

LampLighter

Cooper-Young — Many Voices, One Community

INSIDE: Artist Jay Crum will bring his signature designs to CY's recycling center, but not before some improvements at the site.

SHOW YOUR PUPPY LOVE

Follow these simple steps to keep him or her healthy

Pets are part of the family in about one out of three American households, but with their popularity in Cooper-Young it sometimes seems as if they outnumber people.

Dr. Steven Tower, veterinarian and owner of Memphis Animal Clinic at East Parkway and Central, provided pet health tips to a meeting of the Cooper-Young Community Association recently.

Microchipping: Tower began his presentation by talking about microchipping, and called the procedure "vitally important" for pets. The microchip is about the size of a grain of rice and is implanted by a veterinarian under the animal's skin, where it gives off identifying information via radio frequency about the animal's owner contact information. Veterinarians and animal shelters scan stray animals for microchips in an attempt to track their owner, but Tower said only about one in 10 of the stray dogs brought into his practice have microchips.

Just as important, he said, is the need to register your pet's microchip online once the chip is implanted. Sometimes owners forget this step, but a dog with an unregistered microchip is no better off than a dog with none.

GPS tracking collars have come on the market recently and several Cooper-Young residents at the meeting said they'd been using the devices successfully to track their dogs online in real time when they've escaped. Tagg the Pettracker, at www.pettracker.com, is a popular choice.

Of course, microchips don't take the place of an old-fashioned ID tag, which every animal should have.

Security: Check your fence to make sure it's secure. Dogs have a way of finding small holes, digging under, or climbing over fences.

Tower discourages the use of chains to keep dogs tied up in yards. Not only can the chains get hung up, but the frustration experienced by an animal that can't run or get to water easily can lead to behavior issues. Keep pets inside if possible, or take them to a doggie day care such as Dogs Rule.

Survey results find support for parking deck

But better signage and shuttles also among popular solutions

By Kristan Huntley/CYCA

The results of a recent neighborhood survey show that a majority of residents and business owners support a recent proposal by the Cooper-Young Business Association to build a \$4 million parking deck and retail space on Young Avenue, but the neighborhood is still divided on the best solution for parking congestion.

By the close of the survey, 416 people had responded. The first step in analyzing the survey results was to double-check that the respondent was a resident or business owner in Cooper-Young. Of the 416 respondents, 364 were valid. We omitted 28 responses because the respondent's address was outside of the Cooper-Young boundaries, 12 because the respondent's specific address was not given and 12 because the respondent only gave their address and left the rest of the survey blank.

At the time of writing, we are still working to go through all the comments and feedback solicited in the open-ended sections, but we do have some information concerning the results to share.

Do We Have Enough Parking in Cooper-Young?

In response to the question, "Does this neighborhood have too many, too few, or about the right number of parking spots currently?" approximately 75 percent of respondents said that there were not enough parking spots in Cooper-Young, 17 percent thought that the amount of parking in the neighborhood was just right and only around 4 percent said that we had too many. This indicates that many respondents, residents and business owners alike, think that there is some form of a parking shortage in the community.

Options to Improve Parking

Since there does seem to be a shortage of available parking in Cooper-Young, what are possible solutions? The most popular response from survey respondents was a parking deck – 205 out of 364 voted for the

See Pets, Page 5

See PARKING, Page 3



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MUSIC'S IN THE AIR
Find out who's playing First Thursday Night Out and this month's Red Hot Summer Music Concert Series. Plus more music, theater and art listings on **Page 10**.

IN MEMORY
A tribute to Cooper-Young resident Edith Chumney Russell

CRIME MAP
Our ever-popular listing of incidents reported to police over the previous month

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have always had a love-hate relationship with the month of July. I love that it's the last, full "slow" month for the CYCA before things gear up for the CY Festival & 4-Miler. I hate that there always seems to be an abundance of lost and found dogs in the area to make up for the seasonal lull. I love that this year the CYBA is hosting a Red Hot Summer in Cooper-Young and booking live music every Wednesday night at the Gazebo. I hate that I will have to enjoy that music looking like I went swimming in my clothes prior to arriving. I love that we will again host our family-friendly, CY Fourth of July Parade at Peabody Elementary. I hate that my stepson is now too cool to appreciate how fun it is to decorate our bikes patriotically, climb on a fire engine and play with bubble wands in a parking lot ... and then there's the heat. Speaking of the heat, my pitiful attempts at jogging with my dog, Cooper, have turned out to be a great way to get out there and interact with my community. My plans to slim



down my post-divorce blubber-butt include taking Cooper on last year's 4-Miler route after work a few days a week. Keeping in mind that my face turns beet red in temperatures over 82 degrees, seeing me huffing and teetering dizzily down the street can be a scary thing for those unfamiliar with my routine. I have met a number of lovely residents that have brought me water when they found me laying in their yard with a confused dog tethered to my arm. I'm always sure to introduce myself and ask if they are CYCA members and if they read the *LampLighter*. At least three people along my route now have my name and address in case my body turns up on their block. If that's not being a good neighbor, I don't know what is.

- June Hurt

CALENDAR

July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Red Hot Summer Music Series every Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the gazebo; jazz from Standby for Mars, folk from Sibella, ragtime from Side Street Steppers, jazz and more from bavy band Blues City Brass. See story, page 7

July 4
Celebrate Independence Day with a family-friendly neighborhood parade beginning at Peabody Elementary at 10:15 a.m.

July 4
First Thursday Night Out with Chinese Connection Dub Embassy at the gazebo, 6 p.m.

July 9
Mid-South Regional Greenprint Plan community forum 6 to 7 p.m. at the Orange Mound Community Services Center at 2572 Park Ave. (There will be no monthly general meeting of the CYCA this month so representatives can attend this meeting.)

FOR THE RECORD



Charlie Ryan, the Cooper-Young property owner behind a proposal to build a parking deck and retail center on Young Avenue, pointed out that his representatives, Structured Parking Solutions, sent us a version of the architectural rendering for the proposed structure that showed an extra level atop the structure, which appeared on the cover of our May edition. That has led some people to think the structure would be taller than what is proposed, he said. The correct version, with three parking levels and space for about 170 vehicles, is pictured above.

Interesting in advertising in the *LampLighter*? 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

LampLighter

JULY 2013

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DEADLINES FOR THE JULY LAMPLIGHTER

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS: June 15
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DISTRIBUTION BEGINNING: June 28
Please send all articles and submissions to LampLighter@cooperyoung.org. For advertising rate sheet, or to submit ads electronically, please email ads@cooperyoung.org.

