



**SUMMERTIME, AND THE READING IS EASY**  
Corey Mesler of Burke's Books shares his top summer reading list. // Page 10

# LampLighter

Cooper-Young — Many Voices, One Community

## NewsBriefs

### Cycle Memphis celebrates with ride

This month's Cycle Memphis ride will begin at 7 p.m. July 7 at the gazebo at Cooper Street and Young Avenue. The medium-paced ride will span 15 miles with a break in the middle. Bring lights, helmets, bike tube and tools.

July marks the group's one year anniversary. Cycle Memphis events are held on the first Saturday of the month. Find out more at [www.facebook.com/cyclememphis](http://www.facebook.com/cyclememphis).

### Celebrate the Planet festival set for July 7



Celebrate the Planet from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, July 7, for an all-day celebration behind Painted Planet Artspace, 798 S. Cooper.

There will be face painters, hula hooping, games, kids' music, and other "kid friendly" things from 11 to 3 p.m. For the teens and adults, there will be lots of music with bluegrass, country, praise, and blues playing all day and into early evening, and a jam session from 3-6 where everyone's welcome to bring their instrument and jam.

Painted Planet Artspace's favorite artists will paint live and create jewelry live, as well. At 6:30, the Battle of the Bands begins with rock, metal, praise, rap, alternative, country and blues artists competing, with the top three bands winning free recording at our studio. First-place winner records an entire CD, with artwork, band photos and a CD release party at our expense.

Lots more prizes have generously been given for first place. You won't get hungry, because they'll have great food and drink at great prices.

Bring your family, friends, lawn chairs and sunscreen, and get ready to Celebrate the Planet at this all-day blast, directly behind Painted Planet, at 798 S Cooper. Call us if you're a musician, artist, or vendor who'd like to be part of this fun event, or if you need more info, at 725-0054.

NEWS BRIEFS CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



## FORMER LAMPLIGHTER EDITOR FINDS FOOTING AS NOVELIST

BY DAVID ROYER

From a California olive grove to the mist-shrouded Blue Ridge Mountains to the muddy Mississippi Delta, writer Courtney Miller Santo has set down roots in some of the most fertile literary ground in the country.

When the journalist-turned-novelist landed in Memphis in 2005 after bouncing from her hometown on the West Coast to college in the East, she quickly settled with her husband and two children in the neighborhood that most felt like home.

"It was the most 'Portland' neighborhood that we could find," the Oregon native said of her time in Cooper-Young, where she spent almost three years as editor of the *LampLighter* from October 2005 to July 2008.

Now Santo, who works as the creative writing program administrator at the University of Memphis, has dug deep into her family lore to find the backdrop for her first novel, *The*

*Roots of the Olive Tree*, which is set for release nationwide Aug. 21.

It's the story of 112-year-old family matriarch Anna Keller, who is attempting to become the world's oldest woman, and her female relatives, who live together in a

**Find out more about Courtney Miller Santo and *The Roots of the Olive Tree* at [courtneysanto.com](http://courtneysanto.com).**

house on a Northern California farm. Santo patterned the characters after the women in her own family, including her 104-year-old great-grandmother Winnie.

Santo, who noted her grandmother still kayaks at age 80, said she wanted to craft a story that showed that women didn't just die off sometime in middle age.

"I have all of these amazing women in my

family," she said. "I just knew I wanted to write a story about these women, and generations of women."

She also joked that her work on a long-form novel might convince her husband — University of Memphis planning professor Charles Santo — to do more work around the house while she was in graduate school.

But *The Roots of the Olive Tree* almost didn't see the light of day. Santo entered it in the Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award last year — she didn't win, but when a literary agent read the text on Amazon's website, she found herself with a book deal on the line with publisher William Morrow and a West Coast book tour to follow.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

(above) Courtney Santo, a Memphis author, Midtown resident and former *LampLighter* editor, scored a publishing deal for her new novel, "The Roots of the Olive Tree," which will be released in August.

**PAGE 08 AUCTION ACTION**  
The annual Art for Art's Sake Auction at Young Avenue Deli raises big money for the neighborhood, in its usual funky fashion.

**PAGE 14 PATRIOT GAMES** Hollywood takes on the Fourth of July and America's flag-waving pride, with results ranging from Red Dawn to Rambo. Which will rate Top Gun?

**PAGE 16 CAUSE FOR ALARM**  
A rash of recent thefts from vehicles hits the streets, police report. But a few simple safety tips may help kick the criminals to the curb.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



I'm late. I've actually been late all month. I've been late writing letters about important city stuff, late following up on issues I've been working on for months, late returning calls, late to meetings, late to heavy bag classes, late to dinner, and now, after a friendly reminder from our Lamp-

Lighter editor, late writing my monthly letter to you.

I'd love to just blame it on the summer heat shorting out my frazzled brain, but the truth is that I probably need to take the time to relax and refocus on what is important, which is enjoying my neighborhood for the wonderfully eccentric and diverse collection of people that it is.

This means that I try harder to remember people's names rather than referring to them by their pet's breed or name, street block and house color, sinkhole location, what they found hidden in their walls or in their backyard, number of chickens owned or their preference for or against speed bumps. Wish me luck on that one.

The Art for Art's Sake Auction has come and gone, and I'm pretty sure that it was a success. Still waiting on those final numbers, but I'm optimistic. Next up is the Cooper-Young Fourth of July Parade on July 4th at 10 a.m. at Peabody Elementary.

We are working with the CY Parents Network to pull off this kid-friendly parade, ending with our firefighter friends showing up and opening up a hydrant for some cool fun in the sun. If you don't have a kid, decorate your bike or your dog and come anyway. It's all about community! See you there ~ June Hurt

## IMPORTANT DATES

**July 4:** CY Fourth of July Parade, 10 a.m. to noon

**July 10:** CYCA General Meeting, 7 p.m., CYCA office, 2298 Young Ave. Topic: Pet safety, with guest speaker from the Red Cross.

**July 17:** CYCA board meeting, 7 p.m., CYCA office, 2298 Young Ave.

**July 26:** Communications Committee meeting, 7 p.m., CYCA office, 2298 Young Ave.

**July 30:** Safety Committee meeting, 7 p.m., CYCA office, 2298 Young Ave.

## STAY LINKED WITH THE LAMPLIGHTER

Keep current on Cooper-Young events, news and neighborhood notices.

**It's your neighbors, online, all the time.**



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**Interesting in advertising in the LampLighter?** 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. Call Susan today at 901-652-7092 or email her at [ads@cooperyoung.org](mailto:ads@cooperyoung.org)

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## DEADLINES FOR THE MARCH LAMPLIGHTER

**ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS:** June 15  
**ADVERTISING COPY:** June 16  
**DISTRIBUTION BEGINNING:** June 29  
Please send all articles and submissions to [LampLighter@cooperyoung.org](mailto:LampLighter@cooperyoung.org). For advertising rate sheet, or to submit ads electronically, please email [ads@cooperyoung.org](mailto:ads@cooperyoung.org).

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**Cooper-Young Business Association**  
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### CYCA BOARD OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	June Hurt
<b>Vice-President</b>	April Boleware
<b>Secretary</b>	Andy Ashby
<b>Treasurer</b>	Kevin Ritz

### CYCA COMMITTEE HEADS

<b>Beautification</b>	Demetrius Boyland
<b>Beer Fest</b>	Andy Ashby
<b>Block Clubs</b>	April Boleware
<b>Building</b>	Debbie Sowell
<b>Code Awareness</b>	Amanda Ball
<b>Communications</b>	Patrick Miller
<b>Festival 4-Miler</b>	Richard Coletta, Michael Ham, Chris McHaney, Libby Flynt
<b>Finance</b>	Jason Word
<b>Safety</b>	Sarah Frierson
<b>Membership</b>	Renee Massey

<b>At-Large Board Members</b>	Jason Word, Mark Morrison
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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.*

## Manicured lawn on Walker wins honor



The first thing you'll notice as you pass by 1858 Walker Ave. is the perfectly manicured grass. You immediately know that the owners take a lot of time and effort in maintaining such a lush and tidy yard.

**At any give time, you may see two or three kids playing in the front yard while mom watches.**

But besides the putting green-quality lawn, the owners, who didn't want to be named, have added nice touches such as a small cut-out in the front corner. It is bordered by stone and filled with healthy hostas.

Along their fence line is a row of lovely yellow climbing roses. There are two small pine trees that anchor both sides of the yard and an even smaller evergreen that lines up nicely with the front porch steps.

Gladiolus and lillies are in the beds. At any give time, you may see two or three kids playing in the front yard while mom watches. The family has been in the house since 1995 and say they enjoy Cooper-Young because of the friendly neighborhood and neighbors.

Dad is usually working and mom, a transplant from New York, surprisingly can take the heat; this is a sure sign she is now a true Southerner. - Sydney Ashby

Thank you to Midtown Nursery for sponsoring Yard of the Month. Stop by, grab a few things and you might be next month's Yard of the Month recipient.

  
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## NewsBriefs

### Record stores rate high in Rolling Stone

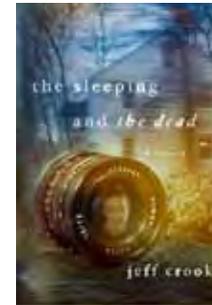


Two Memphis purveyors of vinyl records made the cut in Rolling Stone's list of the 30 best record stores in the country. Cooper-Young's own Goner Records, which is both a store at 2152 Young Ave. and a record label specializing in garage and punk acts such as Jay Reatard, placed at No. 8 on the list. Goner was founded in 1993 and moved to Cooper-Young in 2004.

Also listed at No. 29 was Shangri-La Records on Madison, which specializes in Memphis records as well as other genres.

The list is on [rollingstone.com](http://rollingstone.com).

### Novelist signing new book at Burke's



Memphian Jeff Crook will be at Burke's Book Store 5:30-6:30 p.m. July 9 to read from and sign copies of his new mystery novel, *The Sleeping and the Dead* (Minotaur Books, \$24.99 hardback). Reading will begin at 6 p.m.

