chef of Cortona at the beginning of February. Along with new manager Jennifer Dickerson, Olivia rewrote the menu.

"There's a real continental flair and global inspiration to the menu. We're sticking with the roots of the artisanal, rustic food, but we think we've brought a lighter, more contemporary feel," Olivia said.

Olivia helped in the kitchen of Cortona on New Year's Eve of 2012 as a favor to a longtime friend, and inherited a restaurant in the process. Former Executive Chef David Cleveland proposed that Olivia take over the restaurant, saying he was ready to explore new opportunities outside of the restaurant business.

But Olivia isn't the only new face at Cortona. In addition to Dickerson, a few new staff members have followed him to Cortona.

"I cleaned house and brought in some of my own people along with the new management team that was brought in. David and the ownership group actually approached Jennifer first. She said, 'Hey, if I'm coming, I'm bringing this guy with me. He's the chef that I want to work with,'" Olivia said.

Some of Cleveland's original restaurant principles are still implemented. Everything is cooked in house, including all of their pasta, cheese, sausage and bread, which are cooked weekly by an in-house baker named Merritt Grevillius. But customers will notice apparent differences.

"David was going for a more traditional trattorio, which is like a family style restaurant in Italy. We're looking to do something a little bit more upscale to match the cosmopolitan nature of this whole area," Olivia said.

Some of the new foods include spicy Italian chicken wings, a Prosciutto e Melone pizza and seared duck leg confit.

The word on the street about the newborn menu has been slow to get out. Pamela Denney, food writer for Memphis Magazine's food blog Memphis Stew is always excited to savor new foods.

"I've loved the food at Cortona from the start, because it's updated Italian food at affordable prices. I haven't sampled the new menu, but now I can't wait to try it," Denney said.

Original Cortona staff from the Cleveland era have something to say about the changes as well. Bartender Jacob Leonardi has worked at Cortona since the restaurant opened its doors in 2011. He left his 10-year post at Ronnie Grisanti's to bartend at Cortona per Cleveland's request.

"I like the newer food because it's a little more progressive, much more modern. It's a little bit of a sexier menu," Leonardi said.

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Café Olé getting makeover inside and out

BY CRYSTAL RUSSEL/MICROMEMPHIS REPORTER

Café Olé, a Cooper-Young casual Mexican café, closed its doors from March 10-12 to revamp their space. But the restaurant is not all that is getting a spring-cleaning. Aside from fresh wall colors and uniforms, the new menu will also offer food with American flavor, and at least 10 new margaritas starting on April 1.

"It will probably be mid-April before we launch the full new menu and drinks. At least April 1, if not a little after," manager Denise Johnson said.

Some of the new margaritas will include a Caribbean, peaches & cream, hot chile, moonshine, Memphis, and cucumber.

"It's going to be more of a Southwest, Caribbean drink menu," said Tamara Cook, executive director of the Cooper-Young Business Association.

Sneak peeks of the new entrées include flatbread pizza, jerk chicken on a stick and a grouper po boy sandwich. The new menu will feature Olé classics, vegetarian selections and Americanized selections. But regulars can rest assured. The Olé signature dish, the bacon wrapped stuffed shrimp, is not going anywhere.

"We're trying to give people a little more of an option if everybody at the table doesn't want to eat Mexican. Two of our top sellers right now are our chicken sandwich and our cheeseburger. That shows us that some people want other options when they come in," Johnson said.

The Olé chicken sandwich and cheeseburger are also getting jazzed up. Customers can find the new sandwiches under the titles of avocado bacon chicken sandwich and guacamole bacon cheeseburger.

The decision about what food and drinks made the cut was influenced in part by the community. Café Olé held tasting events in their restaurant, featuring all the possible new margaritas and entrées. Customers were charged a flat rate of \$15, allowed to sample the items and fill out a comments sheet with their thoughts.

To dine with Café Olé, visit them at 959 South Cooper St.

