



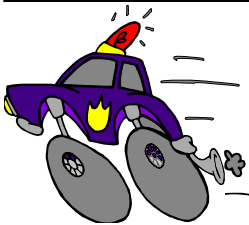
# Cleveland Hall Gazette

January/February/March/April 2011



## Cleveland Hall Annual Meeting

The Cleveland Hall Homeowners Association Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, December 4th at the Hermitage Golf Course. The annual budget was reviewed and the President recapped 2010 and the accomplishments of the association and addressed items for 2011. The election was held and vacant positions filled for another term. Several committees are in need of individuals to become members and participate. Please contact Kathy Holbrook or one of the board members to join a committee. The neighborhood needs your assistance.



In February there was a police chase by Lakewood Police that resulted in a vehicle carrying three occupants crashing into the street sign on the

corner of Cleveland Hall Boulevard and Station Four Lane. Two of the suspects were taken into custody and the third eluded capture. Because the lack of a stop sign is a safety concern, Metro public Works replaced the sign with a standard pole and sign. The board is working on replacing the pole and street signs with the type used in Cleveland Hall.



The neighborhood yard sale will be held on Saturday, May 14th and the neighborhood picnic will be on Sunday, May 15th in the Cleveland Hall picnic

and playground area. Please bring a covered dish or desert. The meat, condiments, and drinks will be provided. Please contact Kendell or Tami Poole if you plan to attend.



## Recent Storm:

The Cleveland Hall community was hit by the storms that came through in February 2011. The neighborhood was very fortunate because there was heavy damage very close by. Lakewood residents received some very severe damage as did the Hermitage Golf Course. There was damage to the fence that separates Cleveland hall from the community. The board has authorized the repair of that fence because it has been implied by previous cleaning and repair that the association was responsible. The fence is the property of the homeowners along the fence and any damages or repairs in the future will be the homeowners sole responsibility.



## Protect your home:

Fit and use good quality door and window locks. Install 'snap lock' devices on windows. A well-secured door will have a security chain, 5-lever mortise deadlock, door viewer 'spy hole' and hinge bolts. Always lock doors and close windows. If you're going to be away from home, ensure that it seems as if your house is occupied. Leaving lights and the radio on or using timer switches. Always keep keys in a safe place, out of sight and away from doors and windows. Don't leave them on the kitchen or hall table. Never leave spare keys outside in a garage or shed. Visible alarms and carefully directed security lighting put burglars off. Prickly shrubs make it harder for thieves to get into your property. Don't make any security improvements that may slow your escape in case of fire. Remember, if you can get into your home without keys, so can a burglar. Be a good neighbor, especially if you have elderly neighbors, and keep an eye out for anyone prowling around their property.



A temporary structure has been placed in the Cleveland hall amenity area. This building will be used by

realtor Ben Wilson to assist Allen Bryan in selling lots within the Cleveland Hall community. It is anticipated that this will not only draw traffic to the neighborhood for individuals that want to build new homes, but also generate traffic for individuals that will possibly be interested in purchasing existing homes that are for sale. Allen has assured the board that the temporary facility will look professional and be well maintained.



Homeowner information:  
by Wilson Stewart:

I recently received a \$75 water bill and I knew something was wrong since my average bill runs \$25 to \$30. The problem turned out to be a bad water pressure regulator. After replacing the regulator, my plumber said that the household water pressure shouldn't be more than 60 psi. Anything more than that can cause a shorter life for washing machines, dishwashers and water heaters. I then went to Home Depot and bought a water pressure gauge for \$11.00 and plan to check the pressure from time to time in the future. For more information, go to News & Notes page at <http://www.clevelandhallhoa.com/news.htm>.

Spring is here and it is time to clean up and dispose of unwanted items. You can call Good Will or another community organization and donate those items or call the Sheriff's Office to have them picked up and taken away.

## Councilman's Corner:

Councilman Darren Jernigan has created a forum for the people of District 11 to discuss their thoughts, feelings, and ideas. The list serve has been a success, as over 100 citizens have signed up to discuss topics and gain information he post such as the Hermitage Most Wanted, Department Newsletters, etc... sign up here: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/district11publicforum/>

## History of Cleveland Hall

Going toward Lebanon Road from Old Hickory, just past Andrew Jackson School and on your right, is Cleveland Hall, home of Mr. and Mrs. John Donelson VI. A graceful old Georgian mansion, it sits serene in the midst of its rolling acres, far back from the highway behind a bluegrass lawn, with ancient cedars marching in stately rows on each side of the long driveway.