The publisher describes this as "a new mystery series starring Jackie Lyons, a Memphis crime scene photographer with ghostly assistance." As Jackie works to separate natural from supernatural, friend from foe, and light from dark, the spirit world and her own difficult past become the only things she can depend on to solve the case. "Crook deftly explores the human fascination with the macabre at the same time he draws attention to the reader's own voyeuristic impulses," said Publishers Weekly.

A technical writer/editor for the U. S. Postal Service, Jeff Crook is also the author of several fantasy books in the Dragonlance series. He lives in Mississippi with his wife and two sons. This is his first mystery.

If unable to attend you may order signed or inscribed copies through [www.burkesbooks.com](http://www.burkesbooks.com).

### Children's Museum marks July 4

Celebrate freedom with a bang from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. July 4 at the Children's Museum of Memphis, 2525 Central Ave. The museum will pop indoor fireworks with bubble wrap and learn about the history of our country while enjoying a giant balloon pass race, singing patriotic karaoke songs and creating American flags to hang. At 1 p.m., the Statue of Liberty will make a special appearance with a special gift to visitors.

### Thank you to our new CYCA members and donors

**Household and Seniors:** Barbara Cook • Barbara Norton • Bill Ware • Carmen Dickerson • Edward & Roberta Burson • Jenna Vondran • Laura Baker & Jesse Williams • Kerry Vaughan • M. Janelle Loar • Margie Smith • Nancy Wiers & Laura Harris • O. Wintersteen • Rik & Jan Anderson • Sheila Doherty • Steven Jones Photography • Tim L. Curry & Kathy M. Ladner • William & Loyce Scott • Tiffany Johnson • Jill McCullough • Faye Kenner & Jimbo Rainer • Patricia Robbins • Joe Calhoun; **Trestle Tenders:** Beth Hallderson • Brad & Sarah Gilmer • Carl J. Schwerin • Larrie Rodriguez • Ronnie G. Smith • Sarah Frierson • Midtown Massage & Bodywork; **Special Donations:** Doris Porter (Barksdale Mural) • Eclectic Eye & Central Gardens Association (McLean Mural) • Carmen Dickerson • *Honorarium for June Hurt* (General Operating Fund) • M. Janelle Loar • *Honorarium for June Hurt* (LampLighter Donation).

### Benefactors keep LampLighter delivered to your door

Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to the following people who have shown their support of the LampLighter by contributing financially toward our operating costs:

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

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## 'Xanadu' rolls into Playhouse



'Xanadu' is on stage now through July 22 at Playhouse on the Square. Based on the cult film, a Greek muse descends from the heavens to 1980s Venice Beach to inspire a struggling artist to create the greatest entertainment achievement: a Roller Disco!

The muse falls in love with the mortal, and her jealous sisters plot to bring them down. It's an electrifying musical tale about following your dreams with chart-topping tunes that The New York Times hailed as "outlandishly enjoyable."

Xanadu runs Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. The pay-what-you-can performance is July 5. Onstage seating is available for all performances. For more information or to make reservations, call 726-4656 or purchase tickets online at playhouseonthesquare.org.

## Fiesta to support volunteer agency



Volunteer Mid-South will host a Summer in the City Fiesta, 7 to 10 p.m. Aug. 11 at Chickasaw Oaks Mall, 3092 Poplar Ave.

The event will feature food, fun, margaritas, wine, beer, a silent auction and entertainment by Andy Tanas and salsa dancers. Tickets are \$40 and are available online now at [www.volunteermidsouth.org](http://www.volunteermidsouth.org). Volunteer Mid-South's mission is to develop, promote and support volunteers in the area.

## Two painters at Gallery Fifty Six



Gallery Fifty Six will present the work of two landscape painters, John Armistead and Janet Weed Beaver, this month.

John Armistead is an award-winning artist and author who began his formal studio training at age eight in Mobile, Ala., working in pastel and oil. Hundreds of his paintings are exhibited in libraries, museums and businesses throughout the United States. Armistead,

who grew up in Meridian, Miss., now lives in Tupelo, Miss. He has pastored churches in Mississippi, California and Hawaii, and was formerly religion editor for the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal in Tupelo.

Janet Weed Beaver studied painting at MCA and has been very active in the local and regional art world ever since. Janet exhibits mainly in several local galleries. Her works are in the collections of The Memphis Brooks Museum of Art and in corporate and private collections.

Gallery Fifty Six will have an artist's reception for John Armistead and Janet Weed Beaver from 5 to 8 p.m. July 6. The event is free and open to the public. The exhibition will run until July 28. Gallery Fifty Six is located at 2256 Central Ave. Gallery hours are Wednesdays through Fridays, from noon to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 276-1251 for information.



## Long-Postal exhibit on display

David Perry Smith Gallery, 703 New York St., presents "Free Fall," an exhibition of new works by local encaustic artist Mary Long-Postal, through July 31.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. Call 606-9690 or visit [www.davidperrysmithgallery.com](http://www.davidperrysmithgallery.com) for information.

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- **Art for Art's Sake Auction** - \$5 discount on ticket purchase
- **Black Lodge Video** - One free video rental per month
- **Burke's Books** - 10% discount with any purchase all year (excludes text books, previously discounted or sale items)
- **Cafe Ole** - Buy one entrée get second entrée of equal or lesser value at ½ price
- **Calming Influence** - 5% off with membership card all year (excludes gift certificates)
- **Camy's Food Delivery** - Get a free dessert with any specialty pizza purchase
- **Cooper-Young Regional Beerfest** - \$5 discount on ticket purchase
- **Hollywood Feed: Union Ave.** - 5% discount every time you show your CYCA membership card
- **InBalance Fitness** - 10% off group classes (excludes personal training and specialty classes)
- **June Hurt, Notary Public** - Free services to current members
- **Maury Ballenger, Massage** - 10% discount on massage services
- **Memphis College of Art** - 10% discount on Summer Art Camp and Saturday School tuition
- **Mr. Scruff's Pet Care** - 15% off purchase of the TLC Visit Package (incl. 24 TLC Visits)
- **Otherlands Coffee Bar** - 1 free cup of coffee or coffee drink up to \$3 value
- **Outback Steakhouse** - Free appetizer with the purchase of an entrée up to \$7.29
- **Painted Planet** - 25% jewelry discount every time you show your card. Not valid on previously discounted or sale items
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- **Playhouse on the Square** - Buy 1 get 1 ticket free up to four tickets for Thursday or Sunday shows
- **Skunx Pizza Cafe** - 10% discount each time membership card is presented
- **Soulfish** - 1 complimentary Lunch or Dinner Entrée when a 2nd of equal or greater value is purchased - Up to \$7
- **Stash- The Midtown Yarn Shop** - 15% discount with membership card, excluding sale and consignment items
- **Stone Soup Cafe** - Buy one menu item and get a second item of equal or less value 1/2 off, one time only
- **Sweet Grass & Next Door** - 10% off a single entree every time you show your card
- **The Nail & Skin Bar** - 10% discount off a Spa Pedicure every time you show your membership card
- **Young Avenue Deli** - Enjoy 30% off any one entree



## CYCA News

# CYCA Members Get Free Backup To Protect Data During IT Services

BY RENEE MASSEY



While most people have long forgotten their New Year's resolutions by this time of the year, I am still slowly working through my list.

Oh, sure, I've been slightly unsuccessful on some of them, but that does not mean I'll give up on the others. One of my goals for this year was to improve the efficiency of my home computer. That may sound like a silly goal to you, but that's only because you haven't tried to get anything done on

The Slowest Computer In Cooper-Young. I know part of the problem is how the space is divided between two drives, but I don't know what to do about it. I need some tech help to meet my goal, and my Cooper-Young Community Association membership led me to assistance.

Amy Pickle, owner of Pickle I.T., listened to my difficulty and confirmed that she knows exactly what to do. And because I am a CYCA member, she is going to do a free backup of all my personal files (such as photos, music, etc.) with my repair service. If you're a CYCA member, she'll do the same for you.

I asked Amy why Pickle I.T. is a sponsor for the Cooper-Young Community Association, and before she talked about the great restaurants, the locally owned shops, the friendly dog walkers or the historic architecture, she mentioned tireless CYCA President June Hurt.

"June ... is a friend of mine. Most of us who know June know that she's indefatigable when it comes to making Cooper-Young a better place. Having lived in Cooper-Young at one time and witnessed its evolution, I would say it's absolutely true: June Hurt has made Cooper-Young a better place to live, work and play. Secondly, she is active in Krav self defense. I don't say no to her often ... if ever. Did I mention she's Wonder Woman?"

Amy may be referring to June's participation in last year's Festival Friday 4-Miler where she ran the race in costume as Wonder Woman to raise money for the newspaper you are reading now. So those of us who take advantage of Pickle I.T.'s membership benefit for CYCA members, and even those of us who love reading the *LampLighter* newspaper, can thank June. (Thank you, June!)

Amy also confirmed that being a membership sponsor has positively affected her business. She enjoys the quality of people she works for, citing the fact that Cooper-Young residents "tend to be very warm, kind, and creative. I've met some of the most interesting people I've ever encountered through being a CYCA sponsor. There's truly never a dull moment in Cooper-Young."

Her customers are most often women aged 35-80, and she says they frequently tell her that they appreciate her patience and how she really listens to what they need. "Technology can be a fun and relaxed experience," Amy noted.

Amy also mentioned that she offers a free service to unemployed people who are actively looking for work. This includes services like virus removal and protection, reformatting and re-installation of the operating system, and other general repairs — and no one gets turned away.

"I can't imagine having to look for work without a working computer to create resumes" and search for positions, Amy said. She even occasionally gets donated computers from clients, which she then fixes up and donates to people herself.

For more information about the services or CYCA benefit Pickle I.T. offers, call Amy at 496-0755, and be sure to thank her for being a CYCA membership sponsor.

Whether you're like me and simply have so many things to do on your home computer that you spend a lot of time with it or whether you're just trying to stay out of the summer heat and end up on your computer more than usual, tech trouble is a whole lot of "not fun." Your CYCA membership can point you in the right direction to get the problems fixed while making sure your data is protected during the process with a free data backup.

If you want to join Pickle I.T. in its support of the organization that works every day to make Cooper-Young a safer and more desirable place to live, worship, work and play, register your membership today. You'll find out why we say, "Life is good in Cooper-Young!"

