RED CROSS

Memphis-area Red Cross house was severely damaged last year during a windstorm. The Bound Nella in Orange Mound through the American Red Cross (ARC). Red is one of 22,000 persons throughout ARC's Mid-South service area who received a Red Cross service last year. The local ARC branch headquartered in Memphis serves a geographic area that includes Metro Memphis, Shelby, Fayette, Lauderdale and Tipton Counties in Tennessee. To become a volunteer for American Red Cross, contact Volunteer and Youth Service Coordinator Toni Webster, 726-1555.

SCHOOLS

"Downtown Memphis is an active, growing neighborhood once again," said Memphis City School Superintendent Johnnie B. Watson. "We are enthusiastic about the return of a public school to this community. It will be a state-of-the-art facility that will serve a diverse group of young children and their families – just as Memphis does. We don't to make this a school in which Memphians can take great pride."

The initial student population will start with 125 students from the Cameo attendance area, but will also include 100 suburban students who may register and be welcome, that serve back at the time of open enrollment. Although corporate partnerships in education are encouraged and welcome, downtown businesses will not have a priority in the enrollment process. Instead, existing preferences will be maintained in future years. MCSS students will receive enrollment priority, but Shelby County students may apply for transfer to the school with said option.

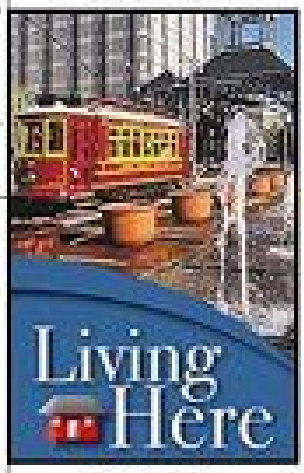
Once registered, students may attend the downtown school from kindergarten through the sixth grade. Student/teacher ratios in academic classrooms, which are mandated for all schools by the State Department of Education, will be 20 kindergarten through third grade students per teacher, and 25 fourth through sixth grade students per teacher.

The downtown schools principal will be selected this spring from submitted applications that will be reviewed by a committee composed of parents and school officials. In turn, the principal will hire the teachers and staff for the downtown school.

Opportunities for parents to get involved in the decision-making process for the downtown school will take place through future MCSS meetings announced through the Commercial Appeal and other media sources. In addition to having input on the selection of the school's principal, other issues that parents can discuss include the possibilities for:

- Extended hours for after-school daycare.
- Summer school tutoring.
- Year-round schooling.
- Curriculum model options in arts, technology, college preparatory, science and other areas.

Get Into the SPRING of Things!



Subscribe Today!

WONDERS

This exhibition showcases the majesty and mystery of the Romanov dynasty. Organized in association with Cultural Exchanges and Events, Inc., the exhibition features more than 300 objects from the Moscow Kremlin State Museum-Preserve of History and Culture.

Dates: The exhibition is open daily (including holidays), April 20-Sept. 14.

Memphians show heart in volunteer programs

By MARGARET WALLACE

Greater Memphis is home to thousands of dedicated volunteers who provide aid to a wide range of persons in need. Among the many organizations who rely on volunteer efforts are local chapters of The American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the National Urban League and Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America. For more information about these wonderful services or other organizations in the Memphis area, call UNCAL 458-2000.

TODAY: SUNNY
High 75°
Low 63°

Summer's community activities include dancing lessons for young and old
Neighborhood 1

The Times

109th Year Tuesday, April 1, 2003 $1

Hip-Hop Fashion Show Coming to The City

MTV's Hip Hop Fashion Week Annual Show is scheduled for this Saturday at The Mall Fine Arts Complex. La La and Ricky Sims along with comedy, actors Lee Simmons & Ed Cruz, present celebrities from the Spring 2003 urban designer lines. The hottest models and celebrities, including Charlie Bel Cruze, Lion and PC Girls, will be wearing the clothes everyone wants to rock. And this is no normal runway, while Sexy models parade the stage with whole series of hot, sensational performances by some of the biggest names in Hip Hop music. A few even moonlight as million dollar designers.

For tickets and information on this event contact Sexiety Girl Productions' Agency Phone: (901) 874-1847 or email sexiegirl@sexiegirlproductions.com.

American Idol Is Most Popular Show

By DAVID BAUDER
NEW YORK (AP) –

Television viewers seeking relief from war news made Fox's "American Idol" the week's most popular program.

Both episodes of the contest were seen by more than 30 million people, Nielsen Media Research said Tuesday. The new Fox comedy, "Wanda at Large," had a strong debut despite because it was shown directly after Wednesday's "American Idol."

NBC won the week's prime time ratings again, however, on the strength of the "Law & Order" franchise. Three episodes "Law & Order" shows finished among the week's 20 most popular programs. Nielsen said.

Viewers seemed to be looking for more escapist fare, as no news shows ranked the top 20. CBS' "60 Minutes" and "60 Minutes II" were 12th and 14th, respectively.

Meanwhile, some late-night network competition hit ABC and CBS reasons to smile.

Steve Martin

Bringing down the House

Queen Latifah

'WONDERS' opens exhibition featuring Romanov dynasty

'WONDERS' offers the public another rare opportunity this spring and summer as it welcomes the world premiere showing of the exhibition Cosmo: 400 Years of Imperial Grandeur.

SEE WONDERS A4

After 30 years absence, public school return to downtown Memphis

A notable project included in the sales improvements for Memphis City School System MCSS is the construction of a new school in the heart of downtown Memphis on Front Street. Talks were here passed about a public school has opened in that area, the downtown school was conceived in part by Memphis Mayor Willie Herenton while he was superintendent of Memphis City Schools. Two parameters for the new school are already set: it will be an inner-city school with a diverse student body, and technology will be incorporated throughout the entire school and its instructional programs.

SEE SCHOOLS A4