

Check out library classes for free home-improvement advice

So, what's our Metro Library doing housing a series of home-improvement seminars?

The classes — on plumbing, historic window renovation, brick repair and other building topics — seem like something that Metro Codes or the planning and zoning folks might offer.

But Cyndi Cass of the Friends of the East Library says the home-improvement lineup makes perfect sense.

"We are trying to position the library as a resource, and with all of the interest in home improvement in our historic area, it seemed like a good thing," she said.

"We started out with more literary topics, with authors and historians (in past years at the East Library's annual speakers series), and this time we decided to offer something more practical, more hands-on."

Cyndi and her other library "friends" teamed up with Lynn



Ms. Cheap
Mary Hanc

Taylor, a home designer who specializes in preserving and rehabilitating properties in older Nashville neighborhoods, to put together the series, which features construction industry experts who volunteer their time to lead the sessions.

It kicks off Tuesday with a session called Keeping Your Cool, which features HVAC expert Don Seymour and master plumber Andy Ward answering questions and giving insights into mechanical and plumbing issues in the home.

Now, before you yawn and wonder what on Earth has gotten into Ms. Cheap to be writing about a free HVAC class, look on down the

schedule.

How about House of Ill-Repair on March 8? This is a presentation by home inspector Bill Carlson on home-maintenance pitfalls, proper maintenance and what to watch for when purchasing a home.

Then there's Brick Maintenance and Repair on April 12. In this session, a masonry expert with Wasco Inc. makes a presentation on techniques and answers questions.

Living in an old house with old, beautiful (but sometimes ornery) windows, I should attend The Mysteries of Historic Windows Revealed on May 10, when Gregg Davis will provide tips and give a demonstration on how to restore historic windows.

And I know that lots of people will be interested in the final class Moving on Up: Building Out Attic Spaces on June 14. In it, Lynn Taylor of Taylor Made Plans will talk about the process of evaluating attic space in order to design addi-

MORE HOME CLASSES

Lowe's Home Improvement stores offer free classes. Check your store's offerings at www.lowes.com. Most classes are in the evening or on Saturdays.

Home Depot stores also have free Saturday and evening classes. Check the schedule at the front entrance of your local store or go to www.homedepot.com.

tional living space.

All sessions are free. They will be held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the East Library at 206 Gallatin Road. You do not need to register; just show up ready to ask questions and learn.

By the way, if you go, be sure to take a look around the circa-1919 library, for it is one of the Carnegie Libraries and is definitely worth seeing. Just walk in the front door and go up the steps and enjoy your surroundings — pay special attention to the circulation desk, the

light fixtures and the cork flooring.

Nashville originally constructed four Carnegie Libraries in the early 1900s with \$175,000 in grant money from Andrew Carnegie, who endowed the construction of more than 2,500 libraries throughout the world from 1880-1999.

In Nashville, only the East branch and the North branch at 1001 Monroe St. remain in use. The other two were downtown's Carnegie Library of Nashville, which was demolished in 1963 to make way for what became the Ben West Library, and the Negro Public Library, which opened in 1916 on Church Street, where NES now stands.

For more information on the home-improvement speaker series, call 862-5860.

Hopefully, it can help you ... stay cheap! ■

Ms. Cheap appears Thursday and Friday in the Homeowner's Living section and Sundays in the Star as the author of Ms. Cheap's Guide to Getting More for Less. Reach her at 238-8800 or at mccheap@barracuda.com.



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