

Metropolitan Historical Commission

Newsletter ▪ January 2012



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MHC/MHZC UPDATES

New! MHC Welcomes New Commissioners

In December we introduced you to Commissioners Clay Bailey, Jim Forkum, and Lynn McDonald. We thought we'd *reintroduce* Commissioner Holly Sharp, who was reappointed to the Historical Commission last fall:

Holly Conner Sharp works for Bliss Communications conducting media trainings for public and privately held companies, government entities and individuals. She has worked on both sides of the media as both a producer/reporter and as a spokesperson for the state.

A graduate of Duke University, Holly was recognized as a "40 Under Forty" People to Watch in *Business Nashville*. She is an elder at Westminster Presbyterian Church, and serves on the board of directors and as the past Tennessee liaison for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee. Along with supporting the Minnie Pearl Cancer Foundation, Holly volunteers at McNeilly Center for Children and the Better Decisions program at the Tennessee Prison for Women. Prior to her appointment to the Historical Commission, Holly chaired the Metropolitan Transportation Licensing Commission in which she served for 7 years.

Holly also has her real estate license with BrokerSouth Real Estate Partners, and is a history and biography lover. A native Nashvillian, she is passionate about Nashville, its history and its growth and ensuring it remains the most welcoming city in the south.

At its December meeting, the Historical Commission elected **Commissioner Menié Bell** to serve as its representative to the Historic Zoning Commission. Commissioner Jim Forkum will serve as alternate, if Commissioner Bell is unable to attend a meeting. Learn more about Commissioner Bell and catch up on the latest MHZC happenings by reading the January 2012 issue of *Historic Preservation Zoning News*:
www.nashville.gov/mhc/mhzc/newsletter.asp.

Next month, meet Commissioners Gerry Searcy and Mark Rogers!

New! MHZC Partners with Property Assessor

In December the MHZC partnered with the Metro Property Assessor's office in a project to inform new property owners about historic overlays. Each property that is within a historic overlay is "flagged" in the Property Assessor's computer system. When one of those properties changes hands, the new contact information is collected and sent to the MHZC. The MZHC receives notice and sends "welcome to the neighborhood" letters monthly. These letters inform new property owners about the historic overlay and additional permit process. Fortunately, most property owners learn about the overlay when conducting due diligence and before purchasing a property; however, this new partnership project will be an extra reminder. Assuring that people are aware of the process up-front helps to prevent violations and allows the MHZC to work with applicants early in the permitting process.

New! 31st Annual Nashville Conference on African-American History and Culture


Friday, February 10—8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Tennessee State University

Avon Williams Campus

10th and Charlotte, downtown

The Nashville Conference on African-American History and Culture returns for its 31st year on Friday, February 10, 2012. The conference program will **celebrate the Centennial of Tennessee State University**. Founded in 1912 as Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State Normal School, TSU has been known as Tennessee State University since 1970. TSU offers bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees in a variety of fields, and is known nationally for its academic and athletic excellence. Presentations at this year's conference will highlight the history of TSU, including the role of women administrators, student life, and athletics. TSU students and faculty will present musical selections, presented by both the TSU Jazz Ensemble and the TSU Meistersingers. We hope that you will join us in celebrating the contributions of Tennessee State University to Nashville, to the state, and to the nation.

This year's conference will be held on FRIDAY, February 10, 2012, at the Tennessee State University downtown campus, at the corner of 10th and Charlotte. The registration fee is \$20 and includes admission to all sessions, the lunch buffet, recent additions to the Profiles of African-Americans in Tennessee, and other educational materials. Download the registration form here:  [Registration Form](#), or visit our website for more information: www.nashville.gov/mhc/conference.asp.

Pre-registration is due by January 27! Questions? Call the Historical Commission at 615-862-7970.

Save the Date! Civil War Sesquicentennial Event

Saturday, February 18—8:30 a.m. to Noon

Little Theater, Fisk University

Mark your calendar and plan to join the Metropolitan Historical Commission for the second Civil War Sesquicentennial Symposium on Saturday, February 18, 2012. The event will take place at Fisk University, in the Little Theater, located on Dr. D. B. Todd Boulevard, near Jackson Street. This building was built as a Union Army barracks, and was one of the first structures used by Fisk University as it began after the Civil War. This most fitting place will host the event.