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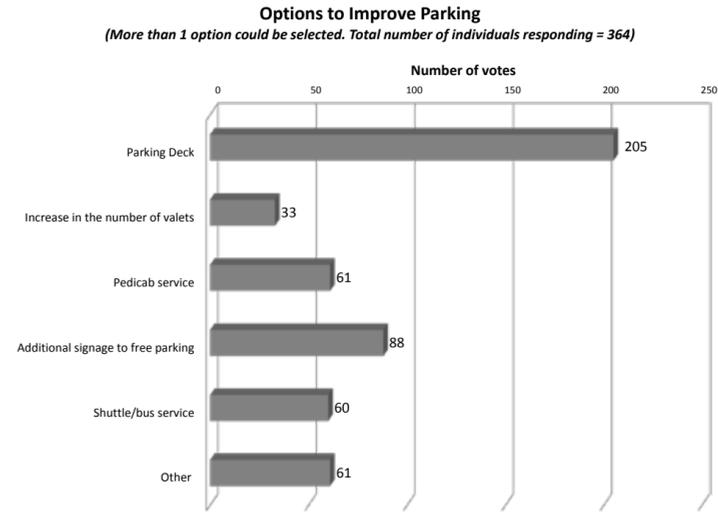
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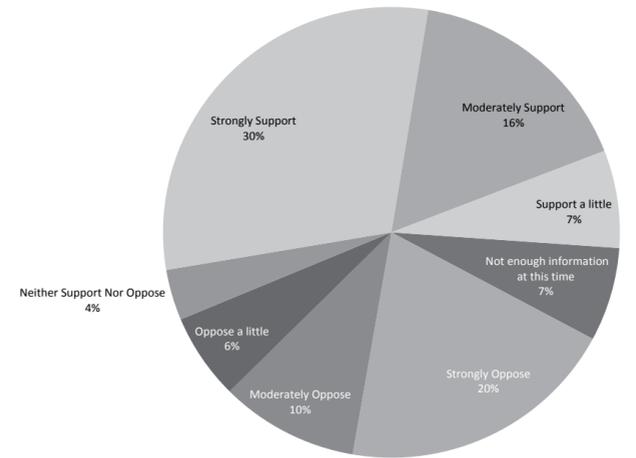
At-Large Board Members Ric Chetter

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CYCA NEWS



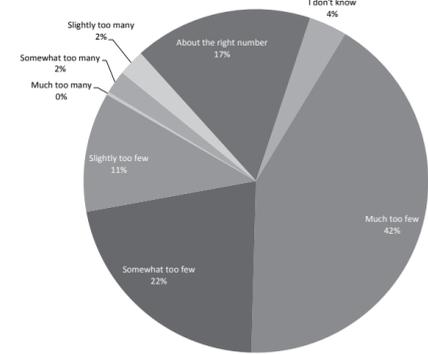
Overall, how do you feel about the construction of a parking deck in the proposed location ?



PARKING From Page 1

deck as a viable option. The second most-popular option was additional signage to free parking with 81 votes, followed by "other" and pedicab service which tied, then shuttle/bus service and finally an increase in the number of valets. We asked respondents to elaborate on their selection of "other" if chosen. Many of the responses included working with existing lot owners, including most notably First Congregational Church, to allow parking in the busy evening hours, prior to the building of a deck. Trolley lines and/or some other form of a shuttle were also suggested.

Does this neighborhood have too many, too few, or about the right number of parking spots currently?



Overall Feelings on Constructing a Parking Deck

For the most part, resident and business views on the above questions have trended very similarly. The biggest difference of opinions that we have found as of yet in reviewing the data is concerning the overall opinion on constructing a parking deck. Respondents who identified themselves with residents were divided in their views. For residents, 28 percent of respondents strongly supported constructing a parking deck. On the other hand, 21 percent were strongly opposed. Overall, 52 percent of resident respondents expressed some form of support for constructing a parking deck whereas 37 percent expressed some form of opposition. Of the responses, 4 percent stated that they are neither in support nor opposition and 7 percent said that they did not have enough information at that time to make a decision.

Respondents that held a business address were less divided in their responses. Of business respondents, 48 percent stated that they strongly supported the construction of the parking deck whereas 7 percent strongly opposed it. Overall, 63 percent of business respondents expressed some form of support, 27 percent expressed some form of opposition, 3 percent were neither for nor against, and 7 percent said that they did not have enough information at that time to make a decision.

When the responses were looked at as a whole, with both

business owners and residents combined, overall 56 percent of respondents were in favor of the construction of a parking deck, 36 percent opposed, 4 percent neither for nor against and 7 percent undecided due to not having enough information at that time.

There were many reasons listed as to why respondents supported the proposed parking deck. Those reasons included street congestion around the Cooper and Young intersection and on side streets, continued growth for businesses and the community, and overall lack of parking concerns that could be assisted with the deck. Those opposed were concerned about crime, current use of available lots, current design and aesthetics and the cost. Those requesting more information wanted to know more about safety and security measures, continued upkeep and funding and displacement/traffic issues from construction.

We are still working on compiling the results of the rest of the survey, and we will also be mapping out responses to see how those closest to the location of the proposed deck feel. We hope to release that information soon.

Also to note, the Cooper-Young Community Association board has not yet taken a stance on the parking deck. Results from this survey will be one of the factors playing into their decision.

Thank you all for sharing your thoughts about the proposed parking deck with us via the survey we shared last month. We had a great response!

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Join the annual parade to mark the Fourth of July in CY

Come out and celebrate the Fourth of July with a good old family friendly community parade.

The neighborhood parade will again be centered around Peabody Elementary. Participants will gather in the western parking lot of Peabody Elementary and then begin the parade at 10 a.m. The route is: north on Tanglewood from Peabody Elementary, east on Oliver Avenue, south on Cooper Street, west on Young Avenue, north on Tanglewood and back to parking lot. The parade will stay will be on the sidewalk at all times. Decoration of bicycles, wagons and self are encouraged.

The Memphis Fire Department will be on hand again this year, beginning at around 10:30 a.m. They will not be able to open the hydrant, but they will have the truck available for kids to look at and maybe climb on.

Freezer pops and water will be available for all to help stay cool. Family and friends are welcome.

Greencork wine bar aims for August opening

A new self-service wine bar called Greencork is hoping to open around August on Young Avenue next to Goner Records, according to Pamela Denney's food blog in *Memphis* magazine.

Greencork will offer something new for the Memphis area: more than 30 wines on tap, with service from cards inserted into dispensers. The restaurant also plans to offer craft beers and food including "watermelon gazpacho, chicken salad with pear chutney, beef tenderloin with blackberry reduction, bacon, lettuce and tomato cheesecake and ice cream sliders made with homemade cookies like rum raisin or Mexican hot chocolate."

The building is undergoing renovations and adding a stacked stone exterior now. Find out more at the Memphis Stew blog on memphismagazine.com.

It's time to help the hungry in Memphis again

Join your neighbors this year for the second annual Operation Feed fundraiser for Mid-South Food Bank, July 8-15.

Every week more than 21,000 people rely on food from the Mid-South Food Bank. One-third of those are children.

It is easy to help: You can be a collection station for food items, put out tip jars to collect change, give a percentage of your sales of one day of revenue, donate \$20 or \$100 by writing a check, making a deposit at any Bank of America or online www.midsouthfoodbank.org. Click on Feed the Need donation button.

Here's the challenge: Get at least 10 businesses to put out



Parade-goers file down Young Avenue on July 4, 2012, during last year's Cooper-Young Fourth of July Parade.

food collection boxes and promote it on their websites, Facebook and Twitter accounts. Get at least 10 businesses to donate 5 percent of their sales for just one day and promote it. Get at least 30 businesses to donate just \$20. Every \$20 means \$140 in food buying power that feeds 420 people. Get at least 10 businesses to donate \$100.

Can you help? If so, let the Cooper-Young Business Association know to count you in. We will be printing posters with your name/logo on them for distribution around C-Y and Midtown. And if you help out, your business name will be listed on the C-Y Historic District facebook, Twitter accounts and in the Lamplighter as a Champion for the Mid-South Food Bank. The business that makes the biggest donation of all will get its logo on the C-Y Festival banner that hangs at the intersection of Cooper and Young the day of the festival.