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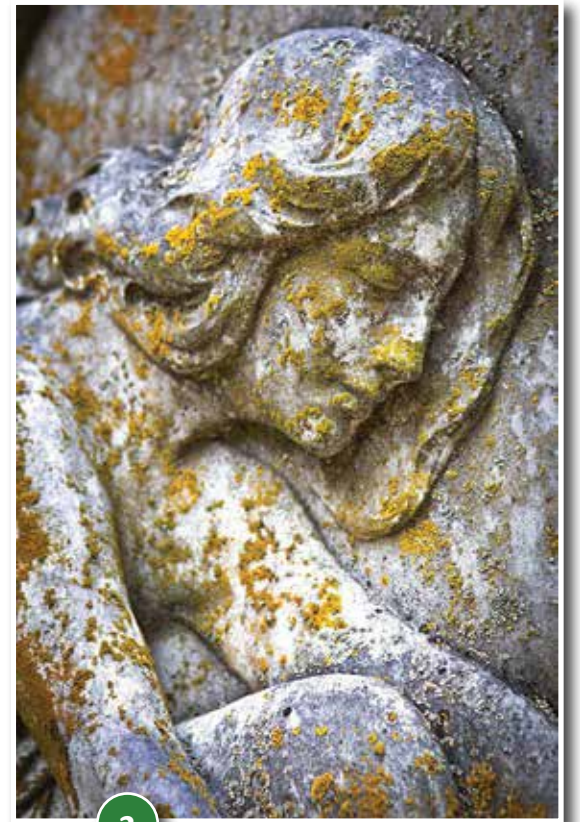
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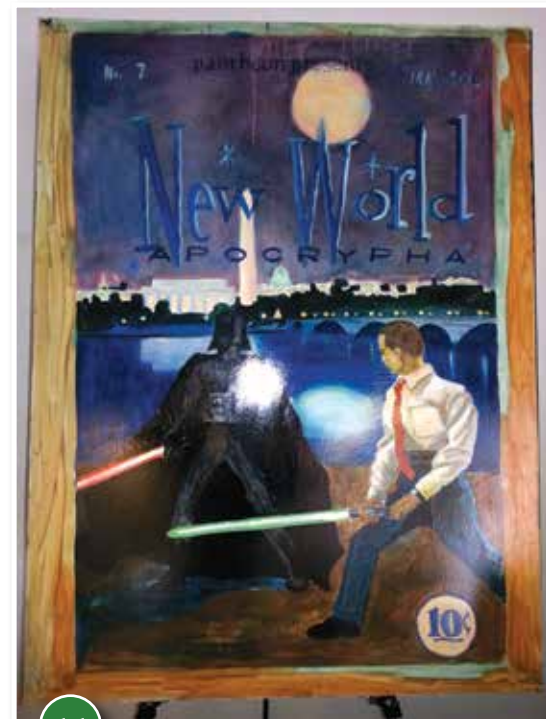
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14

FEATURED ARTISTS

1. Karen "Bottle" Capps

Untitled; Mixed Media; www.karenbottlecapps.com

2. Carol Robison

Untitled; painting; frayserqueen@yahoo.com

3. Marcus Stafford

Grey Lady from Midtown; Photograph; marcus@punchboard.com

4. Mollie Jay Riggs

Sunset in Cooper-Young; Painting; molliejayebirdriggs@gmail.com

5. Paul Clarke

Itta Bena Two; Pigment ink on canvas; pc@servogroup.com

6. Christine Conley

Otherlands; Ink; Java Cabana; Ink; christineconley8@gmail.com

7. John and Tyrina Browning

Untitled; Mosaic; tyrinabrowning@att.net

8. Jan Hankins

Flatware; oil; awaiting contact info

9. Donna Blackard

Moon Series; Pigment and metal leafing on canvas; www.donnablackard.com

10. KK Wiseman

Birdfeeder; Mosaic; no contact info

11. KYL EL

Issue #7 of "New World Apocrypha"; Oil on Masonite; www.kyl-el.com

12. Angela Goza

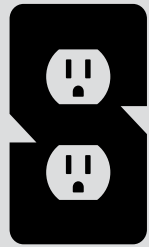
Having a Bad Hare Day? ; Whimsical Artwork on Ceramic; www.canikeepit.com

