



THE VILLAGE VOICE

BY: HISTORIC OLD HICKORY VILLAGE (HOHV)

P.O. Box 13, OLD HICKORY TN 37138

WWW.OLDHICKORY.ORG - FALL 2009

Tree Lighting Ceremony



Last year we had an idea to light the big spruce tree at Veteran's Memorial Park and have a little get together to celebrate the Holidays. It was a surprisingly big hit! So much that we've added thousands of lights to the tree and are having the Ceremony again this year.

It will be at **6pm on December 5**. The special musical guest is an Old Hickory native, **Garcia and Scott**. The Village Library will provide sto-

rytelling. You might want to bundle up cause it was cold last year, but there will be plenty of warm drinks provided. The **Church of the Nazarene** will bring some snacks for everyone to enjoy.

The **Christian Community Outreach Center** is in need of donations especially during the Holidays. One way to support them is to come to the "Swingin' for the Kids" Big Band Dance at the community center immediately following the ceremony. Admission is an unwrapped toy and \$10. Dance lessons at 7, the Moonlighters go on at 8. There will be refreshments, a silent auction, and Santa himself.

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The Harvest is Over

As the nights grow longer, the cold temperatures draw the growing season to an end. And what a great season it has been! This was the first year for the Old Hickory Village Community Garden, located on Hadley between 11th and 13th streets. The garden was started as an outreach project by the Old Hickory First Baptist Church and the July 15th issue of the Baptist Reflector included a nice article about this project. The garden contains 30 12'x4' plots, 2 large watering tanks and a compost bin. Every plot was used and a little bit of everything was grown, including squash and tomatoes, beans and sweet corn, peppers and greens of all kinds, herbs and flowers. The garden was started in the spring when several people volunteered to do the original tilling of the ground and stake out the plots. By mid May, the first seeds were being sown. Gardeners were creative with their plots and growing styles, including a lasagna garden and one plot dedicated to composting. There were weekly learning sessions given on a broad range of topics, such as canning, herbs, natural pest control and healthy soil. There were field trips to organic farms and a couple garden parties. There were plant sales to raise money for the fence around the garden. A beautiful photo of Village hands and tomatoes was part of East Nash-

ville's Tomato Festival, and a few gardeners worked together to make a scarecrow for Cheekwood's annual scarecrow exhibit. "You Are My Sunshine" can currently be seen keeping our garden safe from hungry birds.



As the summer gave way to fall, a Harvest Festival was held in the parking lot next to the garden on October 3. The day was kicked off with a kid and pet parade, complete with the local Pack 70 Cub Scout troop. There were booths, games, music and food. As well as many events like sack races and corn-on-the-cob eating contests. There was a great turnout and many people enjoyed their prizes from the cake walk.

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A Ride on the Music City Star

A perspective by Jared Throneberry

From Oct 13-23 the Music City Star tested the waters for a train stop in Lakewood/Old Hickory. The two week period was supposedly set up to see how ridership would be and use that to determine if they wanted to make the stop a permanent one.

I live in the heart of Old Hickory and work in the heart of downtown: a prime candidate for the train. Since monthly parking can be \$100-plus, I generally drive to Gallatin Rd and pick up the new Rapid Transit bus at \$1.60 per trip. MTA priced the Lakewood train at \$4.25 each way. The bus runs every 15 minutes all day. In contrast, the train picked up once at 7:10am and arrives downtown at 7:45. You get only one shot in the afternoon too, 5:10pm.

Herein lie the biggest obstacles with the Music City Star. The price for one is comparable to downtown parking. So unless you really hate driving and enjoy the train's scenic path, price wouldn't be a major influence. Second, the schedule is firm. Your job would need to fit the set time frame. For some this was a deal breaker. For me, the morning time was reasonable but I got home about 30 minutes later than normal. And they wait on no one. You would need to be confident that you could make it on time every day, or at least on good enough terms with your wife to come pick you up.

Location would be the other major consideration. The pickup location at Lakewood City Hall would only attract Hopewell, Brandywine, Old Hickory, and maybe parts of Madison. Not necessarily the largest cluster in Nashville. Then obviously, you'd need to work downtown between from 8-5. They did provide shuttles to transport you around downtown and to the Vanderbilt area. But still, with these restrictions the target market is very limited.

