

Memory Kits Now Available at the John P. Holt Brentwood Library

Page 10



Photo: One of the new memory kits available at the library from the Alzheimer's Association Tennessee Chapter.

CONTENTS

- 3 Chief Selected for FBI National Academy
- 4 Firehouse Libraries
- 5 Brentwood Briefs
- 6 The Bugle
- 8 Windy Hill Park Playground
- 9 City Fire Chief Speeds to Victory as Drag Racer
- 10 Memory Care Kits at the Library
- 11 “Servant’s Heart” Video Series

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The City Update is published semi-annually by the City of Brentwood. Comments and suggestions should be directed to info@brentwoodtn.gov.

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KIRK’S CORNER

By City Manager Kirk Bednar

By the time this newsletter hits your mailbox, the City’s annual Arbor Celebration will have already passed. I have no doubt it will have been a great success thanks to the hard work of the Brentwood Tree Board, and staff from the Parks and Recreation and Community Relations departments and the John P. Holt Brentwood Library.

Countless Brentwood backyards, mine included, contain beautiful trees that started as saplings in a plastic bag distributed at the annual Arbor Day celebration. Those Arbor Day trees are just a small part of what makes Brentwood such a beautiful place to live.

Many newcomers often comment that one of the things that attracts them to Brentwood is the trees and how green the community looks when driving around town. We have many parks and undeveloped natural areas that boast of magnificent mature trees, some hundreds of years old. But most of our wonderful tree canopy in town comes from residents who know the value of trees, and plant and care for them in their own yards.

In newer subdivisions, many of those trees are planted after a home has been built. While relatively small today, they will become the majestic trees enjoyed by future generations of Brentwood residents. Brentwood is extremely proud of being named a Tree City USA, a recognition we have now received for 35 consecutive years.

If you or your child received a sapling for Arbor Day, I hope you will pay it forward and find a place to plant it. As the saying goes, “The best time to plant a tree was thirty years ago, the second-best time is now.”

ASSISTANT POLICE CHIEF COLVIN SELECTED FOR ELITE FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY



Jim Colvin, assistant chief of the Brentwood Police Department, was selected to attend the elite FBI National Academy, Session 291, this summer at the Marine Corps Base in Quantico, Virginia.

He is only the third person from the Brentwood Police Department (BPD) to attend the academy, and he will join some of the best police officers from around the world for the 10-week program.

"His attendance will be very beneficial to the Brentwood Police Department," Richard Hickey, BPD Police Chief and FBI National Academy alumnus, said. "The academy is designed for those in

law enforcement who have senior leadership capabilities and potential. This is a great honor and opportunity for Jim."

The FBI National Academy is a professional course of study for U.S. and international law enforcement managers nominated by their agency heads because of demonstrated leadership qualities. The invitation-only program provides coursework in intelligence theory, terrorism and terrorist mindsets, management science, law, behavioral science, law enforcement communication, and forensic science.

Colvin will take undergraduate and/or graduate courses at the FBI Academy campus, but he'll also be pushed physically during his session. The final test of the academy's fitness challenge, the Yellow Brick Road, is a grueling 6.1-mile run through a hilly, wooded trail built by the U.S. Marines. Along the way, participants must climb over walls, run through creeks, jump through simulated windows, scale rock faces with ropes, crawl under barbed wire in muddy water, maneuver across a cargo net, and more.

Colvin joined the BPD in December 2004, serving over the last 20 years as a patrol sergeant, a detective, a patrol lieutenant, and a captain over the City's Patrol Division. In 2022, he was named Assistant Chief of Police. He earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Tennessee at Martin and his master's degree in emergency management from Jacksonville State University.

BRENTWOOD NAMES NICHOLE DUSCHÉ AS NEW CITY JUDGE

Nichole Dusché, a local attorney and city court judge for Spring Hill, was recently named Brentwood's next city judge. After a state-wide search, the Brentwood City Commission appointed Dusché to the position during their Jan. 22 meeting.

"I look forward to serving the City of Brentwood and am honored to have been chosen for the position," she said. "My goal is to run a fair and efficient court that prioritizes maintaining a safe and beautiful Brentwood."