13. Small Fires Press

Set of Live at the Garden Letterpress Posters; Letterpress on Paper; Small Fires Press Pack, including Letterpress Broadside, Artist Books, Journals; www.smallfirespress.com

14. Shanna Offut

The Watering Hole; Mixed Mosaic with Recycled Material; Facebook at Glass By Sha



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Get involved in beautifying Cooper-Young

BY RENEE MASSEY



Spring is in the air, and the neighborhood is abuzz with outdoor activity. Residents are tidying up yards and homes while the weather is mild, planting flowers and trees, ready to enhance all the beauty that the end of winter brings. The Cooper-Young Community Association shares residents' interest in keeping the neighborhood beautiful and is always looking for ways to increase our aesthetic equity. After all, our whole purpose is to make Cooper-Young a safer, more desirable place to live, worship, work, and play! In fact, the association has a committee of residents dedicated to beautification, and you are welcome to bring your ideas, resources, and even your "elbow grease" to aid that goal.

In a recent neighborhood survey conducted by the Cooper-Young Community Association (CYCA), the board of directors heard from neighbors that they need more information... information about what the association

does and how the association provides tangible benefits to the community. This year we'll introduce you to several members of the CYCA board of directors and their committees, including the CYCA Beautification Committee chaired by Demetrius Boyland.

Prior to joining the CYCA Board of Directors, Demetrius attended most of the monthly general meetings. For those of you not familiar with the general meetings, they are held at the CYCA offices at 2298 Young Ave. on the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m., and all neighbors are invited to attend. Refreshments are usually served prior to the meeting at 6 p.m., and children are welcome. It was at just such a meeting that Demetrius learned of an opening on the board. Having lived in the neighborhood for several years, she decided to apply for the slot and was accepted. In practically no time she stepped up to fill the empty Beautification Committee chairperson role, and she's been busy with those efforts ever since.

As the chairperson for the Beautification Committee, Demetrius leads neighborhood projects dealing with aesthetics. This translates into quarterly neighborhood cleanups to keep our little piece of heaven free of debris and trash, networking with other organizations regarding public plantings and aesthetics, and organizing the installation of public art projects. In 2013, Demetrius' committee hopes to see the resolution of two such public art projects: the Barksdale and McLean murals. Much work has gone into fundraising for the murals, obtaining permission from

governmental and business entities, deciding on materials and artists, and organizing cleanup of the art sites. Quarterly cleanups will continue this year. Demetrius would be thrilled if 2013 also brought increased neighborhood participation with the committee.

"It's very easy to be involved," Demetrius notes. "We have monthly meetings ... the last Monday of every month. The time is 6 p.m." Like the general meetings, Beautification Committee meetings are held at the CYCA offices at 2298 Young. "We welcome new faces, and I am open to all levels of commitment. The reason for involvement is simple. When individuals are involved, there is a sense of stewardship. This makes for a great neighborhood."

So bring your ideas to the monthly Beautification Committee meeting and help keep your neighborhood looking its best. And if you want to support the efforts of the CYCA and its Beautification Committee but cannot fit committee involvement into your schedule, there is no better way to do that than by joining the Cooper-Young Community Association. You can join online at www.cooperyoung.org, you can stop by the CYCA offices at 2298 Young Ave., call our executive director at (901)272-2922, or fill out the membership form in this paper. Not only will you be supporting beautification efforts and all the other things the CYCA does to make life good in Cooper-Young, but you'll also receive some fantastic local discounts including \$5 off tickets to the April 13 Art for Art's Sake Auction. The auction provides funds to maintain our signature piece of public art: the Cooper Street Trestle. *See you there!*