8:30 AM: Opening remarks will be made by Mayor Karl Dean, MHC Director Tim Walker, and Dr. Reavis Mitchell, Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Fisk University.

9:00 AM: Tim Smith, formerly with Shiloh National Battlefield Park and now with U. T. Martin, will speak on the fall of Forts Henry and Donelson.

9:45 AM: Break

10:00 AM: Dr. Carole Bucy, professor at Volunteer State Community College and Davidson County Historian, will then speak on The Great Panic, a period of great turmoil in the city following the fall of the two forts protecting the approach to the city.

10:45 AM: Break

11:00 AM: The 1861 Project, a musical production of songs inspired by the Civil War, brought to us by Thomm Jutz. Learn more by visiting <http://1861project.com>.

IN THE NEWS

Congratulations!

Master Gardeners Receive International Award for Work with Zoo Garden

The Davidson County Master Gardeners were recently honored with a 2011 Search for Excellence award at the International Master Gardener Conference held in Charleston, WV for their work with the garden at Nashville Zoo's Historic Grassmere Home and Farm. The garden was the first place winner in the demonstration garden category.

The Search for Excellence awards recognizes outstanding contributions of Master Gardeners in communities throughout the United States and Canada. Projects must show that significant learning took place, either by the Master Gardeners or the general public with which they are involved.

For the past 15 years, the Davidson County Master Gardeners have adopted the garden behind the Historic Grassmere Home and provided the manpower and expertise to keep it a living timepiece and an educational resource for Zoo guests. These year-round volunteers are responsible for the upkeep of the garden areas, including perennial flower beds, vegetables, an orchard, heirloom roses, medicinal plants, and an herb garden; informational booklets and handouts for guests; and signage identifying the different plants and heirloom varieties. The group also hosts gardening classes in the spring, and informal talks and classes during the annual Harvest Days celebration in the fall.

Nashville Zoo is accredited by the prestigious Association of Zoos and Aquariums, assuring the highest standards of animal care and husbandry. The Zoo is a non-profit organization located at 3777 Nolensville Pike and is open every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. The mission of Nashville Zoo is to inspire a culture of understanding and discovery of our natural world through conservation, innovation and leadership. For more information about Nashville Zoo, call 615-833-1534 or visit www.nashvillezoo.org.

The Historic Grassmere Home, also known as the Croft House, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The home and surrounding outbuildings and grounds comprise the locally designated Historic Landmark District.

CONFERENCES, EXHIBITS AND EVENTS

New! First (Second) Tuesday at the Archives

Tuesday, January 10—2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Metropolitan Archives

3801 Green Hills Village Drive

615-862-5880

Every first Tuesday of the month, the Metropolitan Archives hosts an afternoon program featuring a different topic in state and local history. The monthly programs are free and open to the public.

Just for January, join The Friends of the Metro Archives on the *second* Tuesday of the month—January 10th—when Robert T. Nash discusses “Early Tennessee Land Grants.”

Mark your calendar for these topics in 2012:

February 7: Fletch Coke & Clyde Thompson, “African Americans at City Cemetery”

February 14: Bob Radcliffe, “USCT in the Civil War”

March 6: Victoria Traver, “Three Terraces” (her home on Hillsboro Pike)

New! Author’s Day

Saturday, January 21—1:00 p.m.

FiftyForward Knowles Center

174 Rains Avenue (across from the State Fairgrounds)

Join the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society for "Author's Day" on January 21, 2012. Have you ever wanted to talk with a writer about local history? Now is the time! Presentations will include: Edward P. McCullough, "Native Americans in Williamson County, TN"; Barry Lamb, "Rutherford County's Civil War"; Tom Clark, "Courage for Living" (Overton/Travelers Rest); Ross Massey, "Nashville Battlefield Guide"; Woody McMillin, "In the Presence of Soldiers" (WWII activity in TN); and Traci Nichols-Belt and Gordon T. Belt, "Onward Southern Soldiers." Authors will have books available for sale. No charge for this meeting. Refreshments served. For more information, visit www.mtgs.org.

Back by Popular Demand! Registration Now Open!