The City Judge presides over Brentwood City Court, hearing cases involving traffic violations and other Municipal Code violations. Dusché takes over the position from Laurie Jewett, who retired last year.

In November 2023, the City established an ad hoc advisory committee to conduct a search for Brentwood's next judge. The committee – attorneys Kristin Berexa, Todd Moore, and Jeff Oldham, with Brentwood City Attorney Kristen Corn serving as an ex-officio, nonvoting member – reviewed 21 applications, whittling the number down to five finalists.

"This was a hard decision because every single applicant I thought was well qualified," Brentwood Commissioner Anne Dunn said. "Whoever we end up with, I don't think we can go wrong, so the citizens can be comfortable with whoever is selected."

Dusché, a graduate of Vanderbilt University and Nashville School of Law, previously served as Brentwood's interim city judge. She owns her own law practice and is a former assistant district attorney. In 2021, she received the Attorney for Justice Award.

Dusché and her husband, Pete, have two daughters.



Above: Nichole Dusché is sworn in as the new Brentwood City Judge at the January 22, 2024 City Commission meeting.

FIREHOUSE LIBRARIES

Neighborhood sharing libraries are popular in communities across the country. You may even have one on your street. Now, thanks to the Brentwood Library, Brentwood firefighters have little libraries of their own.

The Community Engagement and Outreach Department at the library is setting up “Firehouse Libraries” at fire stations across the city. The donated books are from Friends of the Brentwood Library.

“Our firefighters work long hours. We want to support them in any way we can. They may not be able to get to the library as much as they’d like. So, we’re bringing the library to them,” said Susan Earl, Library Director.

So far, Station 1 and Station 5 have libraries. Books range from fiction and nonfiction to cookbooks.

“Our firefighters are enjoying their new libraries. Reading a book is a much more productive way to spend the down time, instead of watching TV or scrolling on a phone. We’re thankful for the library staff and the Friends of the Brentwood Library for the generous donations,” said Jeff Pender, Fire Marshal for the City of Brentwood.

Station 2 will soon receive books for its library.



Above: Lieutenant Paul Stine browses the new library selection at Fire Station 5.



IN-HOUSE LAPTOP CHECKOUT COLLECTION COMING THIS SPRING

Coming soon to the John P. Holt Brentwood Library – eight public laptop computers will be available to check out and use throughout the library. Patrons must be a Brentwood library cardholder to check out the laptops.

The computers cannot be taken off library property. A parent can check out a laptop and take it to the children’s library, making accessibility much easier. Adults can check out a laptop and use it in a study room or on the Reading Terrace. The laptops will be synced to the library’s Wi-Fi and wireless printing. Desktop computers will remain for public use and for guest access.

Left: One of the Dell laptops that will be available at the library.



CITY ADJUSTS PARK FEES

Last November, Brentwood adjusted its parks' fees for the first time in 10 years. The City charges fees to help offset the maintenance and operation costs for picnic shelters, tennis courts, and athletic fields. Fees are also required for non-resident participation in sports leagues provided by outside organizations.

Under these new fees, Brentwood residents will pay \$25 to reserve a park shelter for up to four hours, and \$50 to reserve it from 4.5-8 hours. Non-residents will be charged a higher rate. A full listing of the new fees is available on our website under the Parks and Recreation Department.

PARKS RESERVATIONS SYSTEM

The City of Brentwood is using a new software system, RecTrac, for residents to reserve shelters at city parks. Users will need to create an account to make a reservation request, and once a request is made, they have the option to receive text message reminders about their reservations.

Park visitors cannot make reservations for two consecutive days, and they are limited to five reservations per season. For information, visit the "reservations" page on our website under the Parks and Recreation Department.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY AT CITY HALL

At 7 p.m. on Monday, May 13, Brentwood will host its inaugural Memorial Day Ceremony during the City Commission meeting that evening at City Hall.

The ceremony, which will honor the men and women who died while serving in the military, will take place at the beginning of the meeting, and it will feature patriotic music and displays. A reception will follow the meeting in the City Hall Annex Room.