Cleveland Hall is one of the famous homes in this section and one of the few that are still owned and occupied by descendants of Col. John Donelson, who led his valiant party of pioneers by boat from Ft. Patrick Henry, in the Watauga Settlements of what is now North Carolina, to the Cumberland country in 1779. The story of this remarkable journey is one of the most amazing in the history of the settlement of the West.

Col. John Donelson's family was one of the leading families of Virginia during the years leading up to the American Revolution. Col. Donelson himself was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses and some of his distinguished colleagues were George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry and Richard Henry Lee.

When plans were being made to seek out new lands in the rich Cumberland country, as yet unsettled by white men, it was decided that James Robertson, one of the leading spirits of the Watauga Settlements, should take a party by land. Col. Donelson came by the longer, though slightly less difficult, route which led down the Holston River to the Tennessee, down the Tennessee to the Ohio, up the Ohio for a short distance to the mouth of the Cumberland to the Great French Lick, which is now Nashville.

Nearly two hundred persons, including a number of slaves, comprised the party which left the Watauga Settlements on December 22, 1779. They traveled on flatboats, dugouts and scows, led by Col. Donelson's "good boat Adventure." Only the bare essentials, such as food, clothing, cooking utensils, farm tools, necessary household furnishings, bedding, medicines and seeds could be brought along. In the company was James Robertson's family and the families of many of the men who were taking the land route with Robertson. Col. Donelson's wife and eleven sons and daughters were all present, among them his 12-year-old daughter Rachel, the future wife of General Andrew Jackson.

Col. Donelson's diary contains a day-by-day account of this historic journey and is one of the important documents which record the history of this section of the country. The diary itself, now aged and yellow but perfectly legible, is one of the priceless objects in the possession of the present John Donelson and is appropriately kept at Cleveland Hall. The entries were made in an old surveyor's fee book, which also contains records of surveys made in Virginia and Maryland as far back as 1764. Col. Donelson was a surveyor and helped to survey the Virginia-North Carolina boundary line. He later made a copy of his diary, adding to it, and this copy is now the property of the Tennessee Historical Society.

Soon after his arrival at French Lick, Col. Donelson began seeking a suitable tract of land upon which to build his home and settle his family. Paddling up the Cumberland, he turned into the mouth of Stone's River and presently came to the tract now known as "Clover Bottom," where Lebanon Road crosses Stone's River. Recognizing the fertility of these level river bottoms, Col. Donelson immediately chose the spot as his home. His family was sheltered in open-faced cabins some 150 yards northwest of the present bridge, and crops were planted in Clover Bottom. Due to floods and hostile Indians in the vicinity, however, Col. Donelson moved his family that summer across the Cumberland to the safer settlement of Mansker's Station, located on Mansker's Creek, which flows into the Cumberland on the north side of Hadley's Bend, not very far from the DuPont plant.

In November or December of that year (1780), the Donelsons moved to Kentucky, where they lived until 1783, when they decided to return to the Cumberland country and occupy the lands they had selected here. Col. Donelson was on a business trip back to Virginia at the time his family returned to Tennessee, where he planned to follow them. He never lived to complete the journey, however. On his way back from Kentucky by horseback, he was mysteriously murdered. The true facts of his death have never been determined, and many histories record that he was shot by Indians from ambush. Some suspicion, however, rested on two white men with whom he was traveling.

Sometime around 1790, Capt. John Donelson, son of Col. Donelson and brother of Rachel, built the first of the Donelson houses in the vicinity of Cleveland Hall. Known as Ingleside, it was a log dwelling located between the present village of Hopewell and Lebanon Road, where the house occupied by Mr. Hubert Tuck now stands. In 1810 Captain John built the Mansion, a two-storied house of logs. This house was located within the Hopewell village area and was still standing until destroyed by fire just after the first World War. It was inherited by Capt. Donelson's son, Stockley, grandfather of John Donelson VI. Ingleside went to William Donelson, another of Captain John's sons. Stockley's holdings, adjoining William's, extended to Dupontonia (now Lakewood), and comprised about 2,000 acres. Part of the land later purchased by Andrew Jackson for the Hermitage was included in this tract. Stockley occupied the Mansion until he built Cleveland Hall.





From all indications, Stockley Donelson was his own architect and designed Cleveland Hall himself. No mention of an architect is found in any of the records. Certainly whoever planned it had an eye for graceful proportions as well as for 'practicality.' The house has 18 rooms. The main rooms are 18 feet by 20 feet, with 13-foot ceilings. Not only the outside walls but even the 15-inch-thick partition walls are of brick, which were made on the plantation with slave labor. The house was built in a cotton field, but the proud old cedars that now line the drive were flourishing young trees when the house was completed in 1840. It is thought that Stockley Donelson planned the house long before it was actually built and planted the cedars in rows in his field so they might be starting their growth. Some of them have died or been blown down in storms, so that many are missing now, but they have been carefully replaced by young cedars. An ancient holly tree stands near the house.