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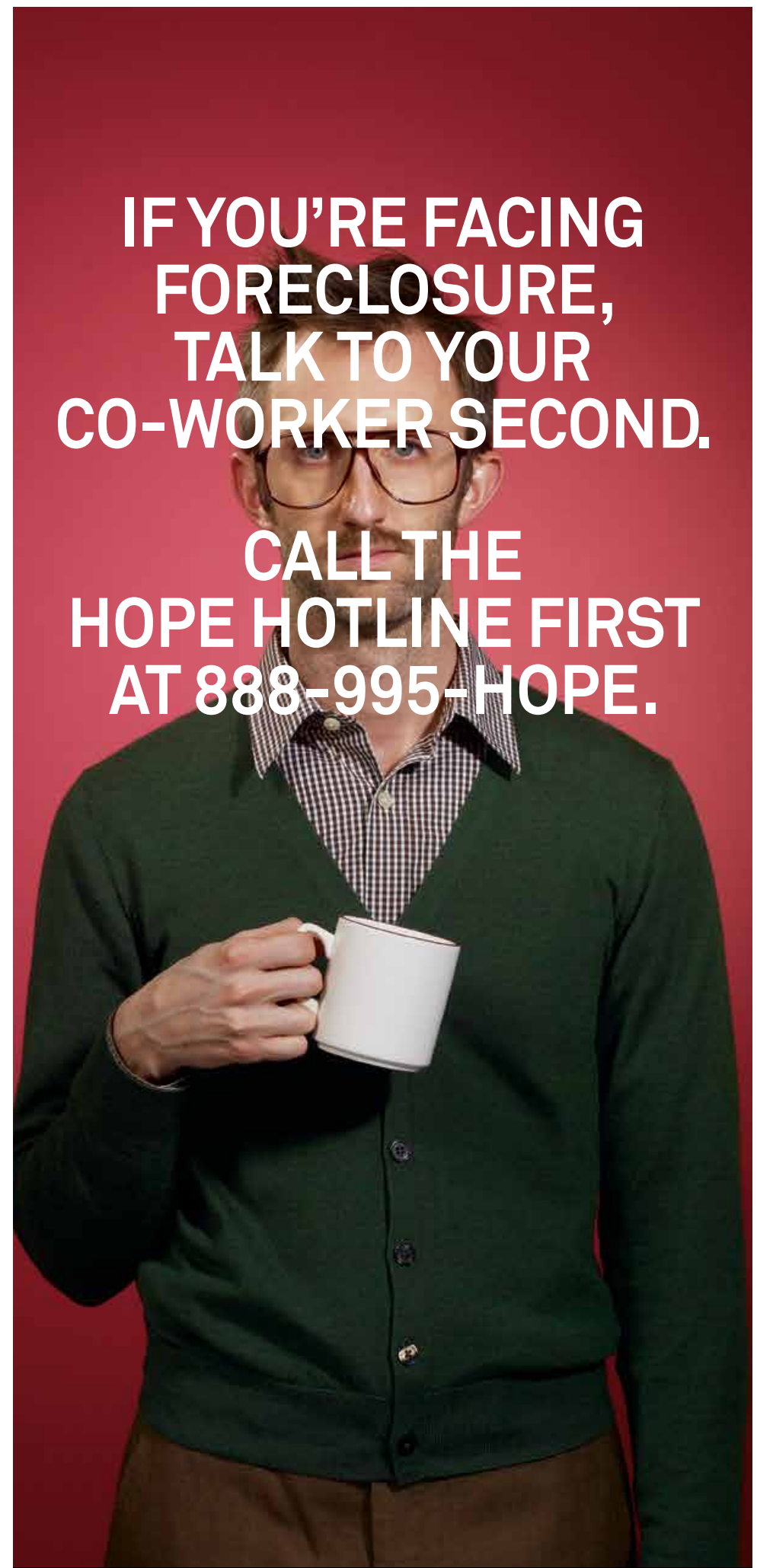
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- **Hollywood Feed: Union Ave.** - 5% discount every time you show your CYCA membership card
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How We Got Here: Reflections on the Current Era of Educational Reform