STORMWATER QUALITY

The City of Brentwood is actively promoting awareness about stormwater quality and its impact on the environment through a local cable network campaign airing on channel 19. These videos have great information for children and adults about how our actions can impact stormwater quality and the environment. It's crucial for communities to be informed about how everyday actions can contribute to pollution and be harmful to our water sources.

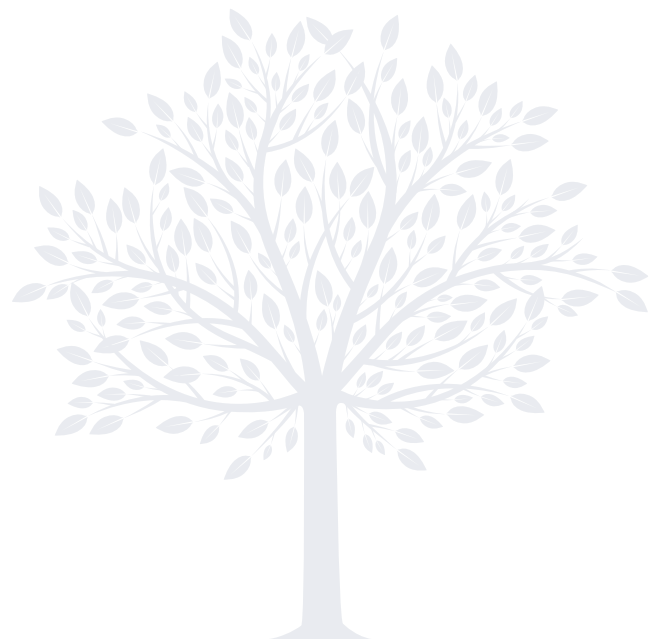
Highlighting specific actions such as improper disposal of motor oil, over-fertilizing lawns, incorrect handling of household chemicals, and improper disposal of dog waste helps create awareness about potential sources of pollution. Storm drains directly impact the rivers and lakes that constitute our primary reservoirs of drinking water. Ensuring the purity of stormwater is not merely an environmental concern; it is a fundamental necessity for the well-being of our community.

Overall, by raising awareness and promoting responsible behavior, the City of Brentwood is taking proactive steps to protect its water resources.

WHY IS BRENTWOOD WATER DIGGING UP MY PIPES?

On Nov. 30, 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the proposed Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). Under the LCRI, water systems such as Brentwood Water are required to provide an inventory of lead service lines within their jurisdictions by Oct. 16, 2024.

According to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), "Homes built after July 1988 are subject to the TN Lead Ban and should not have any lead materials in the service lines." Brentwood Water has identified the homes built prior to that date, and crews are currently inspecting pipes at those locations, to complete its inventory. More information on the Lead and Copper Rule is available on TDEC's and the EPA's websites.



THE BUGLE



TENNESSEE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME CENTRAL HEATING PLANT

By Joe Grosson

In 1911, the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home (TBCH) purchased land on Franklin Road to provide more space for the children it served. In the following years, dormitories, a hospital, a dairy farm, and a school appeared on that site.

"There were separate buildings for boys and girls according to age – baby, elementary, middle school, and high school age," a former resident said.

The TBCH also had a steam plant, which opened in 1938, that kept the buildings warm in the winter. Today, the roof and smokestacks are gone, but the furnaces, boilers, pipes, and valves remain as reminders of the TBCH's early campus.

"It (the steam plant) sure keeps us warm!" A young resident said in the Nov. 3, 1938, Baptist Reflector.

The old plant once provided steam heat to campus buildings through 3,000 feet of pipe within concrete conduits. It also provided steam for sterilizing equipment in the kitchen, hospital, and laundry. Two boilers, rated at 150 horsepower, were manufactured by Casey Hedges Company of Chattanooga, which was subsequently purchased by General Electric. Within each building, reducing valves regulated steam flow to provide comfortable temperatures. By 1939, the steam plant served the 235 children who lived at TBCH.

A spring that flowed under Franklin Road and into a nearby ditch provided water for the steam plant. This ditch channeled water into a two-acre pond where children swam and fished. John Oman's farm, Isola Bella, also provided water, thanks to its well with a continuously running pump. That well filled large water tanks, and the water was distributed to the campus houses.

