

# Metropolitan Historical Commission

Newsletter ▪ March 2014



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## What's New with the MHC and MHZC?

### **ALMOST HERE! Third Annual Old House Fair**

*Saturday, March 8—9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

*The Martin Center*

*2400 Fairfax Avenue*

The Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission and partners are pleased to announce the third annual [Old House Fair](#) on Saturday March 8, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at The Martin Center, 2400 Fairfax Avenue, Nashville.

The Old House Fair is a FREE day-long festival that introduces property owners to new ideas, practical advice, innovative materials, and quality services through exhibitors, presentations and hands-on demonstrations. The event includes door prizes, the Smoke et al food truck, and the opportunity for children to learn more about historic architecture. Historic Nashville Inc. will be providing hands-on activities for children of all ages including a scavenger hunt in the Hillsboro-West End neighborhood.

Lectures and hands-on demonstrations focus on enhancing energy efficiency, maintaining and restoring old houses, and appropriate design elements for the architectural styles and eras found here in Nashville. “We will have a full range of sessions,” said historic zoning administrator Robin Zeigler, “everything from how to make an old house more energy efficient, to the processes involved with faux painting techniques, to funding your rehab.” There will even be a table set up where you can get feedback on your project from the codes and historic departments. Even if you are not a DIYer, these sessions will help you know what to look for and what to ask for when planning projects for your old home. The entire schedule of lectures and hands-on demonstrations and exhibitor’s list is available online at [www.oldhousefair.org](http://www.oldhousefair.org).

David Currey, president of organizing partner Tennessee Preservation Trust, explained that the Hillsboro-West End neighborhood makes a lot of sense for this year’s Fair. “The Hillsboro-West End neighborhood is listed in the National Register of

Historic Places. They have an existing neighborhood conservation zoning overlay for part of their historic district and are in the process of expanding that overlay to include the rest. Having the Old House Fair there is a great way to celebrate everyone's hard work in protecting their neighborhood's character."

Participants will have a chance to talk to exhibitors and get advice and information on their specific projects. Exhibitors include companies that specialize in old houses, and retailers and artists who cater to owners of Antebellum, Victorian, Bungalow, Tudor and Mid-century Modern homes.

**New! Hillsboro-West End Neighborhood Conservation Overlay District Expanded**

As of February 21, 2014, the Hillsboro-West End Neighborhood Conservation Zoning Overlay District now includes **more than 450 additional properties**. The expanded district closely follows the boundaries of the Hillsboro-West End National Register Historic District and now captures many of the streets excluded from the original neighborhood conservation overlay designation of 2005.

Due to the booming local economy and the increase in infill development, more and more neighborhoods are seeing the value of historic zoning. Like Hillsboro-West End, several neighborhoods are actively pursuing expansion of their existing historic zoning districts, while many more are exploring new overlays to protect their historic properties.

The purpose of historic zoning is to guide change in a neighborhood in a way that preserves its historic character and fabric. It does not change use. Most property owners want the additional zoning because it has been proven to protect property values.

There are three types of historic zoning in Nashville. Historic Preservation Zoning Overlays protect the historic "fabric" so essentially every exterior alteration is reviewed. Historic Landmarks are similar but include just one building or a campus of buildings rather than an entire neighborhood. Most neighborhoods prefer the Neighborhood Conservation Zoning Overlay where the goal is to preserve historic "character." Only demolition, new construction and moving a building are reviewed.

The initiation of historic overlay designation is completely neighborhood driven. The neighborhoods that probably most appreciate the overlays are existing historic overlays. Once property owners see the difference between the context-sensitive development happening inside the overlay boundaries and the type of development taking place outside of the boundaries, expansions become common.

Visit the [Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission website](#) to view the **new boundaries**, revisit the design guidelines, download applications, and learn more about the permitting process.

Excerpts of this article are from "Neighborhood Conservation Zoning Overlays More Popular than Ever," originally published in the February 2014 issue of *Historic Preservation Zoning News*, the newsletter of the Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission. To be added to the mailing list for the MHZC's newsletter, please email [Robin Zeigler](#).

**New! Lunch and Learn about Women's History**

*Tuesday, March 25—Noon  
Fort Negley Visitors Center and Park  
1100 Fort Negley Blvd.*

Join the MHC and Fort Negley Visitors Center and Park for a women's history month lunch-and-learn presentation by Dr. Carole Bucy. Bring a lunch and prepare to learn. For more information or to make reservations, contact Fort Negley at 615-862-8470 or [fortnegley@nashville.gov](mailto:fortnegley@nashville.gov).

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**2014 PRESERVATION AWARDS**

**CLOSING SOON! Call for Nominations: 2014 Preservation Awards**

We are now accepting nominations for the 2014 Preservation Awards. This is new for us, so please bear with us as we work out the details of a rolling nominations process. We'll provide information about judging and the awards ceremony as it becomes available. In the meantime, feel free to nominate your favorite preservation project as soon as it is complete!

The deadline to submit nominations is **Friday, March 14, 2014**. This is earlier than in years past, so please take note. We will not extend the deadline for photographs or incomplete nomination packets.

To learn more about the awards program, please visit [Preservation Awards](#) or email [scarlett.miles@nashville.gov](mailto:scarlett.miles@nashville.gov).

