


# Ask The Experts






**Forestry**


**Q:** Tennessee lost thousands of acres to wildfire last year, but I know I've seen people intentionally setting fire to forests near here and watching them burn. Why are they doing this? Is it safe?

**A:** What you've likely seen is called a "prescribed fire" - which is a common practice on forests throughout the southeast. Fire-dependent forest communities, such as those that exist on the south and west facing slopes of the Smoky Mountains, have historically had fire in the landscape. When used frequently, prescribed fire is an effective tool in maintaining forest health and wildlife habitat. However, when fuel levels increase from decades of absence of fire, it creates hazardous conditions which can lead to catastrophic wildfire. Safety is always a concern when using prescribed fire as a tool; however, before and during these prescribed fires, weather conditions are closely monitored and several safety precautions are taken. Prescribed fires should always be accompanied by a burn plan, carried out by experienced technicians, and supervised by a certified burn manager with adequate resources.

Burns are also planned at seasonally appropriate times to optimize control of the fire's intensity. Used prudently and properly, prescribed fire can help create ideal habitat for game species such as turkey, quail and deer. It can also improve growing conditions for fire-tolerant species such as native warm season grasses, wild blueberry, upland oaks, Shortleaf pine, and Loblolly pine. Panther Creek Forestry has a certified burn manager on staff, and hundreds of hours experience in supervising prescribed burns. Call us to discuss whether a prescribed fire may be a useful tool to help improve your property, or to discuss any of your land management needs.



**311 West Colville St.  
McMinnville, TN 37110  
931-474-6203**



**Rehab / Healthcare**

**Q:** "What are some indications my loved one who lives alone needs more assistance?"

**A:** Often a decline is gradual and we do not realize our parent or grandparent is unsafe to live alone until an event occurs such as an accident or hospitalization. Some possible indicators of a decline may include an unkempt home (due to inability to clean or lack of energy), weight loss (due to forgetting to eat or inability to prepare meals), unsafe conditions such as leaving the door unlocked or the stove on (due to memory problems or decline in judgment), not taking prescribed medications consistently (due to inability to afford medications or forgetfulness), dressing inappropriately for the season (due to confusion), or frequent falls (due to weakness or medical complications). It is not always easy to decide on the right time to seek out additional assistance. Often it is easier to discuss the options with other family members early on in the process rather than waiting until a crisis occurs. At NHC HealthCare, we try to make the transition as smooth as possible for the resident and their family when the decision is made to seek a higher level of care.

**NHC**

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**Realtor**


**Q:** Your "Charity Begins at Home" advertising we saw on this month's Homes Guide cover sounds wonderful. We don't understand how that works or how we can help. Could you explain your program a little?

**A:** First of all, thanks for reading our ad! You never know if you are reaching your target audience in this high tech age. Just over 8 years ago around Thanksgiving, my partner Bobby Kirby and I were discussing how we had done as a company and how thankful we were to everyone who had contributed to our success. McMinnville/Warren County was going through an exceptionally hard economic period with many worthy charities out there needing help. We approached the agents at our office with the idea of deducting a portion of each commission that we could set aside to assist those in need. Everyone was 100% willing to participate, so that's how we got started. When you list a home that sells through KIRBY REAL ESTATE or we have the buyer side, at closing a donation is made to that fund. So not only do you get to buy or sell your property, your amazing support of our company has allowed us to contribute to housing the homeless, feeding the hungry, and nurturing the minds and bodies of our community's youth. **Let's make 2018 The Best Year Ever for EVERY Warren County Resident.**

**KIRBY REAL ESTATE CO.**

823 NORTH CHANCERY ST.

**473-3181**



**Attorney**

**Q:** The Price of Litigation?

**A:** Civil litigation is the resolution of disputes through the Court system. It is a constitutionally preserved right (with certain exceptions reserved for another article). The alternative to the settlement of conflicts by the Courts invite acts of violence or revenge by one side of a conflict toward the other. The legal method of resolution is obviously in the best interest of our society. The cost of litigation is, however, a problem for every citizen, particularly for low or middle income persons and families and small businesses. The situation leaves the groups without equal access to the Court system to address their grievances. There are several reasons the costs have skyrocketed:

1. The extensive discovery allowed by our rule of civil procedure which take time. (along with court reporter expense), hence money;
2. An increasingly technical society requiring extensive use of experts. (I have hired experts that cost \$1,500.00 per hour and \$10,000.00 for testimony at trial);
3. Laws passed by legislatures and congress who have been influenced by lobbyists for large and wealthy stake holders in this country.

There are other reasons also, but to me these are the most influential concerning the high cost of litigation. My firm and I fight this situation daily. I am working on an article with a Professor at the University of Tennessee College of Law to more thoroughly address this problem in the legal profession. Meanwhile, if a lawyer fails to take your case it may have more to do with a risk/reward analysis than the merits of your case for which I am truly sorry.

Michael D. Galligan, Attorney

**LAW OFFICES OF  
GALLIGAN & NEWMAN**

309 WEST MAIN ST.  
931-473-8405



**Telecommunications**

**Q:** What are the benefits of BLTV's HD and DVR?

**A:** I talk to lots of people about video and this question comes up often. The great news is there has never been a better time to sign up for HD with BLTV. You can save over 10% and enjoy more HD channels than ever before. HD is the ultimate entertainment experience, whether you are watching sports on NFL Network, SEC, Fox Sports South or enjoying your favorite food show or movie! HD lets you enjoy up to 55% in enhanced color, and sharper resolution. Bundle BLTV's Whole Home DVR with your HD package for only \$22.95. With Whole Home DVR the power to control your viewing schedule is in your hands. You can bring a new and vibrant world into your home with HD & Whole Home DVR from BLTV. Go to BLTV.net and check out our latest lineup which includes the option for HD premium channels. Call or drop by your local Ben Lomand Connect office today!



668-4131  
www.benlomandconnect.com

If you would like to be an Expert call our Advertising Department at 931-473-2191

Do you have a Question for one of the Experts?

Submit your question to our office, and we'll get your answer!

**SOUTHERN STANDARD**

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or email to: [patrick@southernstandard.com](mailto:patrick@southernstandard.com)

**Ask The Experts**

will publish every second Friday of each month

Deadline to submit your questions is the first Friday of each month.



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