**JOINING IS EASY!** Join online at [www.cooperyoung.org](http://www.cooperyoung.org), fill out the membership form in this paper, call our community director at 272-CYCA, or stop by our community offices at 2298 Young Ave.

## Hot sounds and deals hit Night Out



Get out this Fourth of July week and put some bang, sparkle and pop in your life.

This month's Cooper-Young Night Out, when independent business owners offer discounts at restaurants, retailers, vintage and record stores, tattoo shops, art and antique shops in the coolest neighborhood in Memphis, is set for 5-9 p.m. Thursday, July 5.

The Soul Thieves will provide funk and groove in the gazebo at the intersection of Cooper and Young from 6-9 p.m. Front man Zach

Gilliam is a Memphian whose love and passion for creating music is unmistakable. The band is influenced by musicians such as Jimi Hendrix, Joe Bonamassa, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Dave Matthews Band, The Black Keys, Eric Clapton, John Mayer, Led Zeppelin, Muddy Waters, BB King and many more. But The Soul Thieves have a sound all their own: gritty, soulful, and funky rock and blues.

Other events include an art show at David Perry Smith Gallery with new pieces by Mary Long-Postal, and another at Tsunami titled "Mindless Journey of Mishaps," with artists Sophie Laurenzi, Ron Marion Jr. and Brendan Couch-Smith, from 6-8 pm.

There will be live music at Central BBQ, Celtic Crossing, Café Ole and Sweet Grass. All CY restaurants and bars will have dine-in and pick-up specials on food and drinks.

Discounts can be found at all CY retail shops. Babysitting will be provided by the owners of Midtown ATA Martial Arts on Central and Cooper Cottage Daycare on Cooper. Buy one peircing, get one free at Underground Art.

For a complete listing of events and discounts, go to [www.cooperyoung.biz](http://www.cooperyoung.biz). - Tamara Walker

## Visible LIVE bringing music to gazebo every Monday

Enjoy an evening of music in historic Cooper-Young every Monday in June and July, as Visible Music College hosts Visible LIVE at the gazebo on the corner of Cooper and Young from 6 to 8 p.m.

June 4, Darien Clea will present her combination of indie-rock and folk-pop sounds. Darien's music is refreshingly addictive rhythmic and melodic and voyages through all the heart's territories, from whimsy to sincerity.

### MUSIC SCHEDULE

- July 2:** Sunburnt Moon
- July 9:** The Sunday Traffic Brass Quintet
- July 16:** Darien Clea
- July 23:** Yancy & Yancy
- July 30:** Darien Clea

The Sunday Traffic Brass Quintet will perform their toe-tapping mixture of musical genres, be it Broadway to jazz, classical to patriotic, holiday to ragtime. Gather around to hear Yancy and Yancy perform their unique vocal blending of folk, bluegrass, Americana and gospel music. Sunburnt Moon will be sharing

their blending brand of folk/country/pop music. Singer/songwriters, Taylor Bothwell and Andrew Cabigao will perform both original music as well as a catalog of popular tunes.

Visible Music College "gets" the idea that creative young people need a place to develop technical and artistic skills. Visible is an independent college designed to prepare artists, technicians and business professionals for skilled, relational service in the arts industries and the church. et, Visible is more than a college campus — it is a community of artists who want to bring the culture of God's kingdom to modern society.

All entertainers will be students, past students, friends or teachers connected with the college. - Cooper-Young Business Association



1

# Art auction raises nearly \$10,000

BY APRIL BOLEWARE

This year's Art for Art's Sake art auction came with many changes. Longtime board members stepped down, I took over as chairman not realizing how little knowledge I had of all things involved with this project, and as I am sure you are aware, the auction date was changed due to another conflict.

With all of that said, this year's auction was a great success!

Dennis Phillippi hit the stage at 7 p.m. to a crowd of more than 150. His charm wooed the bidders and helped bring in more than \$4,000 in live auction revenue. We had an overwhelming number of new donors to the silent auction bringing the overall total to more than \$9,500. These funds will again be used to maintain the trestle art as well as any other beautification projects within Cooper-Young.

It was a pleasure and a huge learning experience to serve this year. Next year's auction will resume at its normal time in April, so mark your calendars.

So many people worked some amazing hours to ensure we had another great year. My utmost thanks to the auction committee: Libby Flint, Kristan Huntley, Mark Morrison, Debbie Sowell and Jason Word. Special thanks also go to Karen Capps, who not only donated as an artist but generously gave her time and energy to facilitating relationships, and set up for the artist reception and the live auction.

I would also like to acknowledge Bluff City Sports for our volunteer T-shirts, Signs Now on Winchester, Party Concepts, Otherlands Coffee and Fork it Over catering for hosting the artist reception. Tiger Bryant and Phillip Stroud at Young Avenue Deli hosted our event again this year. They have been amazing champions for our community and their generosity is very much appreciated. Food and beverages this year were provided by several of our local restaurants: Camy's, Celtic Crossing, Central BBQ, Cortona, Kevin Sullivan, Outback Steakhouse, Schlafly, Tsunami, Yazoo Brewery and Young Avenue Deli.

Of course, no event can be complete without the help of our wonderful volunteers: Andy and Sydney Ashby, John Atwood, Amanda Ball, Liz Beard, Emily Bishop, Ben Boleware, Demetrius Boyland, John and Ty Browning, Triston Causey, Anthony Coley, Liz Conway, Steve Crossnoe, Terry Curtis, Noopy Dykes, Patrice Edwards, Kathy Fisher, Sarah Frierson, Edward Greene, June Hurt, Ashley LaRue, Scott and Renee Massey, Tripp Mazurek, Chris McHaney, Patrick Miller, Chuck Par, Mike Parnell, Bill Pritchard, Beth Pulliam, Kevin Ritz, Ted and Kate Schurch, Dan Spector, Guillermo Umbria, Tim Ward, Lori Witmer and Jennifer Word.

Thank you to our live auction artists for donating their work as well: John Browning, Nick Canterucci, Karen "Bottle" Capps, Paul Clarke, Rollin Kocsis, Lisa Lumb, Katie McSweeney, Lee Phenix, Mollie Riggs, Carol Robison, Jeanne Seagle, Judy Vandergrift and Alex Warble.

To everyone who donated, served, set up or simply came just to show their support, thank you very much. It is a rare find to have a few that you can depend on. It is an amazing gift to have an entire community come together.



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1. Jonathan Flynt, April and Ben Boleware, and Libby Flynt at the Artist reception. • 2. Scott and Renee Massey and Amanda Ball • 3. Lizi Beard-Ward and Chuck Parr showing the audience the next piece up for bid. • 4. Chris McHayney and Tripp Mazurek working the check out at the auction. Photos courtesy of Kathy Fisher.

# Preparing Your Child for School

BY D. JACKSON MAXWELL



As a teacher, I can assure you we truly value parents and their involvement in their child's educational experience. As unnatural as it may seem, school this year is beginning the first week of August — who knows what next year will bring!

Anyway, I digress. This time around I wanted to offer a few suggestions from a teacher's point of view on how parents can work together with teachers to ensure their child's social and academic success.

Parents can help children prepare to enter school by working in the summer to lay a structural foundation for the coming year. While summer should be a fun and relaxing time, as it moves closer to the new school year parents need to set a regular schedule for meal times, getting dressed, story or homework time, bath time and bedtime. Young children need to be self-sufficient as far as hygiene goes. When entering school, students must be potty trained, able to independently use the restroom, wash hands, tie shoes, cooperate with peers and be able to follow their teacher's instructions.

Children need to exhibit appropriate social skills throughout their educational careers. They must have respect for others — respecting their fellow students' opinions, cultural differences and special needs. Students have to take personal responsibility for both their behaviors and academic performance. Students should be polite to their peers, defer to their teachers, and take ownership for their educational future. Parents can help develop these social skills by role

modeling appropriate behaviors as well as offering positive reinforcement and rewards for exemplary manners.

Parental support is crucial to children's success. Students must be current on their vaccinations and students should regularly see doctors to ensure their physical and mental health. Eye and hearing exams are essential to make sure children are able to fully partici-

participate in all classroom activities. Parents need to be aware of signs related to dyslexia, autism, ADD, ADHD and other common conditions that are often diagnosed during childhood. Therefore if these conditions appear, parents can immediately seek assistance to provide their children with the needed care.

On a more basic level, parents should make sure children have a nutritious breakfast and either a packed lunch or money to purchase a school cafeteria lunch. Hygiene such as regularly taking baths and brushing teeth are essential to ensure that students are healthy and comfortable. While almost going without saying, children should be attired in clean and appropriate clothes for every season. They should come to school each day with paper, pencils, folders and all the other accoutrements required for a day of school work. Parents need to provide the assistance necessary to make sure all homework is complete and turned in every day. Parents must respond to all school forms, review graded papers with their children, answer teachers' calls/notes and, when possible, attend school functions and field trips. When open houses or conference nights occur, parents can demonstrate to their children the value they place in education and the support they have for their teachers by attending.

Finally, make sure your children get to school safely and have a plan for before- and aftercare if necessary. Too often, I see children dropped off in front of schools 15 minutes, 30 minutes or even one hour before a school opens. I do not understand this parental choice. Leaving your elementary or middle school child to the care of the street is not a good option. Most schools have inexpensive before- and aftercare centers that often offer financial assistance to parents who need it. Leaving young children unsupervised is not only a bad idea, it is unlawful and parents can be held liable if something untold were to happen.

These are a few things we as parents can do for our children. From the perspective of a parent who happens to also be a teacher, failing to prepare our children to succeed in school is unacceptable. By providing our children with the resources and support they need, we are not only paving the way for their educational success but ensuring our future in our leisure years as well!

*Dr. D. Jackson Maxwell is a teacher at Downtown Elementary School and a freelance writer. If you have any questions or comments, please contact him at: [djacksonmaxwell@gmail.com](mailto:djacksonmaxwell@gmail.com)*

COMMUNITY VIEWPOINT

# Stand for Children endorses candidates

BY GINGER SPICKLER

As you may remember from last month's article, the Memphis chapter of Stand for Children, a grassroots organization that works to mobilize citizens around the common goal of creating better educational opportunities for children, has thoroughly researched, interviewed and vetted the candidates for the upcoming school board elections. We believe that every district has a quality candidate running, and if they are all elected, the new Shelby County School System will have a board that is truly standing for children, not special interests.