Nashville 101: Nashville History from its Beginnings to the Civil War

Thursdays in February—10:30 a.m. to Noon

Fort Negley Visitors Center

1100 Fort Negley Blvd.

Would you like to learn more about Nashville history? Davidson County Historian Dr. Carole Bucy will teach a **series of classes to help Nashvillians tie the historic places they see around town to the story of our history.** Beginning with Native peoples who followed animals to the salt lick near a bend in the Cumberland River, “Nashville 101” will follow the Robertson and Donelson parties who settled the area and founded Fort Nashborough through Tennessee statehood, Nashville’s rise as a

commercial center, its designation as the state capitol, Nashville as the Athens of the South, and its strategic location during the Civil War.

Classes will be held at the Fort Negley Visitors Center for four consecutive Thursdays, beginning on February 2, 2012 (Feb. 2, 9, 16, and 23), from 10:30 to noon. Space is extremely limited, so reservations must be paid in advance. Priority will be given to those placed on the waiting list from the fall 2011 class. The cost is \$25.00. All proceeds for this series of "Nashville 101" will benefit the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society and the organization's work at Fort Negley; registration is tax-deductible.

To register, make your check payable to the *Battle of Nashville Preservation Society, Inc.*, or *BONPS*, and mail it to the Metropolitan Historical Commission at the address below. For registration confirmation, please include an email address (or phone number) with your check. Have questions? Please call us at 615-862-7970. For more information about the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society, visit www.bonps.org.

Save the Date! **Nashville 102** will take place on Tuesdays in April (3, 10, 17, and 24) from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Registration information will be available in the March newsletter.

Registration Now Open! Me & My Old House

Thursday, February 2—6:00 to 8:00 PM

University School of Nashville

2000 Edgehill Avenue

MHC staff members Dr. Tara Mitchell Mielnik and Robin Zeigler are taking their talents to the University School of Nashville's Evening Classes program. Registration is now open for their class, "Me and My Old House." Whether your home is "historic" or just has a few years on it, the Historical Commission can help you find value in your old house. Join Tara and Robin to learn what "historic" really means. Is it all based on age? Can newer homes be historic? Learn the difference between listing in the National Register of Historic Places and Historic Zoning. Discover how to research the history of your home and determine its architectural style. **Registration is \$35.** Proceeds benefit need-based K-12 scholarships for USN students. To learn more, visit <http://www.eveningclasses.org/Relld/33637/ISvars/default/Home.htm>. Look for course #507.

Save the Date! **2012 Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Signature Event: "Invasions by Rail and River: The Battle of Shiloh"**

April 4-5, 2012

Pickwick Landing State Park

Pickwick Dam, Tennessee

Join the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission in April at Pickwick Landing State Park as presenters discuss the battles, events and stories of the Civil War. The symposium will be jointly sponsored by the Tennessee Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area and Tennessee Historical Society.

April 6-7, 2012

Shiloh National Military Park

Commemorate the 150th Anniversary of The Battle of Shiloh, one of the Civil War's

most bloody battles, with Special Extended Tours and the Grand Illumination of Shiloh National Battlefield. For details, visit www.nps.gov/shil/.

All events are free and open to the public, but seating is limited. For hotel information, event agenda, or to register, visit www.tncivilwar150.com.



SAVE THE DATE:
MAY 31-JUNE 2, 2012

NASHVILLE, TN

TENNESSEE PRESERVATION TRUST
STATEWIDE PRESERVATION CONFERENCE
‘SMART PRESERVATION: LIVABLE & SUSTAINABLE’

Join the Tennessee Preservation Trust and its statewide partners for Commission Assistance Mentoring Program (CAMP), educational sessions, hands-on workshops, tours, networking, and a tradeshow featuring Bob Yapp, former host of the PBS series 'About Your House'

For more information, contact: Cathleen Collett 615.963.1255 or tnprestr@yahoo.com.
www.TennesseePreservationTrust.org
[Facebook.com/TNPresTR](https://www.facebook.com/TNPresTR)

The Metropolitan Historical Commission publishes this monthly newsletter to keep you informed on events and happenings at the MHC. If you have questions, comments, or news to pass along, please email scarlett.miles@nashville.gov, with E-NEWS in the subject line.

Metropolitan Historical Commission
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Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County • Karl F. Dean, Mayor