BY DR. D. JACKSON MAXWELL

Every day you can pick up the paper or turn on the news and hear the latest rant of how our school systems are failing our nation's youth. Demonizing teachers is the latest rage by the powers that be. The new reality of education is where public schools, charter schools, and private schools are all competing for the same pool of students, pitting local and regional school systems against each other. Policies for school districts and teachers' are being increasingly dictated from on high by politicians. Teachers unions are being dismantled by governors while legislators seek to undermine teachers' evaluation, tenure, pensions, and other benefits. How in the world did we get here? Here is a brief look.

Beginning with the publication of the seminal book *Why Johnny Can't Read* (Rudolf Flesh, 1955) the modern era of school reform was born. This book established the debate over how to best teach reading—sight

words versus phonics. Local school boards picked sides, adopted their chosen methodology, and bought the pre-packaged, vendor created "fix-it" educational materials to begin the resurrection of their failing schools. The federal government joined the cause and in subsequent decades the feds poured money into the nation's school systems, initially allowing these to be administered locally.

In 1979, Public Law 96-98 was signed by President Jimmy Carter creating the United States Department of Education and the growth of federal involvement in public education exploded. During the Reagan years, The National Commission on Excellence in Education released *A Nation at Risk* that concluded once again our school systems were failing and America's students were falling behind (U. S. Department of Education, 1983). As a result, the Reagan administration sought to decrease the role of the federal

government by shifting governance of education even more to the states while increasing overall federal funding (Sunderman, 2009). The administration added the caveat that current student shortcomings were a result of the pervasiveness of negative cultural factors such as drugs, alcohol, and crime. The "Just Say No" campaign lead by First Lady Nancy Reagan was emblematic of this shift. Simultaneously, across the nation, governors' urged state legislators to initiate a variety of reforms aimed at solving local policy deficits. President George H. W. Bush working in concert with governors, continued along the path set by Reagan.

President Bill Clinton's primary educational reform efforts were a matter of expanding the Reagan and Bush policies through a program now called Goals 2000. These initiatives became increasingly focused on creating state standards that emphasized performance tied academic goals. States were once again enticed to develop and adopt standards by the offer of federal funds via time via grant. This federal influence in determining state education policies continued to grow.

Following the work of his predecessors, George W. Bush signed into law what was to prove to be the sledgehammer of reform--The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001(NCLB). The primary goals mandated by NCLB are that every teacher must be highly qualified—all degrees and accreditations current (a task harder than it sounds with an ever shrinking pool of new teachers) and second, all students must be 100% proficient in all core subject areas.

NCLB firmly established the federal government as the driving force in educational policy and programming, going so far as to force states to meet proficiency standards by 2014. In the name of equality of achievement, all students (minority/nonminority, advantaged/disadvantaged) are compelled to take annual competency tests to assess progress. States failing to tow the line will lose federal funding.

President Barack Obama has attempted to tweak the more egregious stipulations of NCLB. One change has been allowing states, like Tennessee, who are actively engaged in reform efforts to receive a waiver whereby they do not have to meet the unachievable mandate of having 100% of their students proficient in all core subjects by 2014. Additionally, the Obama administration has provided more funding for targeted areas such as educational research and Title I schools. However, other than giving lip-service to hot topics such as teacher merit pay and unions, President Obama has proven less vigorous than his Republican counterparts in initiating transformative educational change at the federal level.

Oddly, what has played out on the national stage now seems to be coming home to Tennessee. It is our state legislators and governor who are taking control of local school districts' issues and dictating educational policy to them. Basically, that is how we have gotten to where we are now. All that remains to see what comes next.

Dr. D. Jackson Maxwell is a teacher and educational consultant with over 20 years of experience. Please forward questions or comments to: djacksonmaxwell@gmail.com.