Here are Stand for Children's endorsements for the school board elections coming up on Aug. 2:

- District 1 - Chris Caldwell
- District 2 - Tyree Daniels
- District 3 - Raphael McInnis
- District 4 - Kevin Woods
- District 5 - Kim Wirth
- District 6 - Reginald Porter

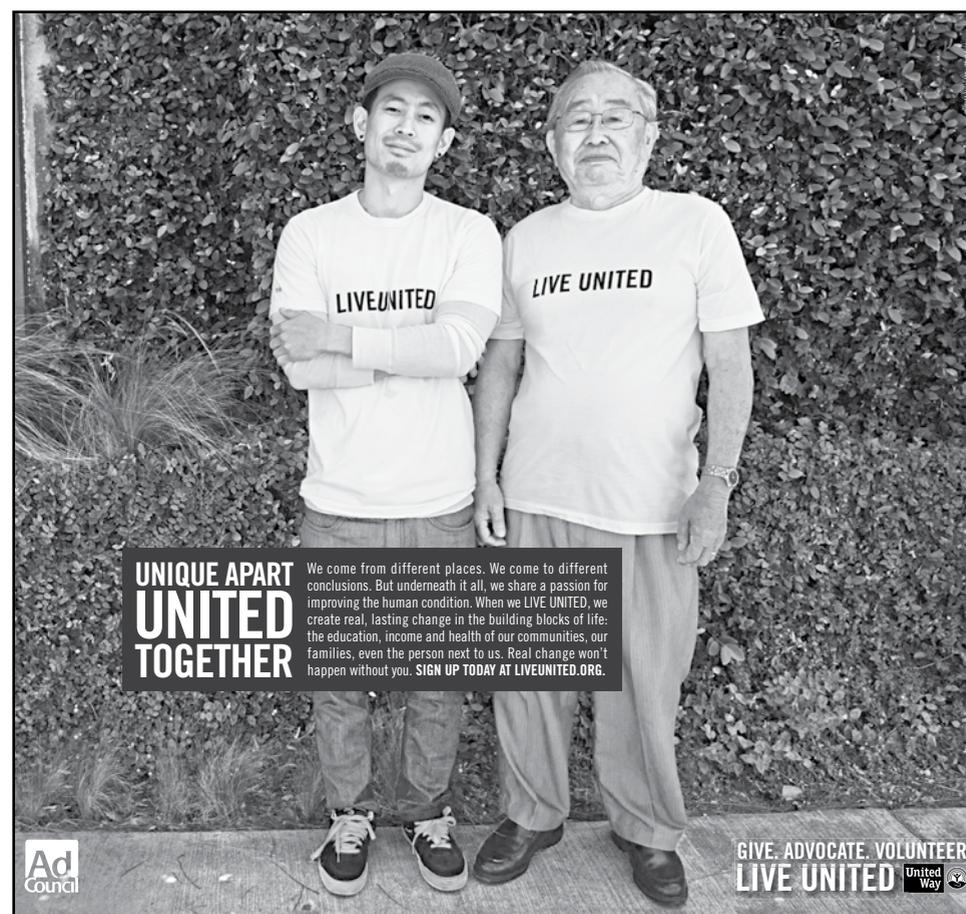
The entirety of Cooper-Young is in District 1, so the Stand-endorsed candidate for our district is Chris Caldwell.

Caldwell has been a very active parent of three children who are currently students in the Memphis City Schools. He was appointed by the county commission late last year to represent District 1 on the 23-member unified school board.

As a commissioner for the past six months, he has the opportunity to get up to speed on the workings of the board and participate in planning for the merger. You can learn more about him on his campaign website: [www.caldwellforschoolboard.com](http://www.caldwellforschoolboard.com).

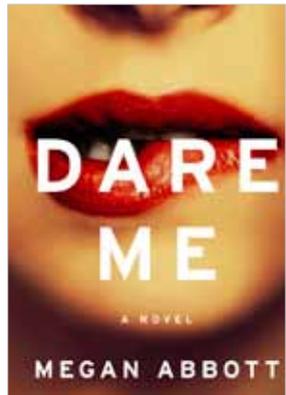
Early voting runs July 13-28 at select locations, so if you won't be available to vote on Aug. 2, please make sure to vote early. You can find early voting locations, along with other helpful information, on the Shelby County Election Commission's website: [www.voteshelby.com](http://www.voteshelby.com).

Have you left your legacy on the Peabody Elementary playground? It's not too late to donate towards a shade structure fund and receive a personalized brick that will be added to the patio that was started in 2008. Donate today at <http://www.bricksrus.com/order/cyca>.



# Top Five Summer Reads

BY COREY MESLER

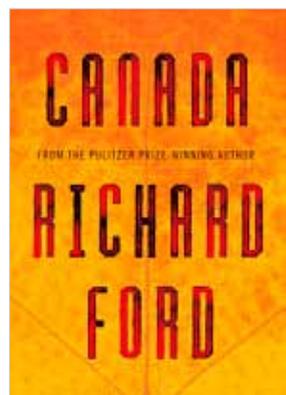


## “Dare Me” by Megan Abbott (Reagan Arthur Books, \$24.99)

Megan Abbott writes like the illegitimate daughter of Jim Thompson and Patricia Highsmith. (Don't you love reviews that start that way?) Her noir thrillers are fast-moving, glib-talking, sweetly plotted and written with clean, sharp prose. This new page-turner takes place, partially, in a high school and concerns the new coach of the cheer-leading squad. If that sounds like an unconventional place for a mystery, in Abbott's sure hand it becomes something larger, like her last novel, “The End of Everything”, a blend of thriller and smart, sociologically driven story. When you read one Abbott you will want to read them all. The earlier books are straight, hardcore pulp mysteries.

## “Vlad” by Carlos Fuentes (Dalkey Archive, \$17.95)

Carlos Fuentes, the Mexican novelist, known for his mythic narratives like “The Hydra Head” and “The Death of Artemio Cruz”, here, in a brief but powerful novel, takes on a web of vampirism in Mexico. “Vlad” is Vlad the Impaler, of course, whose fabled cruelty was an inspiration for Bram Stoker's Dracula. In this sly sequel, Vlad really is undead: dispossessed after centuries of mayhem by Eastern European wars and rampant blood shortages. More than a postmodern riff on “the vampire craze,” Vlad is also an anatomy of the Mexican bourgeoisie, as well as our culture's ways of dealing with death. For — as in Dracula — Vlad has need of both a lawyer and a real estate agent. Fuentes' theme may be the moral decay in Mexico but his story still manages to jolt and thrill.

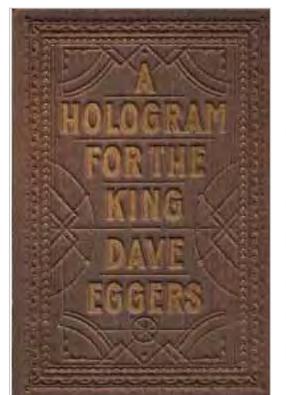


## “Canada” by Richard Ford (Ecco Press, \$27.99)

What more needs to be said about Richard Ford? He's won all the big prizes. His infrequent books are treated as literary events. He's as handsome as Don Draper. And he's carved out a respected bookish career that has now gone on for decades. His Frank Bascombe trilogy ranks right up there with Updike's Rabbit books and Roth's Zuckerman novels. Now, his new novel, “Canada”, is being touted as one of his best, “this haunting and elemental novel about a young man forced by catastrophic circumstance to reconcile himself to a world that has been rendered unrecognizable.” Canada is a coming-of-age story, beautifully realized, but, as with all of Ford's work, the reader may get as much of a kick out of the author's elegant and meticulous style as his compelling storyline. Ford can craft sentences as elegant as Updike's. And his first-person voice here is beguiling and memorable.

## “The Sleeping and the Dead” by Jeff Crook (Minotaur Books, \$24.99)

The publisher describes this as “a new mystery series starring Jackie Lyons, a Memphis crime scene photographer with ghostly assistance.” As Jackie works to separate natural from supernatural, friend from foe, and light from dark, the spirit world and her own difficult past become the only things she can depend on to solve the case. If that doesn't whet your appetite how about this from Publisher's Weekly: “Crook deftly explores the human fascination with the macabre at the same time he draws attention to the reader's own voyeuristic impulses.” Add to it that Jeff Crook is a longtime Memphian and a helluva good cat and is also the author of a Dragonlance fantasy series, among other works of fiction, and I predict this will be the novel most Memphians will be picking up this summer.

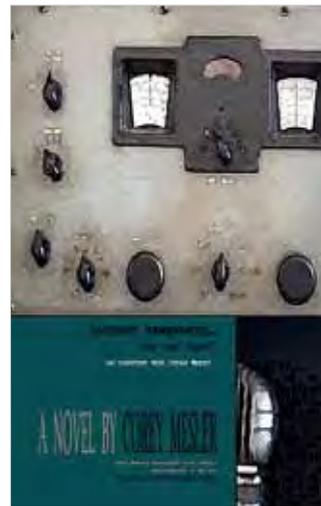


## “A Hologram for the King” by Dave Eggers (McSweeney's, \$25.00)

Dave Eggers needs no introduction to modern readers. His whip-smart books and his innovative and groundbreaking press, McSweeney's, have come to define a certain style and hipster élan in current writing and publishing. McSweeney's publishes prodigious writers in unique ways and, in an era when we're hearing that tired old proclamation about “the death of the book,” his publications argue for permanence of content and design. His own memoir, “A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius,” made him a literary rock star. “A Hologram for the King” is Egger's newest novel. In a rising Saudi Arabian city, far from weary, recession-scarred America, a struggling business-

man pursues a last-ditch attempt to stave off foreclosure, pay his daughter's college tuition, and finally do something great. In “A Hologram for the King”, Dave Eggers takes us around the world to show how one man fights to hold himself and his splintering family together in the face of the global economy's gale-force winds. This taut, richly layered, and elegiac novel is a powerful evocation of our contemporary moment — and a moving story of how we got here.