Email cyba@bellsouth.com or thaler@haizlipstudio.com by July 1 with your logo and how you will help.

Thanks to cleanup volunteers

Kristan Huntley and the Cooper-Young Community Association extend a big thank you to the following volunteers who came out on June 8 for our quarterly community clean-up: Rebecca Hall, Katie Ogden, Paul Cooper, Beverly Cooper, Mark Morrison, Paul Boyle,

Chris Bevel, Demetrius Boyland, Imhotep Boyland.

We appreciate your time, dedication and support in keeping Cooper-Young looking its best.

Greenprint Plan forum July 9

The Mid-South Regional Greenprint Plan, a plan to connect communities across a four-county region through a network of green space, will host a community forum from 6 to 7 p.m. July 9 at the Orange Mound Community Services Center at 2572 Park Ave.

The plan will have a broad impact on the region, including new or improved parks and greenways, addressing vacant or blighted properties through neighborhood beautification, and creating more connections to jobs, schools and churches in the region. The meeting will cover areas including Cooper-Young, Rozelle-Annesdale, Orange Mound, University district, Sherwood Forest, Alcy-Ball, Beltline, East Buntyn, Messick-Buntyn, Bethel Grove, Cherokee and the Depot area. Organizers hope to have a strong turnout from these communities to ensure they are well represented in the Mid-South Regional Greenprint Plan. To learn more, visit our website at www.midsouthgreenprint.org.

New doors improve recycling bins

By Kristan Huntley/CYCA

Some more big changes are happening to the recycling containers at Walker and Cooper, located in the First Congregational Church parking lot. Some nifty new doors were installed by Signworks to help ensure the recyclables that you worked so hard to gather do not fall out en route to the recycling facility.

This issue tended to be a problem primarily when the containers were very full or paper products were on top of the recycling pile unweighted. But, this is a problem no more thanks to the handiwork of Signworks, made possible through donations from Project Green Fork, Get Green Recycleworks, First Congo, and the Cooper-Young Community Association. All items placed in the recycling containers will stay there until they make it to Re-Community and not become a part of the litter problem.

Artists Kong Wee Pang and Jay Crum are reworking their mural designs slightly to ensure that the doors are smoothly incorporated into their mural. Once those modifications are complete, UrbanArts Commission will organize volunteers to sand and prep the containers for the mural painting process. The murals are expected to be complete by late July.

Margot McNeely of Project Green Fork says that the positive response from the community has been over-

whelming. "Every time I'm at the containers people express gratitude and excitement to have the new containers.

When I tell them that we'll soon have mural art painted on them they are even more excited. It's been an amazing process seeing this whole project through," says McNeely.

Project Green Fork wants the containers to continue to be used by everyone — residents and businesses alike. In order for everyone in the community to be able to utilize the containers to their full potential, all of us need to follow the recycling guidelines posted.

The primary issue right now tends to be plastic shopping bags placed in the recycling. Even if you bring your recyclables over in a plastic bag, they cannot be placed in the recycling containers because they interfere with the automatic

sorting at Re-Community. You may recycle your plastic shopping bags at Kroger, Target or most other grocery locations. Also, if you can break down your cardboard, that leaves more space for other recyclables, so tear apart that box and crunch it down before putting it in.

This great community recycling facility was made possible through a partnership with Project Green Fork, Get Green Recycleworks, First Congregational Church, Cooper-Young Community Association, Re-Community, Memphis & Shelby County Office of Sustainability and the UrbanArts Commission.



Margot McNeely (left) and Madeleine Edwards joined Siphne Sylve and volunteers to repaint the bins July 26.



Dr. Steven Tower talks pet safety at a community meeting June 11. Photo by Mark Morrison.

PETS, from Page 1

Health: Heartworm treatment is crucial, Tower said, and it's important to give pets their pill on the same day every month, without fail. Why? Because if you let the drug lapse by even a few days, your pet's not protected and the heartworms can build up a resistance to the medicine. That means it's possible to get a heartworm infestation, which is not only dangerous but can cost several hundred dollars for treatment. Pets should be checked once a year for heartworms and other types of parasites.

Distemper and bordetella shots are important for pets that will be around other animals or will be boarded.

And of course, in the words of Bob Barker, there is no more

important thing you can do for your pet than to have it spayed or neutered. As CYCA president June Hurt said, there's little reason to buy a puppy when stray dogs are so overpopulated they can be picked up off the street or out of shelters.

Cats: Tower had one simple rule for cats. "Keep them inside." Dangers for cats outdoors include cars, dogs, getting stuck in trees or tight spaces, catfights and feline AIDS. If it's not possible to keep them inside, get them spayed or neutered, keep their shots up to date and try to keep a breakaway collar on them.

- By David Royer

IN YOUR WORDS ...

What readers are saying on lamplighter.cooperyoung.org this month

In response to Langford Market, Wish, Addison opening in Cooper-Young May 31:

I am very glad that this space is going to be used, but I would love to see a local women's boutique at this spot instead. I know for a fact that this location was under an agreement for another local boutique, then broke that agreement to allow for Langford Market. Charlie Ryan should have to answer for that one.

Amanda Hill, May 24

In response to "Rusted recycling containers getting green new look":

As someone who walks by here on a daily basis, the new bins look great! Also, as someone who walks by here on a daily basis, pretty please try to keep your bottles brought for from falling & breaking on the ground. Nobody likes to walk on broken glass! :)

Jessica S., May 30

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#COOPERYOUNG

Here's what the Twittersphere had to say about Cooper-Young this month

Wish Cooper Young

@WishTN

Our NEW Wish store will open TODAY! Come see us! #wish #wishmemphis #newstore #cooperyoung #fashion
 June 1

Shannon Little

@shannonlittl

That means we HAVE to be getting an @hm next, right? MT @MBJAshby: 3 new national retailers opening in @cooperyoung
 June 1

Jonathan hill

@JHoustonHill

Dropped the car off at @TheHubAuto in @cooperyoung this morning. They couldn't have been nicer or more accommodating. Recommend!
 June 4

Seth King @sethmilesking

But really, there are multiple houses on our street

for sale and/or rent. So move on down to @cooperyoung. @choose901
 June 5

Brandy DeWeese, DNP

@Brandy_DeWeese

@cooperyoung has amenities for singles, couples, kids, seniors, travelers--everyone! Be my neighbor on Evelyn Ave. Wide st, cool folks!
 June 8

Marissa Lynn Croft

@MarissaCroft

I like @cooperyoung. I also like #freemusic. Therefore, I like this. [Red Hot Summer music festival]
 June 12

Nicole Brodie

@nicolechristel

They're opening up something called Greencork on my street. I have high hopes of it being a wine store. #cooperyoung
 June 22



Chinese Connection Dub Embassy bringing reggae to 4th of July Night Out

Celebrate the best holiday of the summer in Cooper Young at the First Thursday Night Out on July 4 from 5-9 p.m. Independent business owners will stay open late and offer discounts; plus, there is free live music all over the area.