A flat-bed truck delivered coal to the TBCH early each morning, and during the winter, it sometimes brought several loads a day. The boys on campus shoveled the coal off the truck each day. They also shoveled the coal into wheelbarrows and pushed it up a concrete ramp to the plant's loading chute. A device at the bottom moved coal into the furnace.

The boys later shoveled coal ash from the furnace into wheelbarrows, and this ash was loaded into donkey drawn wagons. From the wagons, the ashes went into trucks to be spread into gullies in the field. When boys misbehaved, they might spend a day cleaning the inside of a furnace.



Above: A boiler and fire tubes are shown on the left, and a view of inside the power plant building on the right.

Below: Coal and ash are shown from the coal feeder and furnace.

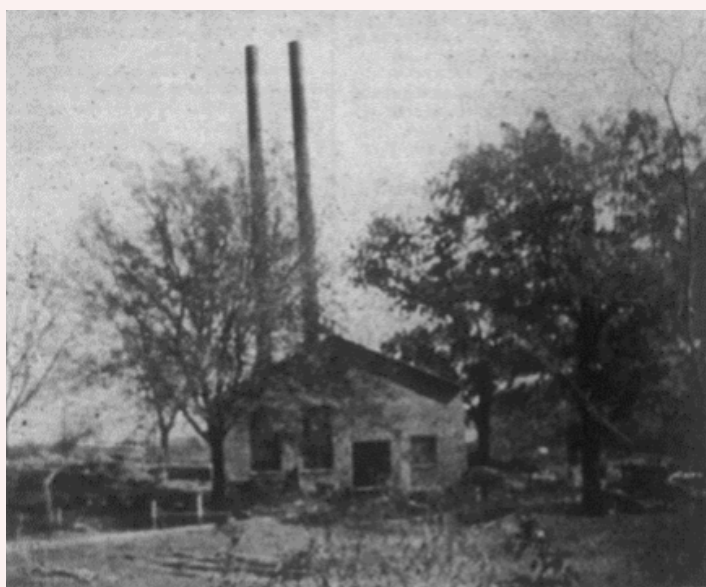


"They made us work, driving tractors, and weed eaters," one boy said.

In the late 1960s, the EPA raised concerns about asbestos in the heating plant. TBCH couldn't afford the remediation required and decided on "modern" heating. Over the years, the steam plant was all but forgotten.

The TBCH recently sold 31.7 acres to the Riverstone Group, which is developing the residential community, Eastman Preserve. The TBCH is using the money from this sale to rebuild and modernize its children's cottages. Riverstone plans to preserve the original steam plant building and the cemetery where Revolutionary War veteran David Johnston and his wife are buried. Johnston acquired the land in the late 1700s.

What do you know about this central heating plant? Please share any information you have with The Brentwood Historic Commission, charles.booth@brentwoodtn.gov.



Above: A historical photo of the TBCH central heating plant, when it was nearing completion.



Above, from left to right: Dean Gooding, Ashley McNulty, Charles Booth, Loyce Hooker, and Kesha Gooding with one of the new antique chairs at Ravenswood.

EVENT VENUE AVAILABILITY

Brentwood's Historic Homes

Both of the city-owned historic homes are available to rent year-round for events, including weddings, business gatherings, graduation and holiday parties, and more. It's not too late to book one of the homes for your graduation parties! Fill out the contact form on the websites to inquire.



Ravenswood Mansion
ravenswoodmansion.com

Cool Springs House
coolspringshouse.com



Book the historic homes for all your entertaining needs:

- Weddings
- Holiday Parties
- Graduation Parties
- Anniversary Parties
- Corporate Retreats
- Bridal or Baby Showers
- Reunions

SUMMER HISTORIC HAPPENINGS

June 15: Hardscuffle 40th Family Reunion Parade. The parade starts at Owen Moore Cemetery on Church St/ Hardscuffle Rd.

June through October: Boiling Spring Academy Open Houses will be the third Sunday of each month, 2-4 pm.

TBD: Dedication and tours of restored cabins of the enslaved located at Ravenswood Mansion and Primm Farm.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

Several beautiful acquisitions now decorate the Ravenswood Mansion and the Cool Springs House. This winter, Ashley McNulty, Charles Booth, Kesha Gooding, Dean Gooding (and his truck), and Loyce Hooker (and her husband's van) picked up five pieces of antique furniture, one print, and one painting.