## Honorable Mention:



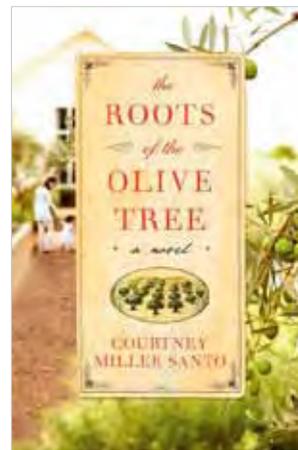
## “Gardner Remembers” by Corey Mesler (Pocketful of Scoundrel Press, \$6.95)

Ok, I wrote it so I like it. Sue me. It's brand new. It's got real Memphis mojo and Memphis music in it. Memphians love real Memphis mojo. And it's only \$6.95! But, here, lemme let someone else praise the book, and then I'll go back to the bookstore and hide in my office and be quiet.

“Mesler captures the flavor of the late '60s/early '70s Memphis music scene expertly, especially his evocation of the Shell as it was then. I could almost hear Knowbody Else (later Black Oak, Arkansas) performing their creepy local FM hit, “Flying Horse of Louisiana,” there while I was reading ‘Gardner Remembers.’” — Ross Johnson, drummer for Panther Burns, Jim Dickinson, and Alex Chilton

Mesler is the owner of Burke's Books on Cooper Street.

## COVER STORY CONTINUED



“It's a little bit scary,” she said, then corrected herself. It's a lot scary.”

Wherever she's lived, Santo has squirreled away a bit of her life there to seed future stories. After college at Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Va., and an internship at *The Roanoke Times*, Santo worked as a reporter for *The Daily Progress* in nearby Charlottesville.

Her short story *Wind Gap*, which appeared in the June issue of *Memphis* magazine and tells the story of what happens to a family 10 years after a horrific auto accident, was inspired by her drive over the foggy, winding Afton Mountain pass on Interstate 64 just west of Charlottesville. [As a reporter fresh out of college a few years ago, I covered several real wrecks on Afton Mountain, which had been the scene of a legendary 50-car pileup some years earlier.]

When she and her family left Virginia for Memphis, where her husband had accepted a teaching position, she was recruited by Cooper-Young neighbors to helm the *LampLighter*, a job that she said not only introduced her to new neighbors, but taught her to let her subjects tell their stories.

At the time she became editor she brought a fresh voice and a fresh view to the *LampLighter* and really gave it a jumpstart of enthusiasm,” said Emily Bishop, former chairwoman of CYCA's communications committee. “Even though she wasn't from Cooper-Young, she embodied the spirit of Cooper-Young... She was a magnet. She had talent and she attracted other fresh, young talent.”

Santo has moved outside CY's boundaries to a new home near North Parkway, but remains committed to Midtown and bullish about Memphis, which she said is gaining many of the lifestyle amenities she enjoyed in Portland, but at a much lower cost of living. She's especially fond of Cooper-Young's restaurant scene.

“Portland is one of the cities that has the things people say they want, and Memphis is getting it,” she said. “And it's cheap.”

Next on Santo's to-do list is developing her second novel; her book deal was for two.

“Nobody gets their dream,” she said, reflecting on her good fortune in a business that often leaves talented writers unrewarded. “Nobody gets what they actually wanted, to happen to them.”

## The mural on Barksdale is about to be under way

On June 18 and 19, Mid-South Soda Blasting donated their time and services to thoroughly clean the old paint, graffiti and dirt underneath the Barksdale underpass. This left us with a smooth, dirt-free surface on which Americorp volunteers (provided by Memphis Heritage) could paint a base coat that will last throughout the years and provide a good, even canvas for the final mural. The McLean underpass, shortly before the mural painting, will be pressure washed and thoroughly cleaned as well.

The next step is approval from Union Pacific Railroad, since the whole underpass structure is railroad property. Once we receive the final approval, we will begin work, so please subscribe to our email list or "Like" our page on Facebook to keep current with the most up-to-date information. If you are interested in having your silhouette on the Barksdale Mural or helping paint, please email us at [info@cooperyoung.org](mailto:info@cooperyoung.org). - Kristan Huntley

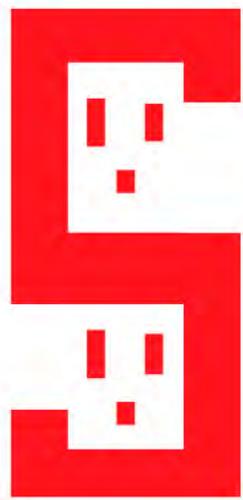
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Five Sent Out



Mike Dees

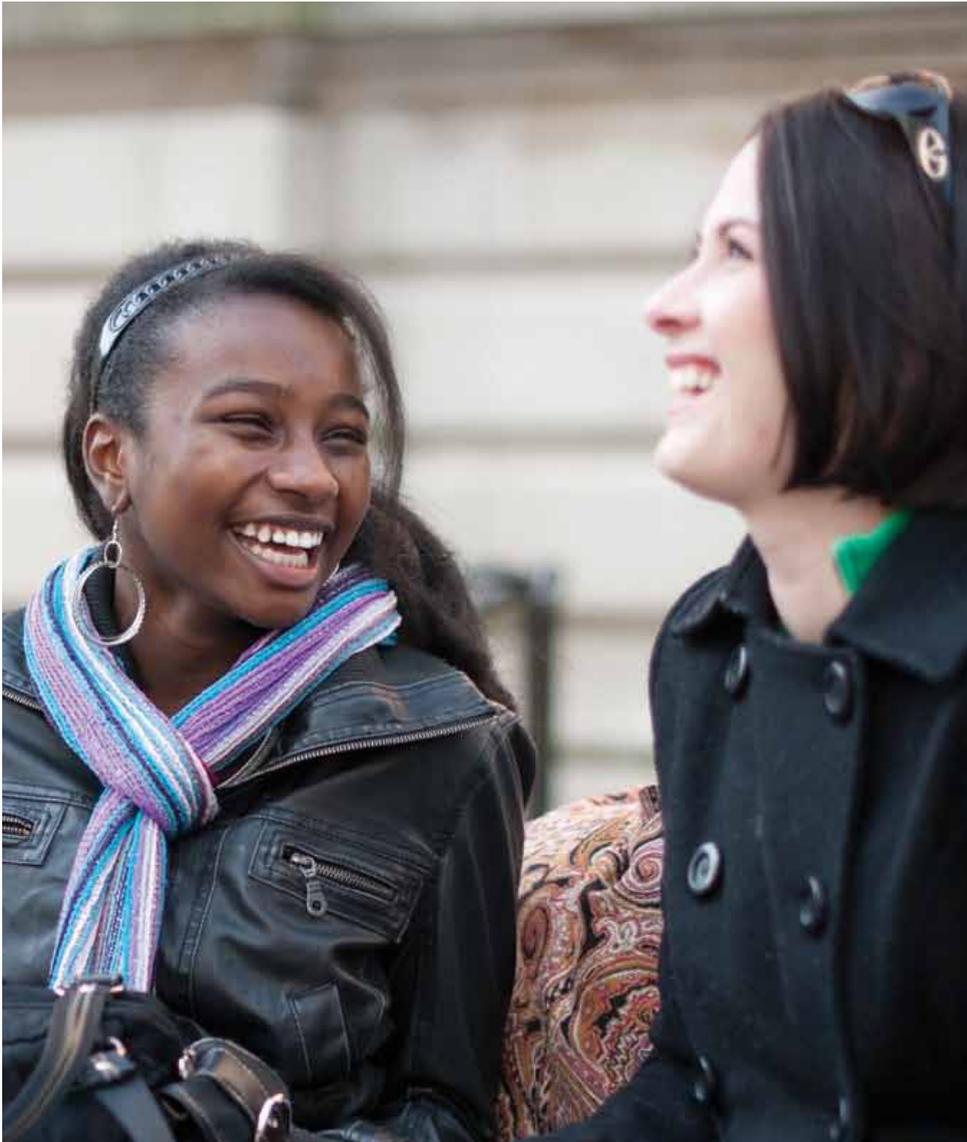


The "It's Not Like I'm Drunk" Cocktail

2 oz. tequila  
1 oz. triple sec  
1/2 ounce lime juice  
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1 too many  
1 automobile  
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Combine ingredients. Shake.  
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[BigBrothersBigSisters.org](http://BigBrothersBigSisters.org)

## First Congo needs help feeding hungry families

When a Gallup poll ranked Memphis as our country's hungriest city last year, they were documenting something that many of us are aware of: Some of our neighbors are hungry.

First Congregational Church currently has two ongoing programs which serve people in the Cooper-Young area:

- A monthly grocery distribution (Food for Families). We serve more than 200 families (living in the 38104, 38114 and 38111 ZIP code area) on the fourth Sunday of each month.
- On Tuesdays and Thursdays (1:30-3 p.m.), we serve a simple meal and open our clothes closet to guests.

We want to expand these ministries to meet the need in our neighborhood. And we need your help! How can you help?

