

History Gram
The Newsletter of the
Metropolitan Historical Commission



June 2015

***In This Issue:
Mayoral Candidates Answer Questions
about Preservation in Nashville,
National Register News,
40th Annual Preservation Awards,
and more...***

What's New with the MHC and MHZC?

The field is set for the August 6th election. For a list of verified candidates for Mayor, Vice-Mayor, Council At Large, and Council District, visit the website of the [Davidson County Election Commission](#).

The election falls during a critical time for Metro. Wondering where the Mayoral candidates stand on Historic Preservation and Nashville's future? As part of Fort Negley's Memorial Day Observance on Saturday, May 23rd, the Historical Commission and the Friends of Fort Negley invited the seven mayoral candidates to share their positions on this very subject. Visit our [website](#) to read the answers!

Feel free to use these questions as a guide to learning more about where the candidates for *your* district stand on these important issues.

Question 1 - Balancing Preservation with Growth and Development: The preservation of Nashville's historic buildings and sites gives our city its unique character and "sense of place" and is an important planning tool in building economic, environmental, social and cultural sustainability. In the last year, the city's rapid growth and development pressures have caused one preservation organization to list the entire city as "endangered." *Given our current growth, how important do you consider preservation as a goal for the next administration? How would you suggest we protect those historic resources?*

Question 2 – Preservation of Metro-owned Historic Sites: Many of our city-owned historic resources have been in a state of deterioration due to lack of funds allocated for their maintenance. Examples include Fort Negley, Fort Nashborough, the Nashville City Cemetery, Shelby Park's Naval Reserve Center, Sunnyside and its outbuildings in Sevier Park, Lock 2 Park, and several Metro Schools, among others. *Do you think it is*

important to demonstrate leadership in preservation through funding annual maintenance of Metro-owned historic sites, and if so, what plan would you put in place to accomplish this?

Question 3 – Preservation of Music Row: Nashville’s Music Row is internationally known for its history in the creation of music that is heard around the world and has given us the monikers of “Music City,” and “Songwriting Capital of the World.” Since the 1950s, this area has nurtured an environment where all disciplines of the music industry (song writing, publishing, recording, record labels, entertainment attorneys, artist managers, and etc.) are gathered and have flourished. The importance of this area of Nashville has led to its having been identified as a “National Treasure” by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. *Currently, sites that formerly were home to music industry businesses are being demolished to make way for new housing developments, threatening the area and its synergy as a place to create music. What is your stance on this issue, and what type of plan would you put in place if you hope to change the current course?*

Question 4 – Preservation Incentives: Many states and cities in the U.S. offer economic incentives to owners of historic properties when they make appropriate repairs and renovations to historic buildings. These incentives include property tax abatements, grants, and fee waivers, to name a few. *If elected, how would you create similar incentives for owners of historic properties, both residential and commercial, in Davidson County?*

Question 5 – Heritage Tourism: In addition to its appeal as “Music City,” some of our city’s best but least utilized assets for tourism are the stories and sites that tell our history—from geologic formations and natural history, Native American sites, and early white settlements, to plantations and slavery in Civil War era Nashville, and the Civil Rights movement—just to name a few. *How can we raise the profile of our past and the historic sites that dot our landscape to enhance our attractiveness as a tourism and convention destination?*

New! National Register News

The State Review Board approved the National Register nomination for RCA Victor Studios (aka Studio A), and it will be going to the Keeper of the National Register at the National Park Service this summer. Additionally, the Historical Commission is working with History, Inc. on two National Register historic district nominations, for the Bluefields district in Donelson, and for a historic district in Inglewood.

Great Success! The Rain Didn’t Stop the Run!

Many thanks to everyone who braved the elements and volunteered with the 2015 Memorial Day Dash. Additional thanks to everyone who pitched in and helped with the preparations in the time leading up to the event. We had a great turnout, despite the weather, with 265 pre-registrants and 70 walk-up registrations.

Wondering where you placed? Need some motivation for next year? Check out the race results: <http://www.nashvillestriders.com/race-results-2015/>

Thanks to WKRN and WSMV for covering the event:

<http://wkrn.com/2015/05/25/memorial-day-dash-to-benefit-nashville-city-cemetery->

[restoration/](#)

http://www.wsmv.com/story/22432383/memorial-day-means-tradition-across-middle-tennessee#.VWN-9Xz_X7M.mailto

2015 Memorial Day Dash Sponsors Included:

Gabby's Burgers • Nissan Next • Dozen Bakery • Dale, Inc. • Athlete's House • Metro Parks • Metro Historical Commission • Nashville City Cemetery Association

Ongoing! Love Research, Writing, and Nashville History? If so, Nashville Needs YOU!