Which is probably why on the four days I rode the train, there were at most 15 people on three cars. Each double-decker car holds probably 50 riders. One afternoon, a friend of mine and I were alone in our respective cars,

not knowing the other was there. It was not however a bad experience. The ride is comfortable and not unreasonably shaky on the tracks. You are guaranteed an on time arrival. The tracks go through picturesque and nearly rural parts of Donelson you've probably never seen. And maybe it's just the spirit of a boy, but it's pretty cool to ride a train.

I doubt that the Music City Star will be a permanent stop in Lakewood. Even if it did, I would probably only ride it occasionally. And you didn't hear this from me, but I heard the whole thing was just a publicity stunt. If nothing else, it got our community in the papers too.

"The ride is comfortable and not unreasonably shaky"



*****THINGS TO DO*****

- Dec 1: Chamber of Commerce Luncheon
- Dec 3: Neighborhood Watch
- Dec 5: Breakfast with Santa, OH Methodist 9am
- Dec 5: Tree Lighting Ceremony, 6pm
- Dec 5: Swingin' for the Kids, 6pm Comm Center
- Dec 7: HOHV Monthly Meeting
- Dec 13: HOHV Annual Meeting ~ All residents are invited to vote on next year's board members. Refreshments.



Promoting our economic and civic business growth.

P.O. Box 506
Old Hickory, TN 37138-0506
847-4516

Membership Luncheon
First Tuesday of each Month
Old Hickory Country Club
11:30am

communications@oldhickorychamber.com

Internet: www.oldhickorychamber.com

Join Us!



Village Salvage

1053 Donelson Ave (Next to the Post Office)
351-5764

Open: Thur. 10 - 5
Sat. 10 - 4

Christmas Tree Stands
Reg. \$29.99
SALE \$5!

Mini Christmas Lights
Buy one Get one
FREE!

While Supplies Last...

In the Studio with Aaron & Ashley

By Jennifer Mayo

Photography by Mary Claire Crow

“This is where we wanted to live”

“Our love is like a storybook story.” The lyrics to the song from “The Princess Bride” keep running through my head as Aaron Robinson and Ashley Mayfield, both in their early 30s, share their story with me on a beautiful, crisp fall day. Originally from Cleveland, Tennessee, these two lovebirds first met in high school. Over the years, they kept meeting and drifting apart, especially while Ashley studied at the Savannah College of Art and Design for five years. They eventually started dating seriously after Ashley moved back to Tennessee. While Aaron studied at MTSU’s Recording Industry Department, the couple lived in Murfreesboro, later moving to Green Hills before finding our wonderful village and deciding to make it home.

As an artist, Ashley studied various forms of art and experimented with a myriad of textures, even pig intestines. But clay became her true passion. With clay, “my hands just knew what to do.” Ashley began sharing her gift with children, teaching art classes for school groups at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts in Nashville. It was there she learned about Old Hickory Village. A coworker who lived here was always talking about her great neighborhood. Later, when the couple decided to buy their first home, another friend gave Ashley a tip. “I’ll tell you the coolest neighborhood, but you can’t tell anyone.” Aaron and Ashley had to see Old Hickory for themselves. The first time they saw the village they knew: “This is where we wanted to live.”

Eventually they found their special home at 906 Clarke Street and moved in May 2006. At the time the house wasn’t much to look at, but they transformed it into one of the jewels of the street. Starting with the façade, they added a front porch and repainted it in Ashley’s favorite color, bright green. Soon they added a workshop in the back for Ashley to create her beautiful sculptures. After a year in their home, Aaron and Ashley took a huge chance and answered a Craig’s List ad to have their home featured on a television show — A&E’s *Find and Design*. The show selects one room in a home and redecorates on a modest budget, using “finds” from flea markets, tag sales and the store Big Lots. Ashley and Aaron describe their TV design experience as both “interesting” and “eye-opening.” When asked if they would do it again, they agreed that they have a lot of respect for their designer, Jennifer Farrell, and enjoyed working with her. But they probably wouldn’t try it again. Since then the couple has repainted and redesigned the room.