- Contribute food for the monthly grocery distribution.
- Provide a simple meal for sharing on Tuesday afternoons (for about 30-40 people).
- Let us know if there is a restaurant, store or cafeteria where we may be able to pick up food to distribute.
- Volunteer your time (unloading the truck, distributing groceries during the fourth week of each month)

If you are interested in providing your time and/or services to First Congo, please contact Food Justice Ministries Coordinator Molly Peacher-Ryan at [molly.peacherryan@firstcongo.com](mailto:molly.peacherryan@firstcongo.com). or call 278-6786. - Rev. Cheryl Cornish



Molly Peacher-Ryan and David Adams sort food at First Congregational Church on Cooper Street. Photos by First Congo

# Cooper-Young Has Lost Two Good Neighbors



Betty Slack



"Downtown Bob"



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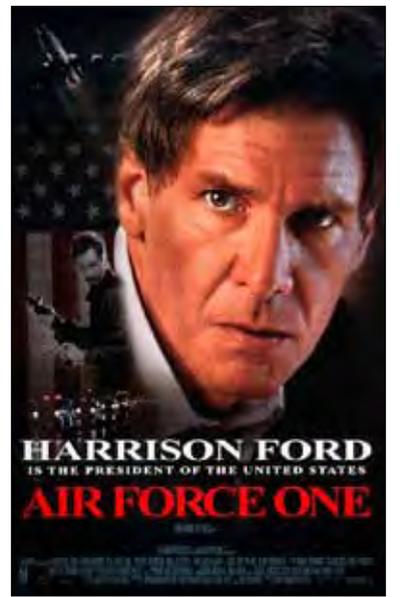
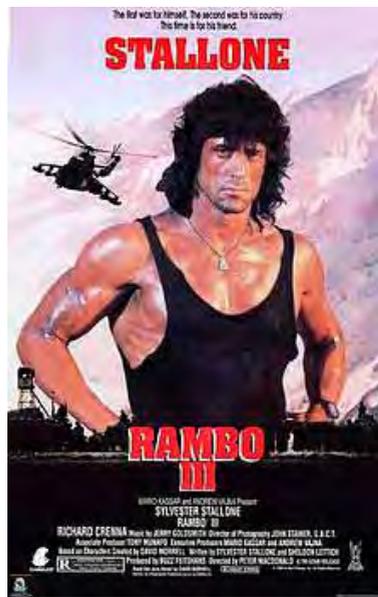
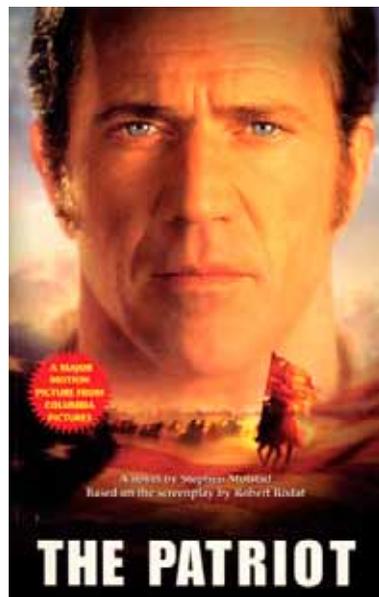
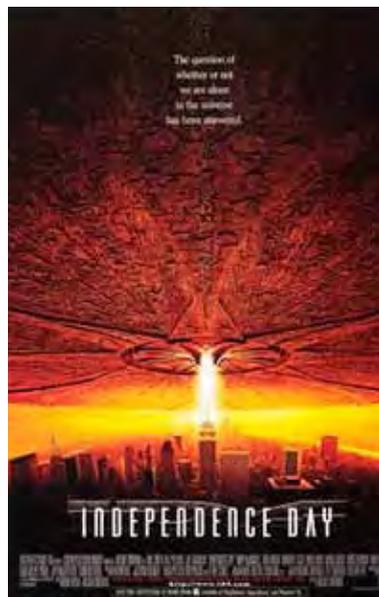
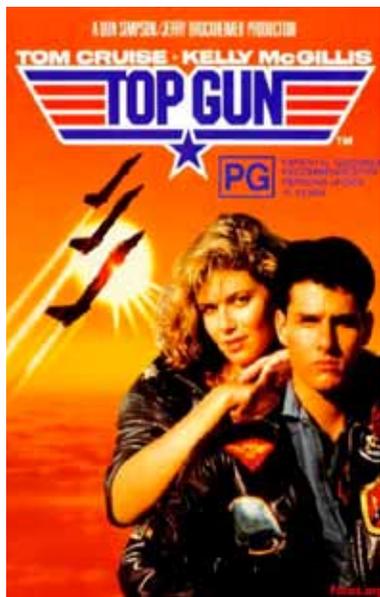
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# THE FOURTH OF JULY MOVIE PROBLEM

BY MATT MARTIN



There's a time of the year for any kind of movie. That is, if you watch a lot of films across the year, one tends to find that certain movies just seem to work better during certain times of the year.

Obviously, Christmas and Halloween movies work best during their respective seasons. And it would stand to reason that a very summertime movie, like say a beach comedy, would just seem to work better in the hotter months. Old black and white suspense thrillers just seem a touch more sinister when watched during the cooler, darker moments of the fall. People watch more serious dramas in winter. And people love dumb action movies and mindless comedies in the summer.

The patterns are obvious, and Hollywood adjusts its release schedule accordingly. Our environment enhances our art and vice versa.

As the Fourth of July is America's most patriotic holiday, regularly celebrated by a majority of the population, it's not surprising that it's also the only time of year where casual movie fans and cinema junkies alike dust off their collection of Americentric films (is that even a word? Meh, I'm using it anyway) — films that represent and signify all that is "America" to that viewer. Amidst fireworks, family, and sprawling dinners, people of all types will gather with friends and loved ones to share these cinema odes to red, white, and blue. But then, what exactly are we watching? Well, I guess that depends on what "America" is to you.

But therein lies the split. When suggesting possible films for any occasion, this holiday presents a unique problem: How do you want to celebrate America? For some, the holiday is virtually holy and is treated with the upmost seriousness. For them, only the most uplifting, positive, reassuring, pro-country films will do.

For others, the holiday has a different significance. For those with a love/hate relationship with this country, those who question, disagree, dislike, or are generally just skeptical of this country, the holiday can be problematic, unintentionally amusing or just off-putting.

In light of all this, it's difficult to know what film experience to suggest.

Lucky for you, film lovers, I'm well versed in both. So when you huddle down with family and friends this Fourth of July holiday, before you cue up the wrong movie, consult one of my two lists, depending on your audience. Love it or hate it, we're all a part of this country. Choose accordingly. And whether you're under a sky full of fireworks with tears in your eyes, or you're just holding a sparkler and laughing at the whole affair, let cinema illuminate your holiday. Now, hand me a roman candle with just a hint of irony.

"The Pros" or, the Slavishly Patriotic Fourth of July Films:

**1) Top Gun:** In the 1980s, under the veil of the last days of the Cold War, unquestioning

patriotism may not have been as popular as it was in the 1940s, but it was definitely at its zenith of coolness. Never was this more obvious than in the cultural milestone that was Top Gun. With its lack of coherent plot, its thin-as-paper characters, its slipshod editing, and its ridiculous pop culture rock soundtrack, it changed how movies were made.

Gone was the era of smart, intelligent American cinema that had risen in the 1960s and peaked in the 1970s. Just like that — big, dumb, loud, simple movies were in. And if they were wrapped in faux patriotism, all the better! Watch Tom Cruise and Val Kilmer bicker about being the "best" fighter pilot, while Kenny Loggins sings in the background! Watch Russian pilots have as much

personality and humanity as stormtroopers from Star Wars (they're all just faceless evil things — it's okay to kill them)! Watch as we commit war crimes by shooting down Russian planes in neutral territories — because we can! (If this were true, it would have triggered World War 3).

Truly, no movie so blindly revels in American badassery like Top Gun, whose name alone was

meant to be a side reference to our global superiority. Classic.

**2) The Patriot:** Mel Gibson, before he went all-the-way crazy, delivered up this one-sided gem without even the slightest care about historical accuracy. In this America, there doesn't appear to be any slavery, and it didn't take a group of our best and brightest to debate and reform civilization through laws and action — it just took Mel Gibson going ape with a tomahawk on a bunch of British redcoats (who are as faceless and without humanity as the Russians in Top Gun).

Directed by Roland Emmerich with the same subtlety and grace that he brought to Godzilla and Independence Day (if you don't know I'm kidding, stop reading now), the movie is a mess. But all you need to know about the America of The Patriot is that it is best personified by a slow-motion shot of a screaming Mel Gibson, plunging an American flag through a British soldier's chest. Now, THAT'S good revolution.

**3) Independence Day:** ... and speaking of dumb ... Released in 1996, Roland Emmerich's other hyper-patriotic film might be the dumbest, most non-sensical movie of that decade. Endless plot loops (alien technology can be accessed with a Macbook ... fascinating ... what luck), terrible performances (Will Smith, we love you. But this was just bad), and a way-too-tidy ending that never suggests the post-apocalyptic hell that America would have become following this little interplanetary war.

Sure, the White House being blown up by a giant U.F.O. is pretty cool, but the finest moment of patriotic glee comes when a group of naive liberals with WELCOME! signs are turned to radioactive dust by the insect-like aliens for daring to hope for peace. Many a conservative lives for that

**As the Fourth of July is America's most patriotic holiday, regularly celebrated by a majority of the population, it's not surprising that it's also the only time of year where casual movie fans and cinema junkies alike dust off their collection of Americentric films...**

moment. In this, America's enemies aren't blind, faceless servants of an evil empire — they're out-and-out, freakin' monsters. Nothing better than an enemy that's easy to hate. Blow em up good!

**4) Rambo 3 and Rocky 4:** Sylvester Stallone has had a long career playing different classically strong American types. But never was the patriotic ooze on full blast like it was for this one-two punch of cheesy, pro-America crap. The Rambo movies may have started as a comment on veterans traumatized by the Vietnam war, but they sure didn't end that way. By part 3, John Rambo had gone from disturbed, confused, war-weary vet to muscle ripped, one-liner-spewing avenger of liberty.

All the more hilarious, the plot concerns Rambo's attempt to rescue his old commander from Russians in Afghanistan. He accomplishes this by arming, training and leading to the death every religious local he can find.

That would be the Mujahadeen, by the way. These were the same men who, in real life, fought and pushed back the Russian army out of Afghanistan in the early 1980s, with America's help — before they became religious fanatics and terrorists and decided America was their enemy. Whoops. Watching Rambo train the locals with patriotic fervor, completely unaware that our country would commit to a decade-long war with these people in a few short years, is cinematic gold.

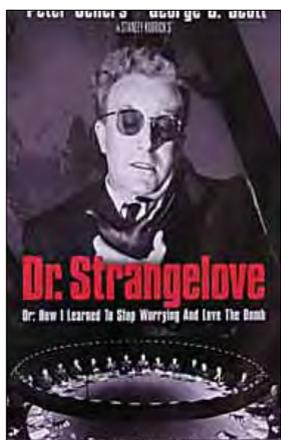
If Sly Stallone's character of Rambo wound up being a metaphor for America's might, his character of Rocky Balboa was always meant to represent the opposite: the underdog, working-class American, who just the same, must fight physically and morally to uphold the American ideal of fairness and success. But, like in the Rambo series, the character just withered over time. In the first two, Rocky was a real, just-one-of-us guy, trying to make ends meet and have a real life. He never truly realizes the big ideals he's fighting for.