Inside the house, the woodwork is snowy white, except for the polished railing of the graceful stairway. Fireplaces, doors and window casings are simply and beautifully carved. All of the original floors remain, built of smooth, wide hardwood boards. The hallway is distinctive in that it is divided into front and back halves by a partition with a white carved doorway opening into the back portion, where the stairway leads to the upper hall. Another stairway leads to an upstairs bedroom from the nursery on the lower floor.

The parlor opens on the left from the hallway, and just back of the parlor is the dining room with wide doors between which, when opened, throw the two rooms into one. Both parlor and dining room have big fireplaces in the walls opposite the hallway. The thickness of the walls gives a depth to the doorways and windows, adding greatly to their beauty. The windows were all placed just where windows should be, making the rooms well-lighted. The whole effect is one of simplicity, good proportions and excellent taste.

The house is furnished with lovely old furniture, most of it cherished possessions of the family through several generations. Perhaps the most interesting piece is the desk belonging to Col. John Donelson, which was brought down the river from Watauga on the boats in 1780. It is quite probable that some of his diary was written at this desk. On top of the desk rests his compass.

There is also a little vanity table that was a present from Rachel Jackson to her niece, Emily Donelson, who used it in the White House during the Jackson administration. Rachel Jackson died after General Jackson was elected President, but before he took office, and the General invited Emily and her husband, Maj. A. J. Donelson, to live in Washington with him. Emily, who was the sister of Stockley Donelson, builder of Cleveland Hall, was a gracious and accomplished girl, well suited to her position as mistress of the White House. In the dining room at Cleveland Hall is a chest of drawers presented by General Jackson to Emily's husband, but it is not certain that this piece was used at the White House.

The proud old house has been the scene of many happy gatherings and a number of distinguished persons have been entertained beneath its roof. Three presidents have enjoyed its hospitality: Andrew Jackson, of course, was there a number of times, and Martin Van Buren and James K. Polk have both sat in its gracious parlor and discussed the serious questions of the day with the Donelson men and their neighbors. There were a great many of the Donelson cousins, nieces and nephews, as well as friends among the families of the countryside, and it is easy to imagine the great room filled with young laughter so long ago, and the swish of starched petticoats descending the curved stairway. There were plenty of slaves on the plantation to "fetch and carry," and the life in the Cumberland country was gracious and leisurely.

At the death of Stockley Donelson, Cleveland Hall passed to his son, William Stockley Donelson, and from him to his son, John Donelson VI, and finally to John Donelson VIII, the present owner.

One hundred and sixty years sit lightly upon this sturdy old house and it is still a most pleasant and comfortable place to live. Its present mistress says, "It is the most practical house I've ever seen." A furnace has been installed, so that the house is well-heated, but a grate fire burns in Mrs. Donelson's sitting room and great logs are laid in the parlor and dining room, to be started at the strike of a match.

The Donelsons do not use the Roman numeral after their names, and it is used here only for purposes of identification. The present master and mistress of Cleveland Hall have two sons and a daughter: John Donelson VII, Leonard Hooper Donelson and Mary Hooper Donelson, who is a rather well-known artist and sculptress. Mary Hooper is the wife of P. T. Jones and she and her husband live at Cleveland Hall with her parents.

John VII also has two sons and a daughter: Agnes Scaright Donelson, John Donelson VIII and William Stockley Donelson.

Mrs. John Donelson VI, the gracious mistress of Cleveland Hall, was before her marriage Miss Betty Hooper and she has a claim in her own right to the rich heritage of the early pioneers. Her great-great-grandfather, Robert Cartwright was one of the party who made the perilous first journey by water from North Carolina, to help establish new frontiers for the young American republic.

Note: The present owners include William Stokley Donelson II, William Stokley Donelson III, David Alexander Donelson, Daniel Andrew Donelson, John Donelson III (VIII), Elizabeth Donelson Williams Butler, Mary Hooper Williams Wolfe, Sara McBee Williams Gelling, and James Thomas Williams IV.

The house is located at 4041 Old Hickory Boulevard.





## Spring Tips For A Healthy Yard

Spring is just around the corner and our thoughts turn to working outside in our yard, preparing our shrubs, trees and grass for the summer heat. It is also a time to enjoy the beauty of spring and summer flowers and flowering shrubs and trees. Below are a few tips that will help you maintain the beauty of your yard and keep it green and healthy for the summer.