Ashley is a talented ceramic sculptor who creates her masterpieces in the comfort of her backyard studio. You may find her work for sale at Shimai at The Loveless Café as well as online at <http://www.etsy.com/shop/ashleymayfield>. Aaron, the other half of this artistic duo, is blessed with an amazing voice. By profession he is a buyer for a national footwear chain, but his real passion is music. He has experimented with several projects, including a solo album 'We Are Racing Ghosts' which is available on iTunes. But he has found his creative home in his current group — Aaron Robinson & The Lost Verses. They are currently working on an album, and while they don’t have an official release date you can keep up with their latest news by becoming a fan on Facebook at www.facebook.com/aaronrobinsonmusic or on Myspace at www.myspace.com/aaronrobinsonmusic. You can also catch them live at various rock clubs around town, like Mercy Lounge, The Basement, or The 5 Spot.



Ashley and Aaron currently live with their three dogs, Belle, Faux and Mulligan, and a white Persian cat named Bogey who responds to “Sir.” They hope to celebrate their love by tying the knot sometime in 2010 while continuing their individual contributions to the arts.

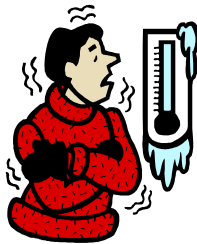
“Village Voices” will be a regular feature in our community newsletter. Please recommend a neighbor (or yourself), anyone with an interesting story to tell. Contact Jennifer Mayo at jamayo10@yahoo.com

Energy Saving Tips for the Fall and Winter

By Adam Flowers

For older homes, like most of those here in the village, the fall and winter months can represent significant challenges in the areas of indoor comfort and energy costs. Here are a few simple steps we can all take to reduce our energy bills, and increase comfort, this fall and winter.

1. Check your thermostat. There are two ways you can save energy with your thermostat. The less expensive way is to set the temperature to 68 degrees during the winter and not touch it until April. The Department of Energy estimates that your heating costs will increase 3% for every degree above 68. The next step is to replace your manual thermostat with a nice sleek programmable thermostat.



2. Seal air leaks. We've all got them around our house, cracks or holes that allow cold air to enter our house and heated air to escape. The most common places are around doors and windows, and places where pipes go into the walls, such as underneath sinks. Although individually insignificant, these small gaps can add up to be the equivalent of an open window. Spray foam, caulk and weather stripping are cheap, easy fixes to air leaks.

3. Check your ducts. Fixing leaky ducts represent one of the greatest energy-saving opportunities in your entire house. About 20% of conditioned air is lost

through leaks in ductwork. If you don't mind getting a little dirty, this can be a great do-it-yourself project.

4. Change those dirty filters. You might be surprised how far this simple step goes. Not only will it save you money on your energy bill, it will increase the life of your HVAC system. Imagine trying to breathe through a straw all day long, and you'll get the idea of what it's like on your HVAC to try and work with a dirty filter. The best habit to get into is buying the inexpensive filters and replace them every month or two.

5. Check the water heater. Your hot water heater represents about 20% of your annual energy costs. If you have an older heater that does not have insulation built into the unit, an insulating "tank wrap" will help keep water heated longer. It's also a good idea to insulate as much of the hot water pipe that you can access. Next, set the thermostat to 120 degrees.

6. Lights and appliances. Although they only account for around 10% of your total energy costs, reducing energy waste from lighting and appliances is one of the easiest fixes. If you have a hard time turning lights off when you're not in a room or closet, install motion sensors that automatically turn them off after you leave a space. Plug appliances like televisions and computers into power strips. Even when they're not officially "in use," appliances still draw power if they're plugged in. Utilizing power strips and turning the switch off will stop that vampire current from draining your wallet.



The Harvest is Over... *continued from page 1*

After all the fruits (and veggies) of their labor have been eaten, all Village residents can have a more lasting memento of the garden with a 2010 calendar. Mary Crow has put together a stunning calendar using pictures from the garden. Mary is a Village resident who is a professional photographer and also has a plot in the garden. If you're familiar with Mary's work, you know they're a must-have. They make great Christmas gifts as well! You can pick them up at Shipley's for \$18 as a fundraiser for the garden.

Any resident of Old Hickory Village is welcome to a garden plot. It's free of charge and requires following a few simple rules. However, plots are limited so put your request in early for the 2010 year! For more information go to the Beautification page at oldhickory.org.

COMING IN JANUARY!

VILLAGE VOLUNTEER KICK-OFF

FREE DINNER, details to come at oldhickory.org