At the gazebo this month is The Chinese Connection Dub Embassy, with their wild array of musical backgrounds from classical, R&B, gospel, heavy metal to hip-hop. Omar Higgins and Donnon "One Drop" hold the rhythm down that will take you to another zone of mental euphoria and a groove that you will feel deep in your soul.

Joseph "I-Dahan" Higgins and David "Dutch" Higgins bring heavy dub and



smooth melodies that will leave you speechless. John-Michael "Treefrog" brings the sultry vibes that will blow your mind. The Chinese Connection Dub Embassy has been called one of the hardest working reggae artists in the Mid South — come find out why.

Jazz combo Standby for Mars to hit Cooper-Young's gazebo July 3

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets, kiddies and pups and kick back at the gazebo for some free summer fun with Red Hot Summer music in Cooper-Young. Music is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. every Wednesday.

Kicking off July is Standby for Mars, a local jazz group that features a number of musicians from the University of Memphis and Rhodes College. Stylistically, they draw from their influence from funk, R&B, latin, and soul. Standby for Mars is an energetic assembly of young talent, eager to share the music they love with their audience.

- Cooper-Young Business Association

- Calendar of Performers:
- July 3 – Standby for Mars
 - July 10 – Cherry Brooks and Cal Jackson
 - July 17 – Sibella
 - July 24 – Side Street Steppers
 - July 31 – Blues City Brass
 - August 7 – VIP Combo Jazz
 - August 14 – Freedom Rock
 - August 21 – Underway Jazz
 - August 28 – School of Rock



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Topic

Saturday, August 17th
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Technique Class / Guided Meditation
8:30 - 11:30 AM
5:00 - 8:00 PM

Sunday, August 18th
Technique review
Q & A / Guided Meditation
8:30 - 11:30 AM
12:30 - 2:30 PM

Location
Delta Groove Yoga
2091 Madison Ave, Memphis TN 38104

Contact
901 286 2325
info@memphis.kriya.org

CY SOCIETY



Will Batts of Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center (from left) and Skip Ledbetter, Yeshua Holiday, Michelle Bliss, Jonathan Cole, and Herb Zeman of Tennessee Equality Project celebrate the Supreme Court's decision to strike down the Defense of Marriage Act June 26.



Kim Edmiston and Dana Bottenfield hosted a spring block party on Meda Street in May.

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CY VIEWS

Property owner speaks his mind to city council

An open letter to the Memphis City Council:

The house I live in has been in my family since 1937. My grandparents raised their baby here, my parents first raised their baby here, and my daughter first raised her baby here. The fact is that my people helped build Cooper-Young, starting with my great uncle in 1912, and we have maintained a continuous presence in the neighborhood for over a century — a legacy built upon our founding of the Levi Community of south Memphis in the mid-1800s.

I am proud to call Cooper-Young home, and prouder still of my neighbors for helping to make it one of the top ten neighborhoods in the country. I am not however, the least bit proud of the Memphis City Council or of your horrific mismanagement of our city as a whole.

Two weeks ago I was forced to make the heart wrenching decision to sell my home. It is the only way for me to crawl out of the quagmire of overdue city and county property taxes that I also inherited along with three family houses. Although I would be lucky to realize my asking price of \$67,500 for a property that is currently appraised for your tax purposes at \$125,900, this fact alone is not my chief complaint. I can appreciate the fact that we live in tough economic times and that the city obviously needs to generate revenue in order to function.

What I refuse to tolerate however, is the

fact that when a prospective home buyer logs on to any of the various MLS websites to research my property, they discover that the schools in my area rank an average of 3 on a scale of 10; that immediately west of McLean and south of Southern — only a few hundred feet from my door in either direction — property values plummet; that the crime risk for my area is triple the state and national average; and that 2,800 homes in my area are abandoned and boarded up.

How can you expect any reasonable person to have the slightest interest in my home when faced with these statistics?

How can you expect me to take seriously my civic duty of paying property taxes, when in reality all I am doing is dumping cash down your bottomless pit of urban blight?

It is time for this city to stop chasing the tail of white flight/suburban sprawl, and start re-investing in the inner city. Offer tax breaks for those who wish to invest, not tax penalties for those who improve their property. Stop accepting crime and blight as a natural aspect of urban life, and increase support of grass roots community organizations that attack these problems at their source. No one wants to live in a blighted community, but raising property taxes while continuing to mismanage the funds already at your disposal is not the answer.

Aaron James
1882 Manila Avenue

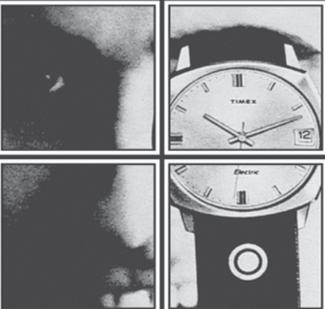
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EVENTS

Gospel Explosion concert at Playhouse

Gospel Entertainment will present True Glory Ministries along with Sonji Wright Savage and Sit Back and Relax Gospel Explosion, 5 p.m. July 7 at Playhouse on the Square, Union Avenue at Cooper Street.

Performances include Sonji Wright Savage/Sit Back and Relax, Historic /Jubilee Humming Birds, The Four Stars, Scott King, John Wayne Gardner, Andrew Know & New Change, Chrystal Ransom, Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church Mass Choir, King Darius Entertainment and Ricardo Harrison. Vendors include Larry Davis (free massages), Fashioned (jewelry) and Kay's Kreations (scented candles).

The event is sponsored by WLOK Radio (Delsa Fleming.) Tickets are \$15, available at the door.

Song Slinger Showdown at First Congo

Nancy Apple's Song Slinger Showdown will feature Ronny Elliott and Rebekah Pulley July 7 at Theatre South, 1000 S. Cooper St. Doors open at 6 p.m., showtime is 6:30. The show is over at 9 p.m., and there is an after-show meet and greet at Young Avenue Deli.

The Song Slinger Showdown is a monthly series produced by Nancy Apple that features internationally and nationally respected troubadours as well as Memphis musicians who fall in those ranks.

July showcases Ronny Elliott, highly respected among other songwriters. The same people who produced the Grammy-nominated tribute album on Peter Case are currently producing one on Ronny's songs. His songs are about Memphis, music history, love, iconic figures in history, good and bad, and often against war. Bio at www.ronnyelliott.com

Rebekah Pulley is someone you should know about. Her songs are potent shots of reality sugar coated in melodies that are the kind you wish you had found first. She writes songs about how nobody's cool anymore, and when you hear her, you know exactly what she's talking about. Bio at www.rebekahpulley.com.

Tickets are \$10 and are sold at the door. Seats can also be reserved by sending a message via the event's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/events/199553450196849>.

Experience Brazilian choro music

Memphis Acoustic Music Association presents Choro das 3, 7 p.m. July 10 at First Congregational Church, 1000 S. Cooper.

Choro is the music of Rio de Janeiro that gave rise to bossa nova and samba, blending the influences of European court music, Amer-



Upcoming Midtown events include (clockwise from left) a gospel concert with Sonji Wright at Playhouse July 7, Rebekah Pulley with Ronny Elliott at First Congo July 7, Choro das 3 July 10 and "The Color Purple" at Playhouse July 14.

ican jazz, Eastern European polkas and Klezmer music, West African rhythms, Italian mandolins, Russian 7-string guitars, and marching bands.