February and March you should use a pre-emergence on your yard. This will help prevent the growth of crabgrass and other unsightly weeds in your yard. Reminder: if you use pre-emergence you should wait until the fall to seed your yard, because the pre-emergence will prevent grass seeds from germinating also. Note: Many experts have recently suggested that you complete two applications of pre-emergence to help you better control the growth of crabgrass.

Now is the time to mulch and fertilize your landscaping, flower beds, shrubs and trees. It is also recommended that you use pre-emergence on your landscaping to prevent the growth of weeds and grass.

You should prune your Forsythia and Azaleas as soon as possible after they have finished blooming for the year. If you wait until later in the year or fall you will prune the blooms for the next year.

If you have spring bulbs such as daffodils it is best not to cut the tops back until somewhere around Memorial Day. If you cut the tops off of them much earlier, many times they will not bloom the next year. For tulips it is best to take them out of the ground after they bloom and plant them again in the fall.

If you have fall mums that come up in the spring and you would like for them to bloom to provide fall color you should keep the buds pinched off of the plants until after July 4th week. They should then bloom for the fall.

For those of you who grow roses in your garden, it is important to spray them with a fungicide as soon as they begin to grow in the spring to help prevent Black Spot and other summer diseases.

Our neighbors takes a lot of pride in the appearance of our homes and these tips can help you maintain the curb appeal of your property whether you do it yourself or have a service do it for you.

By: Dennis Blackwelder

## 10 Spring projects to protect your home:

**Gutters:** Gutters do their job best when clean. Check for foliage build-up, particularly if trees hover over the roof. Make sure the downspout are clean.

**Retain the Roof:** Be diligent about roof maintenance. Inspect your ceiling for wet spots. If the shingles are curling, buckling or crackling, it's time to replace the roof.

**Check Your Paint Job:** Look for chipped, cracked paint along the exterior of your home. Brighten up the house with a good power washing.

**Cut Shrubs and Trees:** Trim overgrown trees and hedges away from your home to discourage the growth of mildew and moisture. Get rid of out-of-control vines, as they can help crack siding and allow moisture and pests entry into your home.

**Love Your Lawn:** Rake up the excess leaves you didn't get around to last fall. Pull up weeds, remove foliage from the lawn, shrubs and any plants, pull up dead flowers and replace them.

**Keep the Air Fresh:** An efficient air conditioner removes moisture and humidity from your home, which in excess, can damage its foundation. So if you aren't changing air filters monthly, start now.

**Watch Windows and Doors:** Investigate all doors and windows for leaks and drafts, particularly near the corners. Look for peeling and chipping paint, which can signal water intrusion.

**Control Pests:** Keep garbage and debris under control around the exterior of your home. "Do what you would do inside, and get rid of junk. Inside, check the house for entrances and gaps where mice and insects may be tempted to come through.

**Take a Peek at the Plumbing:** Except for a coffee maker, anything dripping in your house is a bad sign. Check for leaking faucets or sweating pipes, clogged drains and faulty water drainage systems.

**Tackle the Tiles:** While you're in spring-cleaning mode, pay attention to worn grout between floor tiles in the bathroom or kitchen. A small crack in the grout or caulk can lead to an expensive repair later, re-seal as soon as possible.

## Information:

### Cleveland Hall Board members:

Kendell Poole, President - 847 5500  
 Denis Blackwelder, Vice President 491-3929  
 Faye Ellis, Treasurer - 884 9070  
 John Ford, Secretary - 541-0402  
 Andy Dunn, Director - 847 1384  
 Property Manager; Kathy Holbrook  
 615-269-7016 ext 204

To pay online, go to "sentrymgt.com" then in the right hand corner you will see payment center

### Street lights:

If you notice a street light that is out, please notify the Property manager, Kathy Holbrook a 615-269-7016 ext 204

The Cleveland Hall News letter will be distributed electronically and it will be posted on our web site. If you have not provided an email address to receive an e-mail copy, please forward your email address to Kathy Holbrook at "kholbrook@sentrymgt.com".

Thank you.

### Metro Police

Emergency	911
Non-emergency	862-8600
<i>Precincts:</i>	
Central	862-7611
East	862-7600
Hermitage	880-1776
North	862-4410
South	862-7744
West	862-7747

### Metro Fire Dept

Emergency	911
Non-emergency	862-8585

### Other

Dept. of Public Works	862-8750
Metro Council	862-6780
Office of the Mayor	862-6000

### From The Editor:

If you have any items that you would like included or suggestions to improve please contact any board member.