The Metropolitan Historical Commission and Davidson County Historian, Dr. Carole Bucy, are teaming up with other Metro departments including the Mayor's Office, Information Technology Services, Metro Government Archives, and the Nashville Public Library to embark upon a comprehensive on-line **Encyclopedia of Nashville and Davidson County**. We need your help! If you are interested in researching and writing one or more articles of approximately 500 words pertaining to people, places, or events significant in Nashville history, sign up to become a writer! Check out <http://writers.nashville.gov> for more information and the "Guidelines for Writers" -- then email encyclopedia@nashville.gov to sign up!

As the Nashville Encyclopedia puts the 19th century to bed, **more twentieth century topics will be coming available soon!** Keep checking back at <http://writers.nashville.gov> to see the current article needs, and email your interests to encyclopedia@nashville.gov!

2015 PRESERVATION AWARDS

New! 40th Annual Preservation Awards

The Metropolitan Historical Commission celebrated National Preservation Month by presenting Preservation Awards to sixteen properties and recognizing twelve properties with honorable mentions. The event took place in the Nashville Public Library Conference Center; Mayor Karl Dean assisted with the awards presentation. After the awards ceremony, Historic Nashville, Inc. and the Historical Commission hosted a reception honoring all participants at L&C Tower, 401 Church Street, with special thanks to CJ's Catering.

A record number of sixty properties were nominated this year in the categories of Residential, Educational and Institutional, Commercial, and Infill architecture. Judges for the 2015 Preservation Awards were Melissa Wyllie, president of Found Feather Communications, Howard Kittell, president and CEO of the Andrew Jackson Foundation, and Patrick Gilbert, AIA, LEED AP, with Gresham, Smith and Partners.

Along with recognizing outstanding preservation projects, the Metropolitan Historical Commission presented the Achievement Award to Mike Curb for his dedication to the research, documentation, and preservation of Nashville and our country's music history for the benefit of present and future generations. The Commission honored the Nashville Zoo at Grassmere for its dedication to protect and research the history of the enslaved cemetery at Grassmere Farm, and to promote the full understanding and appreciation of life at Grassmere Farm in the 19th century. Previously presented to

Nashville mayors Phil Bredesen and Bill Purcell, the Preservation Leadership Award is given at the Commission's discretion to recognize outstanding leadership in Nashville history. The Commission recognized Former Mayor of Forest Hills Bill Coke with this award for his commitment to educating the public about the history of Forest Hills and working to preserve the history therein, including the Kellytown Native American site.

The 2015 program marks the 40th year of the Preservation Awards event, held annually to coincide with the national celebration of Preservation Month. The local theme this year was "Keep Nashville Unique," inspired by Historic Nashville, Inc.

Visit [Preservation Awards](#) to learn more about the program and to see a list and photo gallery of the winning properties.

To learn more about the awards program, please visit [Preservation Awards](#) or email scarlett.miles@nashville.gov. Missed this year's deadline? We're already accepting nominations for the 2016 Preservation Awards program. Email Scarlett Miles to request the 2016 nomination form.

AROUND TOWN

It's that time of year again!!

Amqui Station Farmers Market

Historic Amqui Station- Madison, TN

Sundays 12pm-3pm, May-August

The Historic Amqui Station Museum will be open free of charge during market hours.

Visit www.AmquiStation.com for more information.

12South Farmers Market

Sevier Park- 3000 Granny White Pike Nashville

Tuesdays 3:30pm-6:30pm, May-October

Visit www.12southfarmersmarket.com for more information.

New! Exciting Developments at Metro Archives

To say that the Metro Nashville Archives Facebook page is a huge hit is quite the understatement. If you don't already follow the Archives on Facebook, you really should! Check the (almost) daily postings of photographs and clippings from the department's collection to help the Archives team identify various historic houses and streetscapes, test your memory of historic Nashville, or just indulge in a little nostalgia for our city's beloved landmarks—some lost, some saved.

In recent weeks, the Archives has debuted two new tools available to further educate and entertain its guests and virtual visitors. For those visiting the Archives location within the Nashville Public Library, the brand new "History Wall" features two, 42-inch, interactive touch-screen monitors that each display images and documents from the Archives' collection. Meanwhile, the new Archives blog highlights some of the department's finds to tell the stories behind the objects, photographs, and documents housed in the Archives' collection. Bookmark the blog today!

<https://nashvillearchives.wordpress.com/>

New! Tennessee History for Kids Tent Revival (for K-12 teachers)

Tuesday, June 9

*Nashville Public Library
615 Church Street*

Do you know a social studies or history teacher in Tennessee? Have they signed up for the first ever "Tennessee History Tent Revival"? Tennessee History for Kids is bringing together several noted authors and historians to talk about integrating state and local history into teaching the new social studies standards. The Tent Revival is scheduled for June 9, and registration has almost filled up, but for more information, see <http://www.tnhistoryforkids.org/tentrevival>.