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New arrival

Seth Robert Johnson, born Jan. 22, is one of Cooper-Young's newest residents. Proud parents Robert and Holly Johnson say they're sure he'll be terrorizing the neighborhood in no time.



Spring clean yourself!

BY LARRIE ANN RODRIGUEZ

It happens every spring. You fling open the windows, shed your winter coat, and suddenly get the urge to clean house. But do you ever think about "spring cleaning" yourself? Spring cleaning is all about clearing out the old to make room for the new. As you clean out your dresser drawers and closets, why not spring-clean your mind, body and spirit? Here are some things to think about.

Your mind:

- **Attitude:** Dust off your attitude and put on a fresh coat of positive. Release negativity and let go of anger, hatred, jealousy, and self-doubt.
- **Gratitude:** Appreciate what you have by being mindful of the people around you and embracing the smallest moments that give you joy.
- **Unplug:** Choose time to turn off gadgets, screens, and social media. Replace technology with face-to-face conversations, relish the quiet, enjoy a new activity or read a good book.

Your body:

- **Nutrition:** Eat plenty of organic fruits and vegetables, avoid processed foods, limit sugary foods and stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water
- **Exercise:** Go outside, breathe some fresh air, stretch your legs, and get in touch with nature. Create a regular exercise routine such as walking or yoga. Or park your car far away from the door or take the stairs instead of the elevator.
- **Rest:** Recharge your body by getting enough sleep every night to repair, refresh and rejuvenate.

Your spirit:

- **Timeout:** Give yourself a timeout and take a few minutes each day to pray, meditate and/or reflect on your life.
- **Be present:** Allow yourself to be calm and present, to allow all forms of agitation to leave your mind, and find serenity in that peaceful place.
- **Love yourself:** Enjoy the person you are.

So, what are you waiting for? Let go of things that no longer serve your mind, body and spirit. Open your windows to a new perspective on living a happier, healthier life!

Larrie Ann Rodriguez is the owner of Midtown Massage & Bodywork in Cooper-Young.



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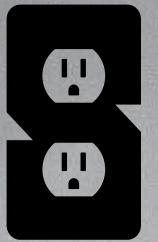
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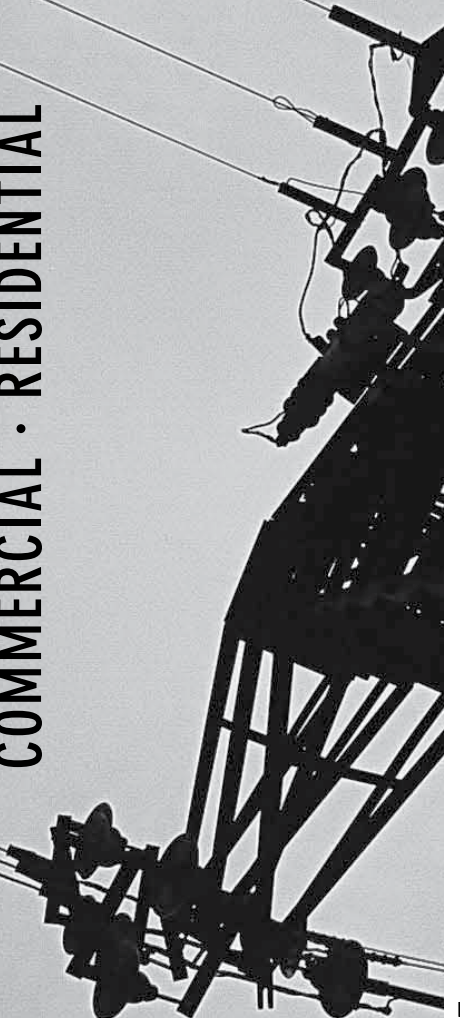
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LampLighter

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. These crimes were reported from January 25, 2012 to February 4, 2013.