The Historic Commission had a fun day meeting the kind residents of Brentwood who were so generous. The response from the public for this project was very gratifying, and Kesha did a great job communicating with the donors and mapping the route.



FLY THROUGH WINDY HILL PARK

PARK TO INCLUDE AIRPLANE-THEMED PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

For more than 200 years, flat open fields have surrounded Brentwood's pastoral Windy Hill Farm. The land was an ideal pasture, and later, in the 20th Century, a section became a grass airstrip for small planes.

A barn, converted into an airplane hangar, once stood on this property, and the City of Brentwood purchased a portion of this land in 2020 to create the community's newest park. The City hired ESP Associates, a multi-disciplinary engineering design and consulting firm, to develop a master plan for Windy Hill, a 52-acre community park. That plan, which includes paved walking trails and a playground, is now finished. Construction on this new amenity will begin this spring, and the City's Parks and Recreation Department plans to honor the land's history as a remote airfield with Windy Hill Park's playground. In February, the City hired Custom Recreation to create and install the equipment in that playground.

"We wanted some sort of airplane-themed components to acknowledge the Sensing family's use of the property," Dave Bunt, Brentwood Parks and Recreation Director, said. "Staff felt that Custom Recreation's proposals stood out, and they clearly understood the vision of this playground. As part of their proposals, they did provide the option of a custom piece of equipment that resembled a single propeller airplane."

Custom Recreation previously worked on projects at River Park, Owl Creek Park, and the inclusive playground at Granny White Park. The company has also installed numerous shelters and playgrounds in the Nashville area. The playground will be installed toward the end of construction of Windy Hill Park in early 2025.

Photo: A conceptual rendering of the airplane-themed playground.

CITY FIRE CHIEF SPEEDS TO VICTORY AS DRAG RACER

**Your
Brentwood**
A new series highlighting the unique
stories, hobbies, and interests of
City of Brentwood employees.



**"It's 75% the driver,
25% the equipment."**

That feeling in his palms – the vibrating steering wheel tingling his gloved hands – is the feeling of time. Brian Goss is aware of its movement, his body sensing each second, while sitting in his idling Dodge Challenger. It's Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023, and Goss is at the starting line of the Beach Bend Raceway in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Another car is revving its engine next to him, and both vehicles seem to be staring angrily down the raceway's long drag strip.

As Brentwood's Fire Chief, Goss spends most of his time at Fire Station One in City Hall, smiling and joking with City officials and young firefighters, but today, wearing a fire-resistant race suit and a heavy helmet, he quietly focuses on that feeling of time passing through him. If he hits the gas pedal at the right moment – that millisecond when the starting light changes from yellow to green – his nitrous-injected Challenger will scream down the quarter-mile track, and he'll cross the finish line first.

"If you wait until the light's green to hit the gas, you're going to be beat bad," he said. "By the time your eye catches that last yellow light, your brain processes it, sends the message to your foot to hit the gas, all that process takes the same amount of time for that light to go from yellow to green. So, when you see that last yellow come on, you immediately hit that accelerator so by the time you launch, you're green."

He's seen guys in sluggish minivans win drag races because their timing was perfect. On this Sunday afternoon, he hopes to reach 121 miles per hour, completing the quarter mile race in about 11.2 seconds. If he punches the gas at the right moment, he'll win the Rumble Drag and Drive Quarter Mile Race at the Holley Mopar Racing Event, along with the cash purse.

Shortly before pulling up to the starting line, Goss spun the back wheels of his Challenger, kicking up smoke from the friction of rubber against asphalt. This is called a burnout, and it heats the tires to make them stickier, so he won't spin out when the race starts.

"You come in the staging lane and there are 12 to 15 things you have to do in those one to three short minutes," he said.

He performs the burnout, purges the nitrous system to clear air out of the line, and he changes his suspension to sport mode. On this sunny, September day, he double checks the mode. For a moment, an unwelcome memory passes through his mind.