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**IN THE NEWS**

**Ongoing! NashvilleNext.Net!**

Work continues on a new Nashville General Plan which will provide a vision for our city's future over the next 30 years, along with guidance for growth and development in Davidson County and much of Middle Tennessee. Called "NashvilleNext," this is an ongoing, integrated plan for Nashville's future - and information about the plan is now available on a constantly updated webpage which includes contact information, volunteer opportunities, details of the plan in progress, and video comments from some of the many community leaders who are already part of the NashvilleNext initiative. Visit [www.nashvillenext.net](http://www.nashvillenext.net) or find Nashville Next on Facebook for the "next" big news!

Concerned about what this means for Nashville's historic resources? Read the [Historic Preservation Background Report](#) and the [Historic Preservation Fact Sheet](#), and [share your comments](#) about the future of historic preservation in our city.

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**AROUND TOWN**

**New! School of Instruction at Fort Negley Visitors Center and Park**

*Saturday and Sunday, March 8 and 9—9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Fort Negley Visitors Center and Park  
1100 Fort Negley Blvd.*

Visit Fort Negley on Saturday and Sunday, March 8 and 9, for School of Instruction presented by the 9th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry Regiment, USA, Co. B, featuring a military encampment and weapons demonstrations. The event is free and open to the public. For more information visit [Fort Negley Visitors Center and Park](#) or call 615-862-8470.

As Saturday treat, Vacant Chair Photography Studio will be on hand to create one of a kind ambrotypes and tintypes. Reservations required. Spaces fill up quickly. Call today! Appointment times from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm available. Portrait prices vary. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call Fort Negley Visitors Center at 615-862-8470.

Like Fort Negley on Facebook for up-to-date information on this and other events at the park! Mark your calendar for Fossils at the Fort on April 5, 2014, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**New! Midday History Munch**

*Tuesday, March 11—Noon*

*Fort Negley Visitors Center and Park*

*1100 Fort Negley Blvd.*

Spend Your Lunch Hour with an African-American Union Sailor

Presented by Bill Radcliffe

Bring a lunch to enjoy during the presentation. Seating is limited. For more information or to make reservations, please contact Fort Negley at 615-862-8470 or

[fortnegley@nashville.gov](mailto:fortnegley@nashville.gov).

**New! Celebrate Andrew Jackson and Save at The Hermitage**

*Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>*

*The Hermitage, Home of President Andrew Jackson*

*4850 Rachel's Lane*

On Saturday, March 15th, The Hermitage is proud to host Andrew Jackson's 247th birthday party. Get 50% off your admission ticket for this very special occasion, as we celebrate the life of a man who embodied the American rags-to-riches story. There will be educational activities for visitors of all ages, as well as birthday cake and a very special guest speaker. Bring family and friends and commemorate an American icon!

**New! Celebrate Adelia Acklen and Save at Belmont Mansion**

*Sunday, March 16—1:00 to 4:00 p.m.*

*Belmont Mansion*

*1900 Belmont Blvd.*

On Sunday, March 16th, enjoy FREE admission to Belmont Mansion in honor of Adelia's Birthday. For more information, call 615-460-5459 or visit

[belmontmansion.com](http://belmontmansion.com).

**Save the Date! 2014 Scottish Heritage Festival and Highland Dance Competition**

*Saturday, April 5—10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

*Nashville Public Library*

*615 Church Street*

The downtown Nashville Public Library and the local Glengarry Highland Dancers will host the 1st Annual Nashville Scottish Highland Dance Competition, April 5th, from 10 AM to 4 PM in the library auditorium.

Dancers from all over the southeast United States will compete for prizes, medals, and trophies in five classes: Primary (children under 7), Beginner, Novice, Intermediate, and Premier.

Dances will include: Highland Fling, Sword Dance, Sean Triubhas, Scottish Lilt, Flora Mac Donald's Fancy, and Sailor's Hornpipe.

The festival will also have bag piping by the Tennessee Scots Pipe Band, Scottish dogs, displays, and children's activities.

So mark your calendars and plan to be with us on April 5<sup>th</sup> ... wearing your kilt!

**Coming Soon! *Created Equal* – Film Screening and Discussion Series**

*Saturday, June 21 through Friday, September 26, 2014*

*Various dates and times*

*Fort Negley Visitors Center and Park*

*1100 Fort Negley Blvd.*

The Metropolitan Historical Commission in partnership with the Fort Negley Visitors' Center is delighted to be one of the recipients of a two-year grant program called *Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle*.

*Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle* is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities that uses the power of documentary films to encourage community discussion of America's civil rights history. NEH has partnered with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History to develop programmatic and support materials for the sites.

The MHC & Fort Negley are part of the 473 institutions across the country awarded a set of four films chronicling the history of the civil rights movement. The powerful documentaries, *The Abolitionists*, *Slavery by Another Name*, *Freedom Riders*, and *The Loving Story*, include dramatic scenes of incidents in the 150-year effort to achieve equal rights for all. Each of the films was produced with NEH support, and each tells remarkable stories of individuals who challenged the social and legal status quo of deeply rooted institutions, from slavery to segregation. *Created Equal* programs bring communities together to revisit our shared history and help bridge deep racial and cultural divides in American civic life. Visit the [Created Equal website](#) for more information.

Keep watching our website and Facebook page for screening and discussion dates and times!

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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](mailto:scarlett.miles@nashville.gov), with E-NEWS in the subject line.