27 Cases	Arrest	Description	Date	Address
1303012286ME		Theft Other	3/20/13	1000 Bruce
1303010909ME		Assault	3/18/13	2000 Young
1303009024ME		Burglary	3/16/13	900 Cox
1303006402ME		Vandalism	3/13/13	900 Blythe
1303007082ME		Burglary	3/12/13	900 Cox
1303006438ME		Vandalism	3/12/13	2200 Walker
1303006112ME		Theft Other	3/11/13	2100 York
1303006125ME		Vandalism	3/11/13	800 Cooper St
1303003447ME		Theft Other	3/7/13	2100 Central
1303002863ME		Burglary	3/6/13	1900 Oliver
1303002131ME		Burglary	3/4/13	1000 Meda
1303002142ME		CC/ATM Fraud	3/4/13	2100 Central
1303002216ME		CC/ATM Fraud	3/4/13	2100 Central
1303002145ME		CC/ATM Fraud	3/4/13	2100 Young
1303002197ME		CC/ATM Fraud	3/4/13	2100 Young
1303002175ME		CC/ATM Fraud	3/4/13	800 Cooper
1303002128ME		CC/ATM Fraud	3/4/13	900 Cooper
1303002136ME		CC/ATM Fraud	3/4/13	900 Cooper
1303002138ME		CC/ATM Fraud	3/4/13	900 Cooper
1303002203ME		CC/ATM Fraud	3/4/13	900 Cooper
1303002204ME		CC/ATM Fraud	3/4/13	900 Cooper
1303002208ME		CC/ATM Fraud	3/4/13	900 Cooper
1303002209ME		CC/ATM Fraud	3/4/13	900 Cooper
1303002210ME		CC/ATM Fraud	3/4/13	900 Cooper
1303000530ME		Auto Theft/Parts/Acc.	3/1/13	2000 Southern
1302015450ME		Theft Other	2/28/13	900 Meda St
1302013076ME		Assault	2/23/13	2100 Young



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 Ben Boleware.

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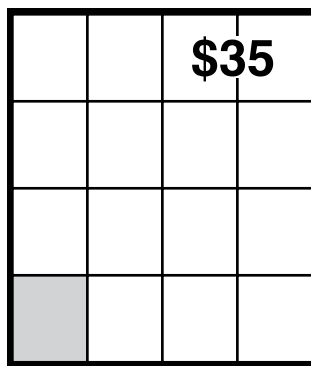
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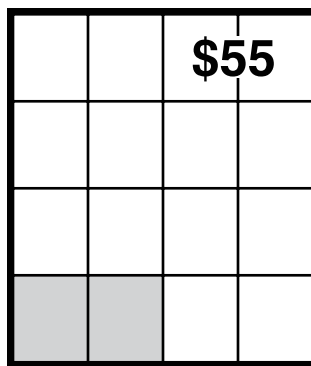
2013 *LampLighter* Advertising Rates



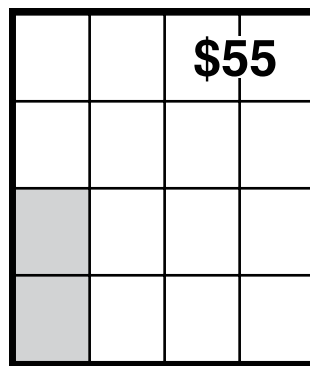
The *LampLighter* serves the Cooper-Young area, an eclectic neighborhood and historic district in Midtown known for its mix of shops, bars, restaurants, and strong sense of community. 4,000 issues are hand-delivered to every home in the Cooper-Young neighborhood as well as many Midtown businesses. CY residents pride themselves on supporting local business. **Don't miss this opportunity to reach this highly-desireable and diverse demographic.**



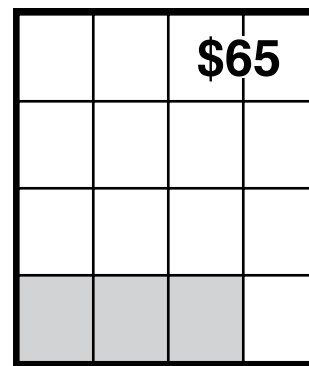
1. 1/16
2.4" x 3"