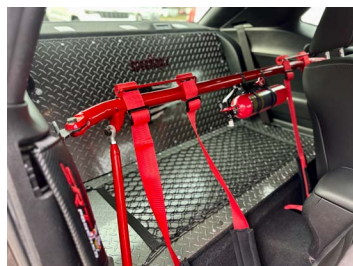
"Last year, I did my burnout but didn't change my drive mode settings," he said. "And as soon as I hit the gas, the wheels started to spin, the car detected wheel spin and shut the power down, and I'm on the drag strip going like 50 miles an hour."

The experience frustrated Goss, a naturally competitive person.

"It's a mental game," he said. "That's the challenge. On the drag strip, you're competing with yourself. It's 75% the driver, 25 percent the equipment."

Outside, an announcer talks over speakers while the cars rumble loudly. Goss stomps on the gas, and as the green light appears, his Challenger takes off. The front looks as if it's rising a bit from the incredible speed. The two competing vehicles are neck and neck, but then the gray Challenger pulls away and, in an instant – about 11 seconds – the race is over.

"It's always been a hobby, but this is the first money I've won," he said. "I've got the bug again."





LIBRARY NOW OFFERING MEMORY KITS, THANKS TO ROTARY GRANT

The John P. Holt Brentwood Library will soon offer a new program for those experiencing Alzheimer's, dementia, and other types of memory loss. The Alzheimer's Association Tennessee Chapter recently donated seven memory kits to the library. The donation was made possible thanks to a grant from the Franklin Noon Rotary Club Foundation to the Alzheimer's Association.

The memory kits are clear backpacks that contain items built around various themes, such as "Remembering the 1960s" and "The Great Outdoors." They contain videos, activity cards, and worksheets.

The kits are just the beginning of a bigger program for the library.

"Implementing a memory care program is a priority for us," Susan Earl, library director, said. "Many of our patrons have been asking for one, and the memory kits are a wonderful first step in reaching our goal. We are grateful to the Franklin Noon Rotary Club and the Alzheimer's Association for this generous donation."

The library already had three memory kits; the recent donation brings the collection to 10. In the coming months, the library plans to offer other memory care resources, not just for those struggling with Alzheimer's and other dementia, but for caregivers as well.



Group photo, from left to right: Susan Earl, Robin Walden, Cassie Jones, Rebecca Rikard, Mary Katherine Rooker, Derby Jones, Pamela Johnson, and Laura Musgrave.

"SERVANT'S HEART" VIDEO SERIES

They may shy away from the attention and perform their good deeds quietly, but in the City of Brentwood, the "good guys" are easy to spot. These men and women are usually dressed in blue, with a Brentwood Police Department patch on their sleeves.

"It's amazing what they do, it's amazing what they go through, and it's amazing that they put their lives on the line," Brentwood resident Ted Beard said.

Beard knows what he's talking about. A few years ago, BPD Sgt. Chris Woodard literally saved his life. These important, life-changing and life-saving stories happen every day, and the City's new short video series reminds the community of the "good guys" patrolling Brentwood streets.

Throughout the series, viewers will learn about Woodard and Beard's bond, an unlikely trio of "besties," and the lengths BPD will go to change lives. Viewers will also meet the department's leaders and hear why they want Brentwood to be different.

"The heart of a servant, that's what we're looking for in a police officer," Chief Hickey said. "In every situation, whatever you're called to do that day, your job is to make that situation better, you leave that situation better than you found it. Our guys go out and try to be the solution."



Above: Chief Colvin and Chief Hickey behind the scenes of filming one of the videos.

The videos will be released on the BPD Facebook page, and available on the department's employment page on the city's website.

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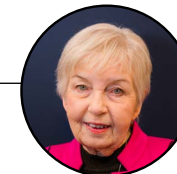
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35th Annual BRENTWOOD SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

AT CROCKETT PARK

THE WANNABEATLES
SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 6-8 PM

AIA JIMMY BUFFETT TRIBUTE BAND
SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 6-8 PM

CRUZIN KEYS AND SPAZMATICS
at BRENTFEST
SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 5-8 PM

THE DOWNTOWN BAND
at RED, WHITE, AND BOOM
THURSDAY, JULY 4, 7-10 PM



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