Choro das 3 is a Brazilian trio formed in 2003 by three sisters from the state of Sao Paulo. Despite their youth, they have amassed an amazing number of achievements, playing for audiences large (over a million) and small (for President Lula da Silva.) They've garnered numerous national awards in a country that takes its music very seriously, performed for audiences in Europe and Japan, and are now headed to the U.S. for their first tour of North America. Choro das 3 released their debut CD in 2008, following up with "Escorregando" in 2012. World-renowned mandolinist Mike Marshall says that Choro das 3 plays with "the highest level of musicianship and presentation... the highest quality of Brazilian Choro music that can be heard any place today."

Concert tickets are available at The Booksellers at Laurelwood or online: <http://mama-cd-3concert.eventbrite.com/> \$20 adults / \$10 students.

Musicians of all ages and on all acoustic instruments are welcome to join Choro das



3 for an afternoon workshop to learn how to play choro, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the church, for \$25. Workshop registration (online only): <http://mama-cd3workshop.eventbrite.com>.

Java Cabana hosting music in July

Java Cabana, 2170 Young Ave., has released its July music schedule

July 5, Wolves Like Sheep; July 6, Steve Smith; July 10, Keith Campbell; July 13, Steve Lockwood & John Chambliss; July 20, Mark Allen; July 26, Nathan Bonnes & Zeke Johnson; July 27, Jeff Ruby. Find events at javacabana-coffeehouse.com.

Playhouse presents 'The Color Purple'

The Color Purple, a musical adaptation of Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, is at Playhouse on the Square through July 14. It is the story of Celie, a downtrodden young woman who, through love, finds strength and her own unique voice despite a lifetime of abuse and adversity. With a score filled with jazz, ragtime, blues and gospel, The Color Purple is a celebration of the healing power of love and the human will to persevere. Nominated for 11 Tony Awards in 2006 including Best Musical and Best Original Score.

The Color Purple runs Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. There is no performance on July 4. Playhouse on the Square is located at 66 S. Cooper St. For more information or to make reservations, please call 726-4656 or purchase tickets online at playhouseon-the-square.org.

Tillinghast to sign books at Burke's Book Store

Richard Tillinghast will return to Burke's Book Store from 5 to 6:30 p.m. July 18 to sign copies of his new book, An Armchair Traveler's History of Istanbul (Haus Publications, \$19.95 hardcover). Reading will begin at 6 p.m.

The great crossroads, Istanbul has absorbed several millennia of different influences; it is both modern and ancient, fluid and constant. Tillinghast's poetic consideration of it won the Ondaatje Prize from the Royal Society of Literature. "The wealth of historical information in An Armchair Traveller's History of Istanbul is conveyed in Tillinghast's engaging voice and vision. It feels like a collection of fascinating, rich stories of the city, delivered by a brilliant friend," said Maria Browning, in Nashville's The City Paper. Tillinghast has published eight collections of poems, along with a critical memoir of Robert Lowell and two books of essays. A native of Memphis, and part-time Sewanee resident, he currently lives in rural Ireland. For information contact Corey Mesler at 278-7484.

Green exhibit at David Perry Smith Gallery

David Perry Smith Gallery, 703 New York St., will present "Green," an exploration of the spirit of flora and the natural world through paintings, curated by intern Natalie Brashear, a student of Art History at Wake Forest University, through July 31. The exhibition will open with a reception from 6-8 p.m. July 5. For information check davidperrysmithgallery.com or call 606-9690.

ATTRACTIONS

Chucalissa in the summer – It's not just for school trips

By Samantha Gibbs

It is the beginning of another hot summer in Memphis when schools are out and people begin to take vacations. As the summer season progresses, tourists travel from all over the nation and globe to visit Memphis to sample our delicious food and take in famous sites such as Graceland or Beale Street. These are places rich in history and are a great visit for anyone. However, Memphis is also full of hidden treasures that offer a wide variety of learning experiences such as the C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa.

Many museums in Memphis provide information on the city's history. The C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa provides a unique view of Memphis history with various exhibits that interpret Native American culture from 1000 A.D. to 1500 A.D.

Chucalissa is both a museum and an archaeological site, discovered in 1933. At that time, the City of Memphis was constructing a park designated for the African-American population known today as T.O. Fuller State Park. The city recruited Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers to assist in developing attractions in the park including a swimming pool. When the development process began for the pool, the workers found an extensive amount of artifacts. Many of the artifacts were some of the remains left behind by Native Americans. This led to the creation of the Chucalissa Indian Village museum in 1956. Memphis State took over operation of the site in 1962 and now known as the C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa, named after the first museum director.

During the 1970s and 1980s, the museum featured exhibits including replica houses, a burial mound and visible residential mounds. Visitors were allowed to walk in and around these exhibits, which allowed an in depth view of Native American life and funeral practices. The burial mound closed in the early 1990s due to NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) legislation. Due to deterioration and decay from age, the replica houses were removed in the late 1990s. This marked a new era for Chucalissa and allowed the museum to develop new programming and evaluate remaining exhibits.

Today the C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa continues to operate under the University of Memphis. In fact, most of



The C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa provides a unique view of Memphis' Native American history. Here kids learn about Native American drums at the southwest Memphis museum, once home to the area's original inhabitants. Photo by Johna Likins

the employees are students, faculty or alumni of the university. Their duties include designing exhibits and programs, providing tours for groups and visitors and working with volunteers. Each staff member is dedicated to ensure a fun and educational experience for visitors. A tour includes an introduction video, a trip into history by way of an exhibit hallway once known as the Hall of the Sinti (a Choctaw word for "snake"), a hands-on look at Native American artifacts in the Hands-On Archaeology lab, an exhibit dedicated to the history of Southwest Memphis and a scenic tour of the grounds.

The grounds include a medicinal herb garden that showcases various plants once used by Native Americans for medicine and food. There is also a mound complex including a platform mound once occupied by a ruler of a Native American community. A concrete path encompasses the complex allowing visitors to closely examine the mounds. Visitors are then encouraged to explore the half-mile-long nature trail that features more plants species once used by Native Americans.

In addition to educating the public about Native Amer-

ican pre-historical life, the museum actively participates in community engagement. Community engagement has the potential for a variety of meanings, but for the staff at Chucalissa it means collaborating with organizations and individuals on projects. These projects vary from installing a permanent exhibit at the museum to developing a community garden. There are also many opportunities for the public to get involved in museum projects. Opportunities include: artifact analysis and inventory, work in various gardens and much more.

By working with Chucalissa, a person is not viewed as just a volunteer or community member, but an essential part of museum staff.

During these dog days of summer, be sure to stop by Chucalissa to learn about a part of Memphis history. For information about volunteer opportunities, upcoming events and everyday life at the museum check out the museum's website at www.memphis.edu/chucalissa or their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/chucalissa.

The museum is located at 1987 Indian Village Drive in T.O. Fuller State Park. The phone number is 901-785-3160.

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Edith Chumney Russell had deep Cooper-Young roots



(LEFT) Edith Russell is seen second from left with her parents. (ABOVE, BELOW) Childhood photos of Russell. (BELOW LEFT) Russell at age 82.



Edith Mae Chumney Russell
February 5, 1923 – May 12, 2013

In February 1923 a baby girl, Edith Mae, was the third child born to George M. and Callie Duck Chumney, who lived in the Cooper-Young neighborhood at 2002 Manila. Mr. Chumney worked for the U S Postal Railway Mail Service.

