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@HarrimanCHHCO

401 Morgan Avenue, Harriman



# Newsletter

August 2024

*Custodians of the Past. Stewards for the Future*

CHHCO IS OPEN TO ALL INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN PRESERVING AND PROTECTING HISTORIC HARRIMAN. MEMBERS NEED NOT BE A RESIDENT IN A HISTORIC DISTRICT TO BE ACTIVE.

## Coming Soon!



*Share this QR Code with others!*



**DON'T FORGET HOORAY FOR HARRIMAN FESTIVAL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND**



*Be sure to come down to the Hooray for Harriman Festival on Labor Day, September 2<sup>nd</sup>!*



Come visit the CHHCO Booth located near the Princess Theatre. We will continue to have tour info and memorabilia for sale. However, we're going casual this year and encourage you and other attendees to set a spell! It's a great opportunity to see friends and neighbors you may not have seen during the dog days of Summer. We'll have chairs, waters and treats to share. Please stop by and meet someone you may not know!

### **Sound of Silence is Broken by the Sound of Progress!!!**



For our non-resident membership and friends, Harriman at this time is far from quiet. The busy intersection of Roane St and Walden Ave has been partially closed while contractors dig and install a new sewer from roughly the parking lot at the City Offices to the old Harriman Hospital ambulance entrance.

This "mess" to replace aging infrastructure is actually being done in coordination with a re-

surfacing program for Roane Street (US Hwy 27). The sequence of work prevents tearing up a newly repaved roadway to repair or replace down the road (pun intended). So, we'll live with the inconvenience now to prevent an emergency repair and patch-work excavation in the future.

This public project, however, is not the only investment being made in the city at this time. The development at the Midtown exit is a multi-year project which we won't discuss in a Newsletter focused on Historic Preservation. Nevertheless, there are people noticing and commenting on Harriman's resurgence all the time, and we need to note some of those projects being made on Historic properties.

Renovations of residential properties are not always easy to see, because so much of the improvements are made inside the house. However, the character and value of our Historic community is based on the quality of the exterior of the homes which is why Harriman has a Historic Zoning Commission. While not even zoned Residential Historic (R-H), the



Demyanovich's and LaDue's exemplify additions to historic properties that blend in with the

historic elements of their residences. Properly planned expansion projects like these increase



the value above and beyond the financial investment by making the home immediately more functional for them and more attractive to future residents. Great jobs, guys!

On the commercial property side, properties are being obtained and renovated constantly. The most recent commercial property sale is the former Amazing Bakes building, where an investor has purchased with the intent to complete renovations of 2<sup>nd</sup> floor apartments and hopefully retain the storefront as a bakery. No final plans have been announced, so keep an eye on the progress at this location.



Don and Elizabeth Conley have taken on massive renovation of the former Tanner Building/ Walden Hotel on Walden Avenue. The structure was cited by the Historic Zoning



Commission as blighted in 2019. Upon obtaining ownership of the structure, the Conley's immediately replaced the broken storefront windows and began the huge renovation inside which is not noticeable to the general public. They are progressing with the help of other CHHCO members, and at some point we will be able to see the interior spaces as they are ready for occupancy.

Some commercial building renovations seem to have re-sprouted from the ground, and the structures were essentially gutted and rebuilt.



This is the case with Travis Kirkland's dining expansion at 522 N. Roane St. and the current Atrium Venue at 311 N. Roane St.

Former photos of the condition are all that is necessary to understand the transformation of these properties from next-to-nothing to viable facilities.



Writing about the transformation of the 300 block of N Roane St is humbling, because it did not, and could not, happen by the efforts of a single person. I can't even say there was a plan other than to "clean up the buildings" and save these structures in Harriman's Downtown Commercial Historic District from demolition.



***Renovate it, and they will come.*** Harriman was already beginning to turn the corner, which I believe can be credited to Covid and the high cost of living in other parts of the country causing a multitude of people searching for the quiet, small town environment Harriman offers. That



is not to say quiet means there's nothing to do, but the calming effect of safe and friendly communities which people sought to alleviate the uncertainty of the time.

More improvements are on the horizon, and it is exciting to see the transformation. We trust that all our property owners within Harriman (not just Historic Districts) will sense that their participation not only benefits themselves but their neighbors. That's what a community is all about. That's what CCHCO is all about.

## Next Harriman Hall Workday is September 28<sup>th</sup>

All donations go directly to the renovation of Harriman Hall and are not used for any of the organization's operating expenses.

Donation Levels	Cumulative Level of Donations
Preservation Leader	\$25,000 or Greater
Preservation Guardian	\$10,000 - \$24,999
Preservation Steward	\$5,000 - \$9,999
Sustaining Donor	\$1,000 - \$4,999
Supporting Donor	\$500 - \$999
Contributing Donor	\$100 - \$499

Cornstalk Heights Historical Community Organization is a 501(c)(3) organization, and donations are therefore eligible as a tax-deductible charitable contribution to the full extent of the law. Donations can be sent to:

CHHCO  
401 Morgan Ave  
Harriman, TN 37748

# CHHCO Community Calendar

## September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	Labor Day 10-4 HOORAY FOR HARRIMAN STREET FESTIVAL	3	4	5	6	7 7:30 PM An Evening with Levi Kreiss
8	9	10	11	12 7:00 CHHCO Board Meeting 408 N. Roane	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 7:00 PM Exposed! (Children's Theatre Production)	28 9-noon Harriman Hall Workday  7:00 PM Exposed! (Children's Theatre Production)
29	30					