

Bellevue edition

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THE TENNESSEAN

DAVIDSON A.M.

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To our readers

Davidson A.M. is a news and information supplement to The Tennessean dedicated to covering Nashville's neighborhoods. The Bellevue edition focuses on stories from neighborhoods in Bellevue and West Davidson county. Call 259-8089 with story ideas and suggestions.



Published Monday-Wednesday-Friday

Bellevue NewsNotes

GJCC's fourth annual golf tournament Sunday

The Gordon Jewish Community Center will have its fourth annual golf tournament at 9 a.m. Sunday at Harpeth Hills Golf Course. The fee is \$100 and includes breakfast, refreshments and prizes. Proceeds from the tournament will go toward improving children's sports at the GJCC, which supports youth basketball, soccer, T-ball, baseball, flag football and swim teams. The tournament is open to anyone. Golfers can register at the GJCC or online at www.nashvillejcc.org. Harpeth Hills Golf Course is at 2424 Old Hickory Blvd. The GJCC is at 801 Percy Warner Blvd. For more information, contact Trey Edmondson at 356-7170, ext. 283.



Proceeds from the fourth annual golf tournament will go toward improving children's sports at the Gordon Jewish Community Center.

'Sing, Wiggle and Giggle' tonight at Red Caboose

Metro Parks and Red Caboose Playground Inc. will continue the 2004 Tales at Twilight program with "Sing, Wiggle and Giggle," with Rachel Sumner as host, 7-8 tonight at the Red Caboose Amphitheater. Tales at Twilight, sponsored by Publix Super Markets Charities, provides free, family entertainment. Stories are told through dance and music. Bring a picnic basket and blanket. Red Caboose Amphitheatre is on Highway 70 at Colice Jeanne Road. Contact Mimi Shimmmin at 862-8424 for more information.

Summer Dance Experience begins 6-week run Monday

Dance in Bloom will be offering a six-week Summer Dance Experience starting on Monday and running through Aug. 5. Students will be instructed in ballet, tap, jazz/hip-hop, pom, tumbling and choreography. They will showcase their talents to family and friends at an in-studio recital at the end of the session. Dance in Bloom is at 162 Belle Forest Circle. To register for the Summer Dance Experience or for fall classes call 662-4819.

Hillwood High Class of '64 reunion tonight, tomorrow

The Hillwood High School class of 1964 will have its 40-year reunion at 8 tonight and 7 p.m. tomorrow at the Radisson Hotel at Opryland. Call Pat (Maguire) McCoy at 353-5552 or e-mail Donna (Engelhardt) Whiteman at hillwoodreunion@g33x.com for more information.

YOUR BELLEVUE REPORTER
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Computer virus attack forced Mouse Calls to expand

Demand too much for 1-man operation

By RICK MOORE For Davidson A.M.

A Bellevue man who has been in business for himself since 1998 has taken the plunge and moved into a new headquarters in the Bellevue Station shopping center. But it wasn't necessarily by choice. Alan Reeves is the owner of Mouse Calls, which provides a variety of computer repair services. He said that the arrival of last year's Blaster computer virus, which crippled computers all over the world, brought him so much business that he had to hire some help to handle it all. That led him to open his new shop, which held its grand opening on June 1. "It was Aug. 11th, 2003," Reeves recalled, "and the reason I remember it was that I thought it was some sort of

cyber-terrorism. "I had my first call about it at 11 o'clock in the morning. By 11:30 that night, when I got home, I had 70 calls." Reeves created a CD with the patch that would remedy the problem, and he had to drive to each client's house to install the patch. "I had to physically go to Bellevue, Brentwood, Hendersonville, Springfield, Ashland City ... because it hit everybody at once," he recalled. "Until the end of September I was booked 12 hours a day because I already had roughly 550 or 600 clients of my own at that time. It became obvious that I would either have to discontinue taking new clients or expand the business." So, expand the business he did, gradually enlisting help until he decided to open the Mouse Calls store. Reeves said that the Mouse Calls customer list is 900 strong and growing. "Probably 40% of our business is in

Bellevue, 40% is in Belle Meade, and 20% is in other areas," he said. The company employs three people besides Reeves. Reeves said that the company's main product is service, in-store and at customers' homes. "We delve into Web design, but we're not programmers. We focus on pure service," he said. "We don't build computers. We don't stock inventory. "What we do are service upgrades, a lot of software troubleshooting, hardware repair, networking, wireless and other services. I'm working on some Palm Pilot software problems right now." Reeves said that one of his specialties is making sure that customers don't lose everything they have stored on their computers during the course of a repair. "If you take your computer into a retail center with a service department, they might have you sign a waiver saying that they can erase your hard drive," he said.

Getting there

Mouse Calls is in Bellevue Station at 353 Clifton Drive in Bellevue. The hours are 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. The phone number is 662-0235.

"A lot of people don't understand that they may lose everything. I've gained clients that way, who took their computers into shops for upgrades and lost everything that they didn't have backups of. "That's what I like about our approach. We always put data first." Reeves, who lives only a few blocks from his new business location, is happy to be in Bellevue Station for a number of reasons. "The proximity to home is a big plus," he said, "and this whole center has been undergoing a renaissance of sorts for some time, especially since City Limits (restaurant) came in." "There's Pizza Perfect," he continued. "The Upper Room (church) is upstairs. On Friday nights I can't find a parking place because everything's so packed. The exposure here is more than I could ever ask for. And it's a nice, cozy little spot." ■

Organizer helps clients get a grip

Clearing clutter not just getting rid of things

By RICK MOORE For Davidson A.M.