When Edith was six months old the family moved to Arlington, Tennessee, and soon the family increased with births of another daughter and son. The Chumneys now had five children to raise and they were James, Mary, Edith, Melba and Calvin. Mother Callie took good care of them when their father was away at work sorting mail on the train in time to pass it quickly to stations along the train route as the moving train passed by.

In 1930 Edith attended Arlington Elementary School and was recognized in second grade as an outstanding student. The Chumneys lived next door to the Church of Christ and their preacher's daughter was Edith's playmate. At 10 years old the family moved back to Memphis and lived on Watauga near Memphis State College. Edith and her younger sister and brother attended the campus "Training School" and went on to Messick for high school where she was a straight-A student.

Edith graduated from Messick in 1941. Her older brother, James, with his wife and two small sons, lived a few streets away and Edith had the opportunity to babysit for them in her teenage years. One nephew, Dr. James Chumney, has fond memories of his two aunts keeping him at his grandparent's Watauga home while the aunts played and danced to the 1940 popular hits. He liked to run away from home to his grandparent's house to have fun and get special attention from his favorite aunts — Edith and Melba Chumney.

The George Chumney family decided during World War II to return to the Cooper-Young area across the street from Peabody School at 2083 Young Ave. After graduation Edith began her work as a bookkeeper

and payroll clerk and eventually she met her husband, Clifford Marcus Russell, who worked with Moorman's Upholstery. They lived on Vernon Avenue and had two children — Robin and Randy Russell. As the children grew the Russell family moved to Whitehaven.

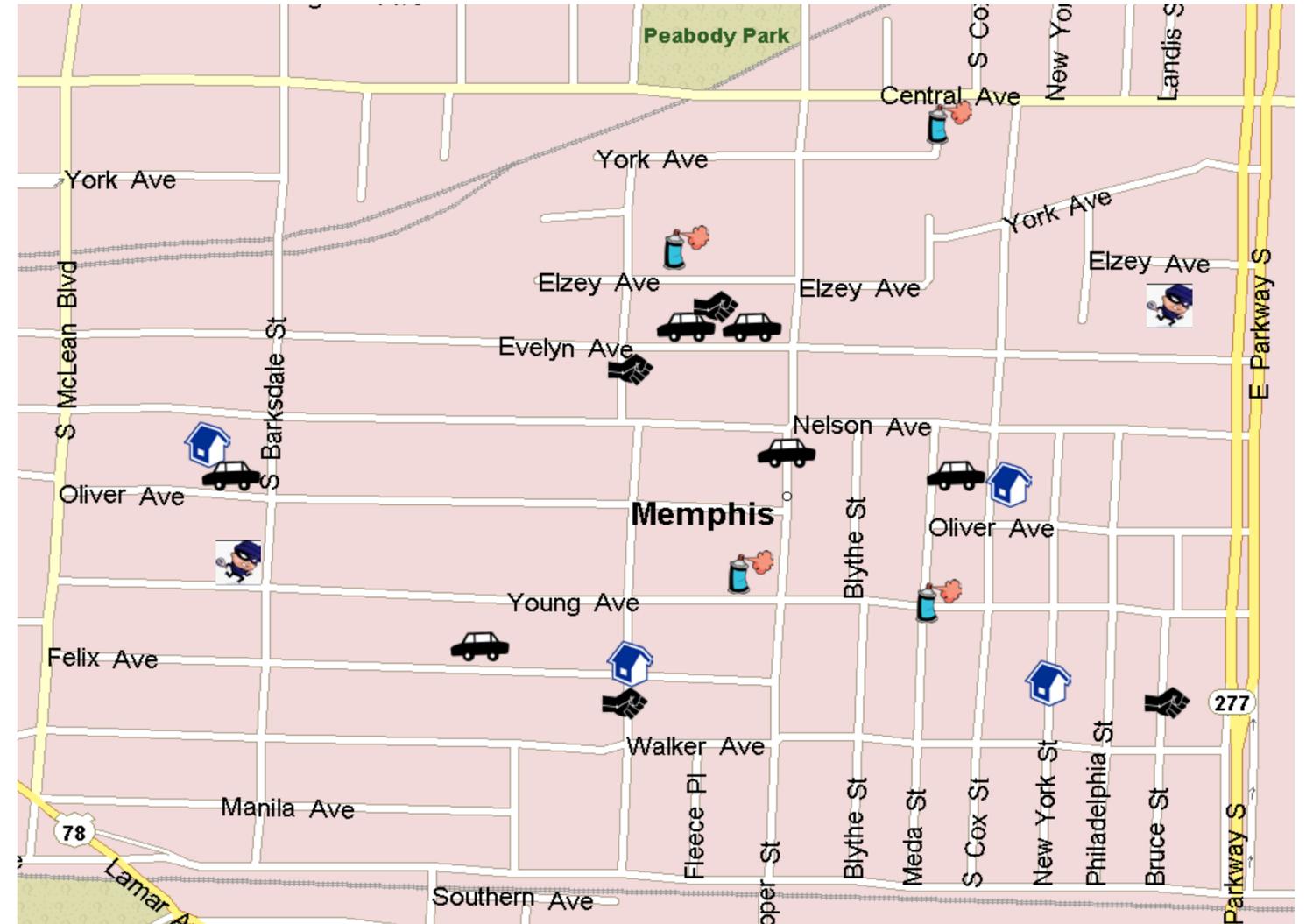


Robin married Sid Combs and they settled into a home on Metcalf Place. Randy went to Texas, married and had two sons. Presently he is retired and lives in San Antonio, Texas. After Clifford's death in 1975, Edith decided to relocate her residence to be closer to her

daughter Robin. In 1980 she bought a house at 2050 Evelyn and was happy to be back in the Cooper-Young community. After working in an office for many years she decided to become a Realtor, which was a good choice for her. She sold homes to many folks during her later years helped the neighborhood where she participated in many activities.

All during her life she was most interested in local and national political activities and was proud to be a Republican. She kept herself most informed and from time to time she wrote letters to the editor of The Commercial Appeal about various issues. Her signature was always Edith Chumney Russell and she seemed to enjoy privately chiding her great niece, Carol Chumney, for supporting the "wrong" political party. She urged Carol to change and be a Republican like many of the Chumneys. However, Carol could always count on "Aunt Edith" for loving support in her local political campaigns. Edith Russell's interest in people and politics served to keep her mind active until her death at 89 years old.