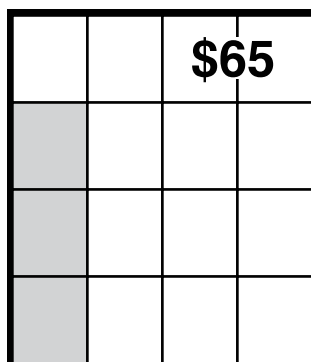
2a. 1/8 Horizontal
5" x 3"



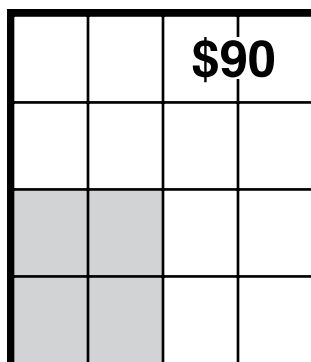
2b. 1/8 Vertical
2.4" x 6"



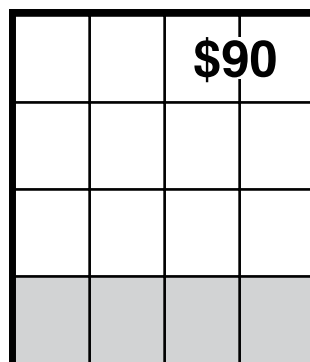
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7.7" x 3"



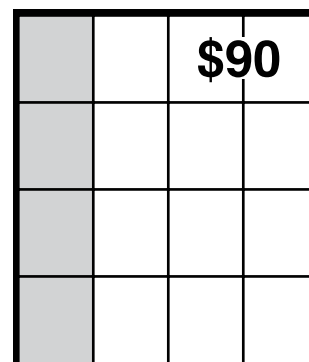
3b. 3/16 Vertical
2.4" x 9.2"



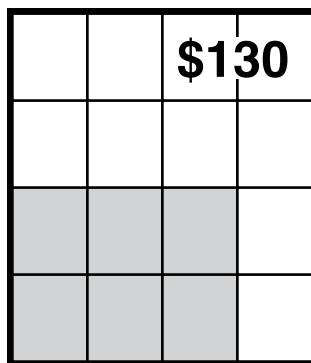
4a. 1/4 Block
5" x 6"



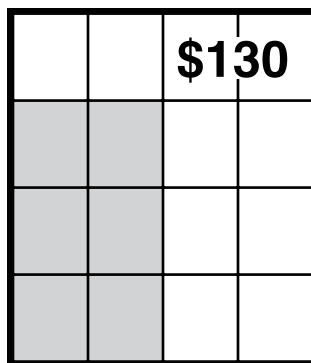
4b. 1/4 Horizontal
10.3" x 3"



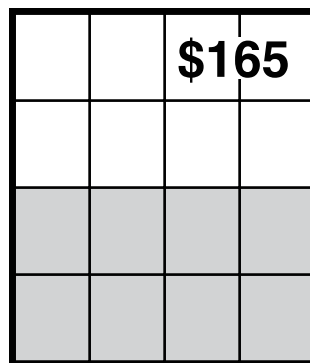
4c. 1/4 Vertical
2.4" x 12.3"



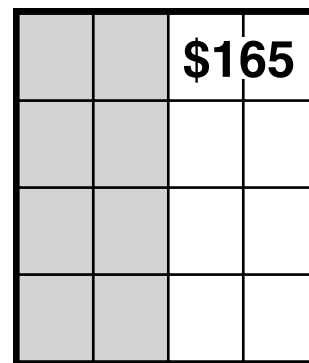
5a. 3/8 Horizontal
7.7" x 6"



5b. 3/8 Vertical
5" x 9.2"



6a. 1/2 Horizontal
10.3" x 6"



6b. 1/2 Vertical
5" x 12.3"

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