But by Part 4, he might as well have a flag tattooed on his chest. By this point, he IS America, larger than life, clad in stars-and-stripes boxing shorts. And who's he fighting this time? Not fellow down-to-earth, just-trying-to-be-my-best Apollo Creed like in the first ones. No, this time it's Russian Ivan Drago, a blonde-haired Aryan Frankenstein who looks murderous (his classic dead-pan line to Rocky: "I must break you.") And the Cold War is off again! In this corner, America is bruised, but tough and humble. In this corner, Russia is corrupt, hypocritical, and psychotic. You can't get any more patriotic than this fight. That's a scientific fact.

**5) Air Force One:** Hmmm. Harrison Ford is the American president. Terrorists take over his flight, led by Gary Oldman. He fights for us all in America by kicking their asses. Before landing. Lesson learned: Even our most liberal leaders are ready to go toe-to-toe. Be warned. Hyper-patriotic, campy, ridiculous and over-the-top. Genius.

**6) The Actually Good Patriotic Films:** To be completely fair, there are many patriotic, pro-country films that are honest, intelligent, well-made, and absolutely worth a watch. Not surprisingly, most of these are legends and multiple-award winners. We won't waste space here with plot descriptions, but each of these is a must-see: Yankee Doodle Dandy, Patton, To Kill a Mockingbird, Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, The Fighting Sullivans, 1776, Johnny Tremain, The Great Escape, Saving Private Ryan, Glory, The Music Man and All the President's Men.

"The Cons" or, The Anti-Patriotism Fourth of July Films:



**1) Dr. Strangelove:** In the history of cinema, there might not be a darker or funnier anti-war film than this 1964 classic from legendary director Stanley Kubrick. An insane, paranoid America-loving general begins the opening waves of global nuclear war that a war room full of ego-driven, inept politicians and military men frantically try to stop. An ultra-bleak, but absolutely hysterical study of blind patriotism, muddled leadership, collapsing American ideals, and the inevitability of self-created disaster. George C. Scott steals every scene he's in as General "Buck" Turgidson, who gleefully believes that complete global holocaust might be good for America, but it's Peter Sellers who towers in this film in three separate roles: as passive, child-like British officer Mandrake, as softspoken, ineffectual American president Muffley, and as the psychotic, wheelchair-bound,

Nazi-turned-American scientist Dr. Strangelove.

More than slamming America's misplaced patriotism, the film literally slams the whole world, showing every character, regardless of where they're from, as stupid, cruel and dangerous. The ending might be one of the darkest in the history of movies, with an American pilot happily RIDING a nuclear bomb down into oblivion. Jaw-dropping brilliance.

**2) The Deer Hunter:** Released in 1979 and winner of the Academy Award for Best Picture, this in-depth examination of the way that war affects the lives of normal, small-town people became

an unexpected classic. Three young factory workers, who spend their weeks working and their weekends hunting and spending time with family, decide to enlist in the Army in order to support the Vietnam War. But after arriving, they quickly find fascination turning into horror, pride and patriotism turning into resentment, and hope for America's future turning into cynicism. Even after the nightmares of war, each man tries to "come home" both physically and mentally in his own way. An astounding, heart-breaking film with award-winning, unforgettable performances from Robert De Niro, Christopher Walken, Meryl Streep, John Savage and John Cazale.



**3) Red Dawn:** Wolverines!! In 1984, America was at one of its most rabidly patriotic (but secretly terrified) moments in the entire Cold War. What better time to release the most paranoid American film of the last 35 years? A group of midwest teenagers are forced to become — well, terrorists, in order to protect the American mainland from an invasion of Russian soldiers. The kids even take on a name, calling themselves Wolverines after their school mascot. And even as they grow more adept at killing and surviving, they quickly descend into fascism, cruelty and the enjoyment of murder. In this cinematic reality, nothing is more American than Patrick Swayze executing a Russian prisoner by shooting him in the face while screaming, "We live here!!!"

It manages to be both chilling and cheesy, as fellow brat-packers Charlie Sheen, C. Thomas Howell, Lea Thompson and Jennifer Grey bring the American rage to a hopeless cause of protecting a homeland that can no longer protect you. One of the first films to carry a PG-13 rating, even though it clearly deserves an R. Best scene in the movie: The first, as bored students in a classroom stare out the window to pass the time, only to slowly see parachutes descending from the sky, impending disaster and doom.

**4) The Oliver Stone Collection:** The sheer output of Oliver Stone and his use of cinema as tool to dissect American history is an article on to itself. But no director has ever tried to attack America's misplaced idealism, unforgiveable naivete, and out-and-out villainy as thoroughly as Stone has. Some of these are absolute genius, bringing a painful, but entrancing vision of American post-World War II society. In particular, the films JFK, Nixon, and Born on the Fourth of July are searing commentaries, equal amounts dramatic and informative. But no less important are the films Platoon (based on Oliver Stone's own Vietnam experience), Wall Street, Talk Radio, Heaven and Earth, The Doors, World Trade Center, and W. Together, these films paint the ultimate unpatriotic portrait, with America a beautiful, but flawed and dangerous beast. Watch all of them in a row, and you'll be starting your own terrorist group. Wolverines! Oh, sorry ... I'm still thinking about Red Dawn.



**5) Team America: World Police:** Trey Parker and Matt Stone, creators of South Park, took ultra-patriotism to a new level of insanity with this, chronicling the actions of a secret, American anti-terrorism team that sets out to stop real life Korean dictator Kim Jong Il, who's preparing global destruction. The catch? They used puppets to tell the story. Played completely straight with a degree of self-seriousness and intentionally referencing other odd puppet adventure childrens shows like Thunderbirds. Insanely funny and disturbing. Using marionettes to make a comment on supposed freedom (or are the patriotic dangling on someone else's strings?), Parker and Stone leave no pro-country stone unturned, managing to attack every single sacred cow imaginable. And puppet sex? Yeah ... they got that in there, too.

**6) Idiocracy:** From Office Space and Beavis & Butthead creator Mike Judge, this hilarious satire of America's future was all but buried by original studio 20th Century Fox in 1999, never getting a theater release. Not hard to see why, as it portrays America in its worst light possible, as low-level Army cadet Joe is placed in experimental suspended animation, only to wake up 500 years later to find that America has literally "bred out" all smart people, leaving only the dumb to rule the land. Shot for shot, joke for joke, director Judge slams his American criticisms with amazing accuracy, leaving you laughing to tears, even as the chills set in.

**7) Uncle Sam:** Ummmm ... it's about an undead killer dressed as Uncle Sam slaughtering people ... on the Fourth of July. It's awesome. What else do you need to know? Watch it. Right now.

Now, kick back, fellow Americans and take the month of July to bathe in the best and worst cinematic studies of this beautiful, terrifying country.

# Thefts from autos alarming, but preventable

BY SARAH FRIERSON



Laptops, a purse, GPS systems, a briefcase, house keys, glasses, a tax return, license plates, a passport, cash, iPods, debit cards, jewelry, speakers, an amp, backpacks, a digital photo frame, a Nintendo Wii system, headphones and a car radio.

What do these items have in common?

They were all stolen from vehicles in Cooper-Young during the first two weeks of June. At least 12 thefts from vehicles were reported to the Memphis Police Department during that time period in our neighborhood. So what can we do to curb this trend?

- Don't leave valuables in your vehicle. Everyone knows this, but perhaps we should reconsider what might be valuable to a thief. Obviously, a purse or a laptop is worth a lot of money, but financial documents and mail can also provide valuable information. Don't let a car break-in lead to identity theft.
- If you must leave valuables in your car (especially navigation and audio systems), lock them in your glove compartment or trunk. If your audio system has a removable face plate, remove it and stow it.
- Leave no trace. A docking station or connecting cable is evidence that valuable goods

are somewhere in the vehicle. Put accessories away as well.

- Park in a well-lit area. If you park in a driveway, install a motion-sensitive security light. If you park on the street, try to park near a lamp post. If the street light is out, call MLGW at 320-1497 to report it.
- Mark your valuables. Just like items in your home or garage, marking your vehicle's valuables can increase the chance of recovery. Etch or mark your high-value items with your driver's license number.
- Secure the car. If your car has an anti-theft system, use it. If you don't have one, make sure all doors are locked and windows are up. Don't forget the sunroof.
- Protect your plate. Col. Houston at Union Station has warned us that license plate thefts are on the rise. There is no surefire way to prevent license plate theft, but you can make it more difficult. Use a utility knife to cut an "X" into your registration sticker, making it impossible to peel off the sticker. This will also deter thieves from clipping off a part of the plate. Hardware stores and specialty retailers also sell various anti-theft devices like anti-theft screws and fasteners.

As always, contact the Cooper-Young Community Association at 272-CYCA with any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

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[weprevent.org](http://weprevent.org)

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 May 24 to June 23.