Co-sponsored by Tennessee History for Kids and the Tennessee Council for the Social Studies, this free event is intended for public and private school history and social studies teachers, and counts for six hours of teacher training. Topics include the Tennessee suffrage movement, slavery and music, the Wessyngton Plantation and what it teaches us about slavery, Cherokee culture and the Trail of Tears, the Donelson Party journey and early Middle Tennessee history, and much more. Look for the MHC's own Dr. Tara Mitchell Mielnik's presentation about the Nashville Encyclopedia as well as Davidson County Historian Dr. Carole Bucy's presentation on Women's Suffrage. Visit <http://www.tnhistoryforkids.org/tentrevival> for more information, and to reserve your seat. Reservations must be made in advance and the \$20 registration fee will be reimbursed on the day of the event.

New! Summer Events at Two Rivers Mansion

*Two Rivers Mansion
3130 McGavock Pike*

The Friends of Two Rivers Mansion will kick-off their summer music series, Music at the Mansion, with a special performance by the Nashville Symphony conducted by Vinay Parameswaran on Thursday June 18 at 7:00 p.m. Come out and listen to favorites from Saint-Saëns Marche, Rossini, Sibelius, Brahms, and Bernstein while picnicking under the stars. This concert is part of the Symphony Under the Stars community concert series and admission is FREE.

Music at the Mansion will continue throughout the summer. The schedule of the three live outdoor concerts includes the Moonlighters with their Big Band sound who will play on July 18. Bring your dancing shoes because a dance floor will be provided to jitterbug. On August 22 the ever popular Nashville Blues Society, featuring the Eight O' Five Jive and Markey Blue, will take the stage. Closing the season is newcomer to the Two Rivers stage, the Tennessee Mafia Jug Band.

Rose Mary Lane's Catering will be on site so guests can purchase summertime refreshments. Music starts at 7 p.m. but the grounds are open at 6 p.m. so plan to arrive early to get a good spot.

Admission for each music event is \$5 per person or \$20 per family or carload. Admission for the Historical Tours is \$5 per adult, and \$2 for children. Members who present their current membership card will be admitted FREE to all events.

Since its inception, the Friends wanted to host regular tours of the home. This summer, Historical Tours of Two Rivers Mansion will be held four days a week. Visitors will learn about the rich history of this antebellum home and the McGavock family who resided there. Tour dates will begin June 8th and continue through the end of August; a complete listing of those dates and times may be found on the [website](#).

Proceeds raised will fund the restoration of the mansion. Friends of Two Rivers Mansion is a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization therefore all membership fees are tax deductible. For more information for upcoming events and membership visit the website at www.friendsoftworiversmansion.org or contact Events Manager Laura Carrillo at 615-862-8431 ext. 233. All events are supported by Metro Parks & Recreation.

Ongoing! Historic Home for Sale

We rarely, if ever, feature historic home listings in our monthly newsletter, but 3111 Hydes Ferry Road is a special case, so we are making an exception! If you are looking for your next preservation project, consider the Stephens House on Hydes Ferry Road. Built by the Hyde Family, this amazing antebellum home totals 2,580 sq. ft. on a lovely .98 acres. Additionally, the home is known as one of the houses used by Jesse and Frank James during their time in the Bordeaux and Jordonia communities. The owner is very interested in selling the house to a preservation-minded individual or group. The sale price is \$75,000. For more information, call Barbara Wayman at 615-293-1882. Photos are available on our [Facebook page](#) or by request. As always, MHC/MHZC staff is available to offer preservation advice and resources, such as those offered at the annual [Old House Fair](#).

Save the Date! Tracing Your Ancestor on the Early Southern Frontier

Saturday, July 25 – 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

FiftyForward Knowles

174 Rains Avenue

The workshop, presented by the Middle Tennessee Genealogical Society and FiftyForward Knowles, will feature a series of lectures by Dorothy Williams Potter, a researcher, writer, and presenter with over 50 years of experience. She lectures at state, national and local historical conferences focusing on migration, problem solving and case studies. Dorothy is a long-time MTGS member, former editor of the MTGS Journal and current member of the Board.

Lecture 1: Hidden in Plain Sight: Tracking Pioneers Before Statehood in the Territory South of the River Ohio which includes Tennessee = Discusses important sources of settlement and migration within trans-Appalachian America neglected or unknown by the average researcher

Lecture 2: Following the Carolina and Great Wagon Roads: Travel Regulation in Old Southwest, 1770-1823 = Land Passports, authorizing travel when migration into Indian and Spanish-held land, are examined, along with points of entry, earliest trails, settlements, and existing records

Lecture 3: Too Early for the Census? Sources for Locating Ancestors on the Old Southwest Frontier = Settling in the Old Southwest and bordering states long before statehood, hardy pioneers generated many unique English, French, Spanish, and Indian records that will be discussed in detail with copious sources given to further one's search.

Lecture 4: Pioneer Intruders on Indian Lands in the Old Southwest: Where are the Records? = Little-known research sources exist in government recording documenting pioneers intruding on Indian lands. How and where to access these accounts are presented in detail.

Registration: \$25 FiftyForward Members, \$40 Nonmembers (includes lunch and handouts).

To register, mail check payable to FiftyForward Knowles or call 615-743-3400 for credit card registration.

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