Reported by Edith Chumney Russell's nephew, James R. Chumney, Ph.D., June 12, 2013



20 Cases	Date	Description	Arrest	Address
1306012752ME	6/21/2013	Assault		2100 Evelyn
1306010485ME	6/19/2013	Auto Theft/Parts/Acc.		900 Meda
1306008630ME	6/15/2013	Burglary		1000 Tanglewood
1306007732ME	6/14/2013	Burglary		1900 Oliver
1306007400ME	6/13/2013	Theft Other		1900 Young
1306005691ME	6/10/2013	Assault		1000 Tanglewood
1306004835ME	6/9/2013	Burglary		1000 New York
1306005023ME	6/9/2013	Vandalism		2200 Central
1306002942ME	6/6/2013	Assault	Yes	5700 Tanglewood
1306003008ME	6/6/2013	Auto Theft/Parts/Acc.		2100 Evelyn
1306001585ME	6/4/2013	Auto Theft/Parts/Acc.		2000 Felix
1306001285ME	6/3/2013	Auto Theft/Parts/Acc.		2100 Evelyn
1306000398ME	6/1/2013	Theft Other		2300 Evelyn
1305018162ME	5/31/2013	Auto Theft/Parts/Acc.		1800 Oliver
1305019107ME	5/31/2013	Vandalism		2100 Elzey
1305017562ME	5/30/2013	Assault		1000 Bruce
1305018077ME	5/30/2013	Auto Theft/Parts/Acc.		1900 Oliver
1305017941ME	5/30/2013	Burglary		900 Cox
1305016636ME	5/28/2013	Vandalism		2100 Young
1305016726ME	5/28/2013	Vandalism		2200 Young

Crimes reported
May 23-June 24, 2013
Map compiled by Ben Boleware

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. The list includes the case number, which you can use to get more details from police. The information is also available online at lamplighter.cooperyoung.org, with a link to further information from police.

The Memphis Police Department offers a tool on its website (memphis-police.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 the results of your search for the previous 30 days.

- Robbery**
- Assault**
- Burglary**
- Auto Theft/Parts/Acc.**
- Theft Other**
- Narcotics**
- Vandalism**

This Reading Life: Life too short to read bad books

My name is Corey and I am a reader of fiction. In my previous column here I invited a conversation about books, about what you're reading and why. About why we pick the books we do when, in picking one, we are excluding multitudes of others. Every choice means opting out of a million "other paths." Which leads me to agree with Borges: heaven must be an endless library.

And this: I own more books than I have time left to read.

This is depressing. I don't have time for cooking or chess or spelunking or collecting Matchbox and Corgi cars (something I actually would like to do...seriously), reality TV shows, or movies with anyone who used to be a pro wrestler, or books about things I care nothing about, and these things are legion: macramé, rap music, reimagining real people as vampire killers, right wing or religious whoopla disguised as fiction, candling, graphic junky stories, memoirs by 15 year-old pop stars, to name just a few. In other words, with what is left of an allotted time on Spaceship Earth, I make reading decisions based on what I believe I will like. One can never be sure, of course. I used to never abandon a book once started. My wife kept telling me, "Life is too short for bad books." (She also says this about bad movies, bad food, bad fashion choices and toxic friends.)

So, I am starting to see things her way. I will usually give a



By Corey Mesler

book 100 pages and if it hasn't engaged me totally I move on. Sometimes, when I am feeling fully self-possessed, I may quit after only 50 pages. My message to authors I abandon: come on, I gave you 50 pages!

Too much choice can lead to ADD reading. I had a friend who jumped from book to book, never finishing any of them. 30 pages of Heller, 50 pages of Atwood, 65 pages of a bio of Marilyn Monroe, 25 pages of the essays of Annie Dillard. If every choice means things unchosen, things that, who knows?, may change your life for the better, what do we rely on to get the right books into our hands? Fate,

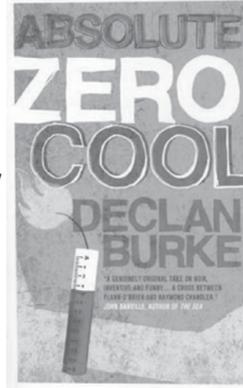
God, tarot, Uri Geller, Joel Osteen, voodoo? Of course, since the whole world is online now — the Internet as Athenian Democracy, as Supreme Council — there are book sites where you can share recommendations. This is the global village approach to "What do I read next?" I like it, of course. I also like independent bookstores. Surprise! Talk to the clerk in a good independent bookstore. It's a real turn-on.

At the end of my last column I put my personal email, inviting a dialog on reading. I meant it. I only got two responses. One was from a nice woman whose father, an author, used to be my next door neighbor. And the other from the author Declan Burke, thanking me for plugging his wonderful novel, Absolute Zero Cool, in the column. I couldn't imagine how a man living in Ireland could see my mention of his book in

my neighborhood newspaper. He explained to me that the LampLighter is also online. Huh, I think I said. Imagine that. The long and short of it is that we are now friends and this is a grand thing, an enriching thing. Here is something elevating I got from Absolute Zero Cool: "The brain is the laziest organ in the body. It is never more content than when allowing ideas to circulate along established orbits. It is a creature of habit that loves grooves, ruts and well-worn furrows, and excels at conjuring up the cheap tricks and delusions that reduce the necessity for forging new paths through the trackless universe of the imagination." He's smart, my new friend, Declan, isn't he?

But, today still, I put my email at the end of the column and I invite your opinions on books. Or just tell me what you're reading, or what you want to read. Or ask me a question. I also love reading lists (well, I love lists of all stripe because being listless is anathema to me) so send me some recommendations, also. Ok? And, what, you are asking, am I reading now? Fernando Pessoa's The Book of Disquiet. Corey at coreyjmesler@gmail.com.

Thanks for letting me into your homes.



Maxwell: Be careful what you wish for

By Dr. D. Jackson Maxwell

For the first time in more than 140 years, all the reins of government in Tennessee are controlled by a single party. The Republicans control both houses of the legislature and the governorship. Beyond this, they have a super majority in both houses of the legislature that renders Democratic opposition virtually moot. In this reality, Tennessee state government has put Memphis and Shelby County in their cross-hairs concerning educational issues and in particular, the unification of the school systems. This has brought about some serious consequences in regards to those who educate our children.

One of the key tenets of the Republican ascension to power was the breaking of typically Democratic-leaning labor organizations. This is understandable since these organizations have traditionally provided support, funding and votes for Democratic candidates. Oddly, while definitely supporting the Democratic Party teacher organizations, such as the state-level Tennessee Education Association and the local Memphis Education Association and Shelby Education Association, are not even unions — they are associations. These teacher associations do not possess the right to strike — a key facet of being a union. The only powers that these teacher organizations wielded was the right to collectively bargain for fair compensation and a grievance procedure for teachers who had a disagreement with their administrators. These have been subverted.

Teachers pay and compensation have become matters of debate. Ironically, teachers will no longer be compensated based upon earning advanced degrees or completing national-

ly recognized certifications such as National Board for Professional Teachers (NBPT) Certification. Completing the rigorous NBPT Certification process will no longer be rewarded despite reams of research showing that students of NBPT routinely out perform their non-NBPT peers by a wide margin. Four years of college is now enough. Additional scholarly pursuits such as master's degrees, education specialists, and doctorates are no longer valued. What message are politicians sending our children? Being a lifelong learner deserves no financial compensation or rewards?

The all-out assault on teachers have accomplished little more than to drive morale to the lowest level on record. Wisconsin, under Governor Scott Walker, provided the blueprint which is now being enacted by our legislature and rubber stamped by our governor. Dismantle teachers unions/ associations so the state government can freely dictate what will be taught, how it will be taught, and by whom it will be taught. Interestingly, most of these politicians dictating these "reforms" have no direct classroom experience or for that matter educational experience other than attending school and college decades ago. A dangerous precedent is being set here where political might is trumping instructional knowledge and practical education experience.

What is the cost? The teaching profession, which already has a 45 percent attrition rate for new teachers within five years, will surely suffer even greater losses. Eager idealists who go into the teaching profession to change the world and make a positive difference will now choose another, less regulated profession. Already, there are far too few qualified educators

being matriculated by our nation's universities. As politicians, ignorant of effective educational practices continue to meddle in local education affairs and limit teachers' rights this dire situation will only grow worse.