32 CASES	Arrest	Offenses	Date	Address
1206012215ME		Auto Theft/Parts/Acc.	6/20	2100 ELZEY AVE
1206012117ME		Robbery	6/20	800 MEDA
1206011502ME		Auto Theft/Parts/Acc.	6/19	2100 ELZEY
1206011493ME		Auto Theft/Parts/Acc.	6/19	2100 ELZEY
1206011499ME		Auto Theft/Parts/Acc.	6/19	2200 NELSON
1206009984ME		Auto Theft/Parts/Acc.	6/16	2100 YOUNG AVE
1206009955ME		Auto Theft/Parts/Acc.	6/16	800 S COOPER
1206010100ME		Vandalism	6/16	2100 YOUNG AVE
1206009327ME		Auto Theft/Parts/Acc.	6/15	1000 MEDA
1206008948ME		Auto Theft/Parts/Acc.	6/14	900 SOUTH COOPER
1206008620ME		Burglary	6/14	2000 SOUTHERN AVE
1206008484ME	YES	Narcotics	6/14	2000 YOUNG
1206008836ME		Vandalism	6/14	900 S MCLEAN
1206007210ME		Auto Theft/Parts/Acc.	6/12	2200 EVELYN
1206007190ME		Auto Theft/Parts/Acc.	6/12	800 S COOPER
1206006989ME		Auto Theft/Parts/Acc.	6/12	2100 ELZEY
1206006964ME		Theft Other	6/12	1800 OLIVER
1206006228ME		Auto Theft/Parts/Acc.	6/11	1000 BRUCE
1206006047ME		Auto Theft/Parts/Acc.	6/10	2200 CENTRAL AVE
1206005419ME		Vandalism	6/9	2100 YOUNG
1206004468ME		Assault	6/7	2200 YOUNG AVE
1206004358ME		Auto Theft/Parts/Acc.	6/7	2200 YOUNG AVE
1206002433ME		Theft Other	6/5	2200 SOUTHERN
1206001700ME		Vandalism	6/4	2100 YOUNG
1205018613ME		Burglary	5/30	1000 S BARKSDALE
1205018943ME		Theft Other	5/30	2100 CENTRAL AVE
1205018956ME		Theft Other	5/30	2200 YOUNG
1205019108ME		Vandalism	5/30	5700 TANGLEWOODS
1205017142ME		Narcotics	5/27	COOPER AND WALKER
1205017301ME		Theft Other	5/27	2100 CENTRAL AVE
1205017126ME		Vandalism	5/27	2100 YOUNG
1205015226ME		Burglary	5/24	1900 NELSON



## CYCA CRIME MAP

Do you want to know what crime is taking place in our neighborhood? The Memphis Police Department offers a tool on its website ([memphispolice.org](http://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.

## Woman robbed near Elzey and Meda

An armed robbery was reported in the Elzey and Meda area the night of June 19.

The perpetrator was reported to be an African-American male who got out of a dark colored van and robbed a woman who was walking. Police have been alerted to the issue and are responding with an increase in patrols.

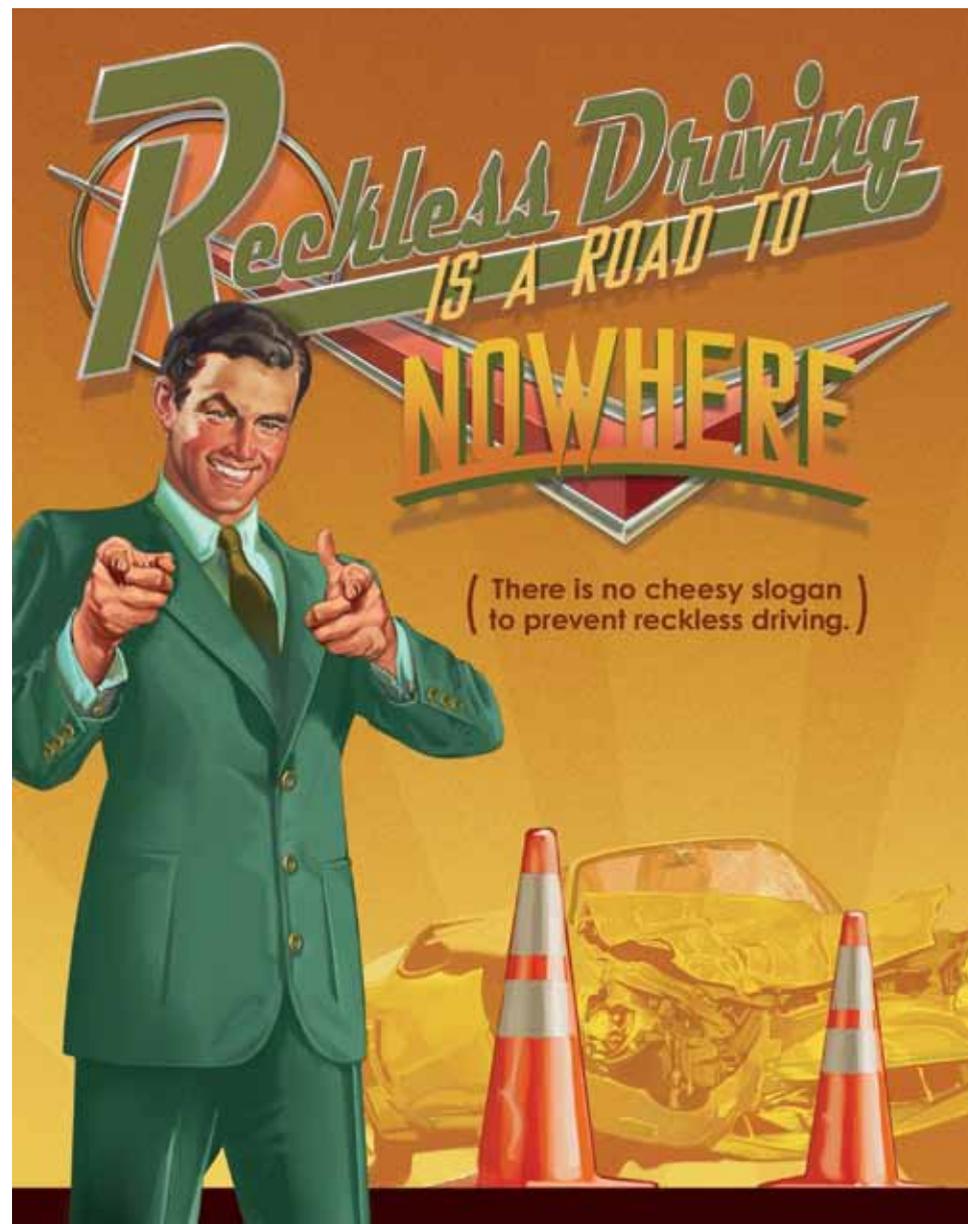
Although the Elzey/Meda area has seen of an increase in incidents lately, please note that there has been a rash of car break-ins and thefts throughout the neighborhood. In the first two weeks of June, at least 12 thefts from vehicles in our neighborhood were reported to the Memphis Police Department.

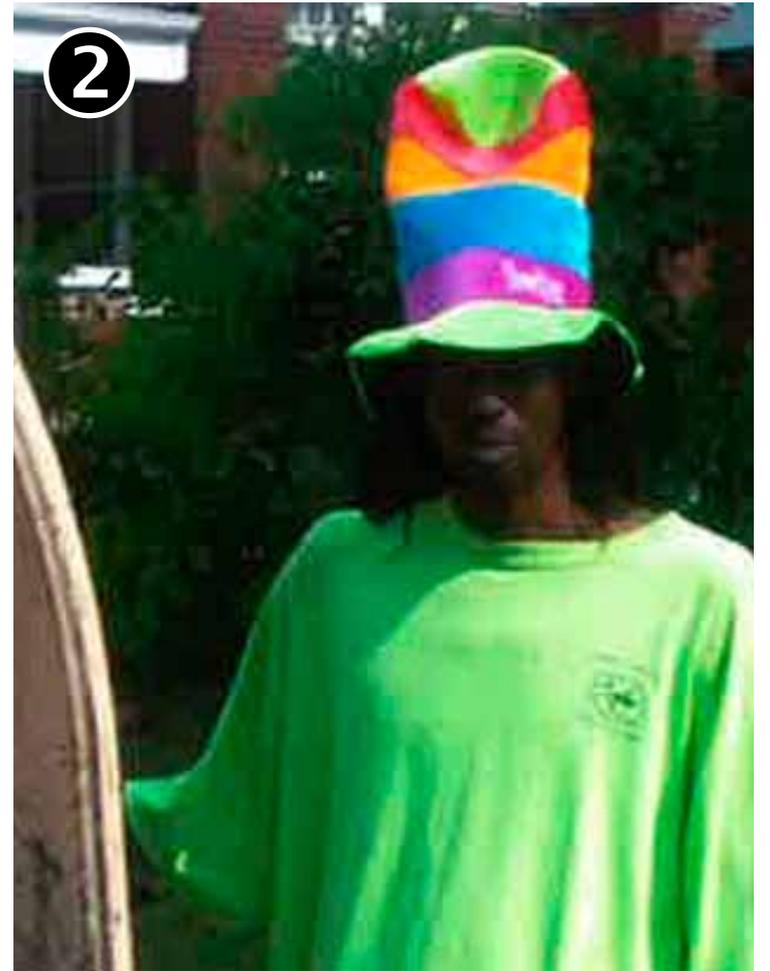


There are steps that we can all take to curb this trend. Please remember to:

- Park in a well-lit area
- Mark your valuables
- Secure the car
- Protect your plate
- Don't leave valuables in your vehicle.

And please remember to immediately call the police if you notice any suspicious activity. - Cooper-Young Community Association





## AND NOW A WORD FROM YOUR TEETH



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1 Brett Ammons (left) and Shelley Thomas participate in the Memphis Italian Festival wine race in June. Both of their families are on the team, called the Lords of Rigatoni, as well as Peter, Diana and Elek Owen. Photo by Shelley Thomas. // 2 This city sanitation worker doesn't let his job get in the way of his style. Photo by Debbie Sowell. // 3 Contestants with the reality show "Chef Challenge: U.S. Vs. U.K." set up at the Cooper-Young Farmers Market on June 23. The show, produced by celebrity chef Jamie Oliver, pits 16 chefs from both countries against each other for a \$100,000 prize. It will air in September on BBC America. Photo by David Royer. // 4 Gordon

Osing (left) and Tom Carlson, co-authors of poetry and college collection "La Belle Dame", sign copies of their new book June 7 at Burke's Book Store. Photo by Corey Mesler. // 5 Six-year-old Lyndon Thomas (second to left), 5-year-old Derin Kovarik (to the right of Lyndon), and 5-year-old Elek Owen (third to the right) all live in CY, attend (or are about to attend) Peabody Elementary, and play Idlewild T-ball together. Photo by Shelley Thomas. // 6 Artists, Jeanne Seagle & Carol Robison enjoying the delicious food at the artists reception at the Art for Art's Sake auction. // 7 The packed house at The Deli helped raise nearly \$10,000 at the annual art auction.



## Please send us your photos!

Email pictures and info of your weddings, trips, new babies, parties, anniversaries, accomplishments and more to [lamplighter@cooperyoung.org](mailto:lamplighter@cooperyoung.org)  
If it's good news in CY, we want to hear about it!

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