In today's hectic world, it can be easy for us to accumulate excess clothing and other belongings and to let clutter take over our lives. Ellen Zucker of EZ Organizing is dedicating her life to helping people organize their homes and businesses and to helping them simplify their lifestyles. As a personal organizing consultant, Zucker provides a service she said brings harmony and order to peoples' lives. Zucker said that it can be beneficial for people to hire a personal organizer to help decide what to keep and where to keep it, rather than to let clutter become a serious issue. "Hiring an outside person often seems to work much better than people trying to do it for themselves," she said. "The organizer becomes the middleman, the coach, the motivator, when people truly want to get organized and improve their surroundings. "The organizer can see things more clearly than people who live with disorganization on a daily basis. "I can help people organize and streamline their lifestyles and sometimes help them avoid conflict. That's what it's really all about. There's a lot more to it than just getting rid of things."



To learn more

For more details, visit www.ezorganizing.com or e-mail info@ezorganizing.com.

NINA LONG / STAFF
Ellen Zucker decided to become a professional organizer after her job in music publishing was downsized.

Zucker is a New York native who moved to Nashville 14 years ago to work in the red-hot country music industry of the early 1990s. "I was working for a music publishing company," she said, "plugging songs to lots of major artists. But then the com-

pany downsized, and I was one of the people who was, well, downsized. So now I help other people downsize their lives." Realizing that she was a "people person" who possesses natural organizing skills, Zucker started EZ Organizing in 1999. "I wanted to follow what I believed was my calling, but I had no idea if there was such a job as being an organizer," she said. "Then I found out about NAPO (National Association of Professional Organizers), and I learned there was an organizing group in Nashville called Tennessee Organizing Professionals (TOP). "It turned out that the organizing business was blossoming in Nashville at the same time I decided to go into business for myself."

Zucker said most professional organizers in Nashville charge between \$25-\$75 per hour and that her fee schedule depends on the size and duration of the project. Regina DuBois is a real estate broker in Sylvan Park and a client of Zucker's. "Ellen really does a great job," DuBois said. "I needed some help organizing my office, and she gave me some pointers about organizing my house, too. "One of my clients told me she barely recognized my office after Ellen got done, she did such a great job of helping me with it." Jim Blumberg of Bellevue, a commercial real estate consultant, also has used Zucker's service. "The biggest thing Ellen did for me was get me motivated to do the things I

need to do," Blumberg said. "She showed me where to concentrate my efforts and helped me develop a method by which to become organized." "I've been this way, extremely organized, ever since I was a little girl," Zucker said, as she sat on a spotless ivory couch in her immaculate, minimally furnished, definitely-not-cluttered Bellevue apartment. Even Zucker's cats seem organized. "I really have to thank my parents for encouraging me to have my own business," she said. "They've always believed in me and supported me in any way they could. "I try to do more than just help get rid of clutter," Zucker said, "I motivate and encourage people to get organized. A lot of people need this type of help, and I love to provide it to them." ■

Even in leaders' titles, this church tries not to be churchlike

By RICK MOORE For Davidson A.M.

Pastors, priests, bishops, deacons, rabbis — we're all familiar with the titles held by the leaders and personnel in our houses of worship. But how about chief of staff? Director of first impressions? These are titles of two of the staff members at Bellevue Community Church, a non-denominational church that has had its own way of doing things since its beginnings in the theater of the Bellevue Middle School in 1989. Randy Thompson is the chief of staff at Bellevue Community Church, and he explained the reason behind the somewhat uncommon titles. "This church exists to reach the unchurched," Thompson said. "We welcome the fact that those folks are here. "So we try to make Bellevue Commu-

nity Church a church for people who maybe don't understand church, who don't understand the functions of the people who are there. "Denominations sometimes have to follow certain things they've always done. "You almost have to be a part of that culture to understand what they're talking about. We don't want to have an environment where we have to have an interpreter explain what things mean." Thompson said while he is officially known by the title of executive pastor, he wasn't entirely comfortable with that title as he settled into the position. But what he was, by virtue of his job, was the chief of staff. "I had a staff, I was the chief, so I was the chief of staff," he said. "Everybody kind of understands what that means, that's what

my function is, so we left it at that." John Haggard is the church's director of first impressions. Thompson said Haggard's role with this unusual, but basic, title is twofold. "John's main charge is to make sure everyone gets a good first impression from the time they first come on our campus," he said. "He deals with all the volunteers you interface with as you come in, the traffic and parking team, people at the info table, people with the collection buckets, he's in charge of those teams. "Once somebody wants to step up to volunteer, John's the one who plugs them into those volunteer teams. For instance, he manages about 160 greeters." Other staff members include the creative arts director, the technical director,

and the graphic arts director, titles not as ambiguous and as stuffy, perhaps, as traditional church labels. Although they may sound more like the staff of a Broadway production than a church, Thompson is clearly proud of his team and the impact he believes their work has had on the community. "We want to help people along with their journey," he said, "so we try to break down any barriers (that) might be an impediment to that, and the titles are part of that. "We're here for people who don't usually go to church. For instance this building doesn't look like a church. It looks like maybe a school, or a campus of some sort. "There's no steeple or cross. We're just trying to get people to come in and experience the Gospel." ■

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