So where do we stand? While the two systems are merging there remains much disagreement. Although it now appears that both Memphis City and Shelby County will be a part of the new unified system for at least the 2013-2014 school year, the municipality schools are looking to leave as soon as possible. Thus, the future of a unified Shelby County School system is in limbo. The facts are that this effort to disengage from a unified system was aided by the Republican-controlled legislature and governorship. As an aside, it will be interesting seeing our brethren in the municipalities grapple with astronomically increased property taxes to finance their independent systems. These financial realities will be necessary if they wish to retain the experienced, well educated, highly qualified teachers that help maintain their schools' success. Based on my conversations with a number of these teachers, they are not willing to take big pay or benefit cuts just to stay in a municipal school. So how and with whom will you staff these schools?

While many of our fellow citizens across the state wanted a more proactive, conservative government to remedy amongst other things perceived educational woes, they also wanted to maintain local control of their school systems. In my opinion, they may soon find they got something quite different than what they bargained for. Be careful what you wish for. It will be interesting to see how this plays out.

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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HEALTH



Why choose massage?

By Larrie Rodriguez

The interest in massage therapy has steadily increased in the last 20 years and is no longer considered a luxury. It is an antidote to stress, a powerful way to relax, encourages you to breathe deeply and eases out the tension found in tight muscles.

Massage therapy encompasses the manipulation of soft tissues that not only feels good, but also provides numerous therapeutic benefits for your health and well-being. According to The American Massage Therapy Association, recent research has shown the effectiveness of massage for helping the following (but not limited to):

- Low back pain
- High blood pressure
- Frequent headaches
- Post-operative pain
- Carpal tunnel syndrome
- Immune system functioning
- Pain and fatigue in cancer patients

There are many styles of massage so it's important to find a licensed massage therapist that offers the style that best fits your needs, in order for you to get the most from your session. It's always important to consult with your doctor before you receive a massage, especially if you have certain medical conditions.

So, what are you waiting for? For the cost of a meal or two out at your favorite restaurant, you can get a massage and invest in yourself.

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

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FOOD

Three-bean salad offers flavorful vegetarian option



From the Kitchen of Kathy Katz, Cooper Street 20/20:

THREE BEAN SALAD

Yields 12 -8 oz. servings

- 2 cans Whole Kernel Corn
- 2 cans Dark Red Kidney Beans
- 2 cans Black Beans
- 2 cans White (Navy) Beans
- 1/4 cup Fresh Chopped Cilantro

- Vinaigrette:
- Juice of 1 Lime
 - 1/4 cup Olive Oil
 - 2 tablespoons Balsamic Vinegar
 - 1-2 tablespoons Honey
 - 2 cloves Garlic, Chopped
 - 2 teaspoons Cumin
 - 1 teaspoon Ginger
 - 1/8 teaspoon Cloves
 - 1/8 teaspoon Cinnamon
 - 1/4 teaspoon Chili Powder
 - 1/4 teaspoon Turmeric
 - Salt and Pepper to taste

Whisk all vinaigrette ingredients, add above and stir. Chill overnight and serve.

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Liz Royer keeping Cooper-Young connected

By Renee Massey

The last two years have been bittersweet for Cooper-Young Community Association leadership. While several board members who had contributed years of service and countless hours to the association and to its members chose to take a break from their duties to focus on other aspects of their lives, this has made room for fresh faces and fresh ideas to step in and invigorate the neighborhood association. The CYCA is happy to announce that one such fresh face is that of Liz Royer, our new chairperson for the CYCA Block Club program. Liz brings an enthusiasm and excitement to the job that will be perfect for enlivening the program that brings neighbors together, and she was kind enough to make time to answer questions so that you can get to know her and the program she'll be piloting.

Liz and her husband David Royer, editor of *LampLighter* and a copy editor at *The Commercial Appeal*, moved back to Memphis in 2011. Citing the neighbors, architecture, and restaurants, she says they knew in advance that Cooper-Young was the hometown neighborhood for them. With their three dogs, cat, and three ducks, not to mention their many contributions to the neighborhood vibe (the Royers have been spotted at community meetings, first Thursday music events, and as contestants at the chili cook-off.), it definitely looks like a good fit. Liz even works for a local Midtown company that values community involvement.

So what is Liz's new role all about? The CYCA Block Club program is a program where residents team up with others on their block under the direction of a "block captain" or maybe even "block co-captains." The designation is casual and in essence indicates the neighbor who has agreed to be the organizer of that block "club." What does a block club do? Involvement varies, and Liz's new role will



Liz Royer, a resident since 2011, aims to keep neighbors active and engaged, to prevent crime and blight.

This year's National Night Out is Aug. 6. That's only a month away, so start planning your block's party today.

be, as she put it, "to encourage these clubs to stay active and keep in touch with old neighbors while reaching out to new ones." The block club captains are Liz's point of contact for each club.

The big CYCA Block Club event every year is National Night Out, and all clubs are encouraged to plan a porch-lights-on, front-yard party for Aug. 6. According to www.natw.org, the website for National Association of Town Watch, National Night Out started in 1984 "to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie, and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back." In Cooper-Young, we take the secu-

urity and safety of our residents and visitors seriously, and National Night Out is one way to support that initiative. It's also just a darn good excuse to hang out with the neighbors you know, meet some neighbors you don't yet know, and share food and drink.

Keep in mind, though, that National Night Out isn't the end of it. Your new Block Club chairwoman noted, "Staying connected with your neighbors is the easiest way to fight crime and blight and keep Cooper-Young a safe and beautiful neighborhood. And it's fun to meet new people!" Your block club might choose to have parties throughout the year, organize a safety watch group for your street, take shifts to get food to an ill neighbor, create a "phone tree" for certain events, train for disaster response, or organize periodic clean-ups of an adjacent alley. Be creative and have fun!

While Liz is currently busy organizing and updating the database of block clubs, she's

also promoting the use of cooper-young. nextdoor.com. "It's like Facebook, but just for Cooper-Young residents, and people are already using it to find out what's going around them."

If you want to get involved, consider becoming your block's captain. According to Liz, "Every block needs a captain to get the party started. If you want to be one, or find out who is your block's captain, contact me at lizzroyer@gmail.com or message me through nextdoor.com."

And be sure to thank Liz for volunteering her time and skills to help make Cooper-Young the special place it is!

The CYCA Block Club program is just one more way your community association works towards our purpose: to make Cooper-Young a safer, more desirable place to live, worship, work, and play. You can support the Block Club program and other CYCA activities by becoming a member. Join online at <http://www.cooperyoung.org/>, by completing the membership form in this paper, by calling our Executive Director at 901-272-CYCA (2922), or by stopping in during office hours at 2298 Young Ave. Life is good in Cooper-Young!

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Liz (S Cox St) writes: "Our neighborhood is using a private online network called Nextdoor Cooper-Young, and we think you'll benefit from joining us. On our Nextdoor site, neighbors share community events, recommendations, items for sale/free, crime/safety concerns, ideas about how to make our neighborhood better, and more. Please join us to build a better neighborhood! Liz Royer CY Neighborhood Block Chairman"



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