

▶ **CHRISTMAS MOVIES:** December TV lineup full of old favorites, new takes, D6▶ **YOUR STYLE:** Chattanooga Realtor keeps it casual, D4

the list

Online: Updates of health, entertainment and lifestyle reports appear regularly at timesfreepress.com.

PLACES TO GO

■ VIRAL VIDEO

Newsweek magazine has put together a fun video taking a look back at the decade that (almost) was. The video is part of a larger project chronicling the last 10 years called "20/10: The Decade in Rewind." We've been through a lot since 2000: Y2K, 9/11, the rise of YouTube celebrities, the deaths of two past presidents, a tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, the proliferation of reality TV and even lipstick on a pig. Check out the package: www.youtube.com/watch?v=LfhTPaqKEAE&NR=1
— Detroit Free Press

Even good people have bad relatives

It's the late-night, whispered conversation between you and your spouse when you're finally alone in the bedroom after an exhausting day of dealing with family holiday drama. "You've got to talk to her," hisses the wife, who has been counting the days until the "holiday" is over.

"She's just trying to be helpful," says the conflict-avoiding husband, who by this point in the visit has started to measure his time in minutes.

"How is criticizing everything I do helpful?" the wife seethes.

"I swear, if she makes one more comment, I will strangle her. You mark my words: Get me in front of a jury, and when I tell them everything that woman has done to me over the years, there's not a court in the land that will convict me."

See McLEOD, Page D6

Northshore Art Walk is Thursday

STAFF REPORT
Nine galleries will showcase works by local artists during the Northshore Art Walk 5-8 p.m. Thursday.

Participating are Winder Binder Gallery of Folk Art, 40 Frazier Ave.; Hanover Gallery, 111 Frazier Ave.; My Color Image Boutique & Gallery, 330 Frazier Ave.; In-Town Gallery, 26 Frazier Ave.; Tangerinas, 157 River St.; Plum Nelly, 330 Frazier Ave.; AVA gallery, 30 Frazier Ave.; Bill Shore's Frames and Gallery, 307 Manufacturers Road; and Smart Furniture Studio, 313 Manufacturers Road.

Visitors can talk to several of the artists whose work is displayed and learn more about the local art scene.

Refreshments will be provided at most venues.

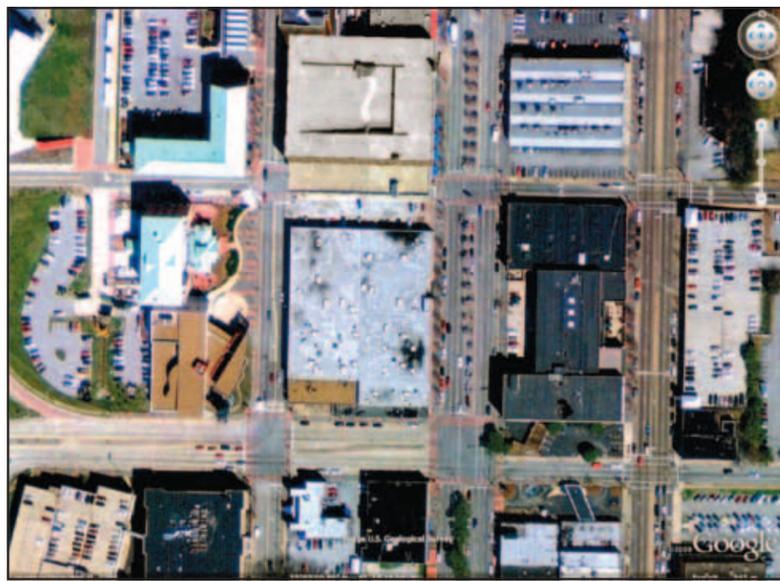
For more information, call Dustin Mason at 643-0025 or e-mail dmason@smartfurniture.com.

Chattanooga 3D

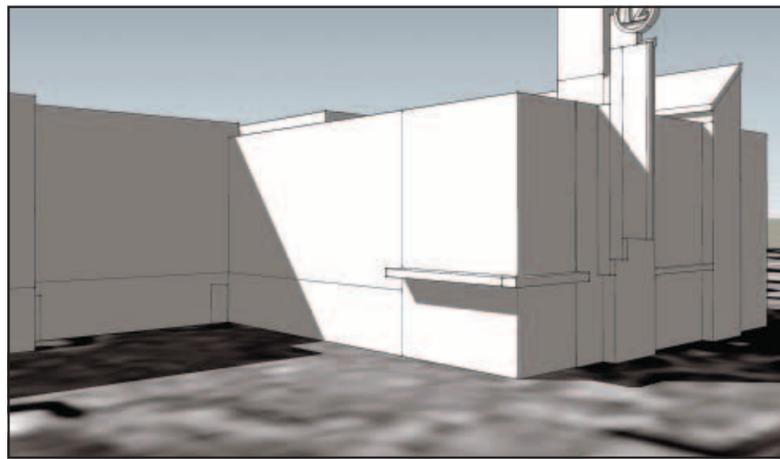
Putting the Scenic City on the (virtual) map

STEP-BY-STEP

THE 3D MODELING OF THE MAJESTIC THEATER DOWNTOWN



1 With appropriate photos of each side of the building being created, the modeler uses the Google Earth satellite image to select the building's location and surrounding area. This image also will be used to texture the roof of the model.



2 Using a tool in Google SketchUp, the modeler creates a basic 3D blueprint of the building. At this point, the model is gray and featureless.



3 The modeler now applies the photos to each side of the building as textures. The photos must be adjusted to cover the model exactly and avoid perspective "pinching."



4 With the building model complete, the modeler must "geo locate" the building by adjusting its orientation and scale to match the Google Earth satellite imagery. At this point, the model must be reviewed by Google before being included in the program.

Online: Watch a video "fly-through" of the buildings already modeled for Chattanooga 3D. See previous stories. Comment.

By CASEY PHILLIPS
CPHILLIPS@TIMESFREEPRESS.COM

Chattanooga's downtown may have undergone a major revitalization in recent years, but on the Google Earth virtual globe, it's still a barren flatland.

Chattanooga 3D, a volunteer-based collaborative effort involving area business people, architects and computer modelers, is determined to change that. They've been working since the project's launch as part of the STAND 48Hour Launch event on Nov. 13 to "push up" the virtual Chattanooga by populating it with models of actual buildings.

Karen Liwanpo, the creative director at Smart Furniture, came up with the idea for Chattanooga 3D just before 48Hour Launch. At first, she thought the idea would stand out in the crowd of the event's more traditionally minded concepts but was concerned by its scope.

"I e-mailed (Google) and said, 'Is this crazy? I want to do this in a week and a half and put Chattanooga on the map. It's next weekend; what do we do?'" Ms. Liwanpo said.

In response, Google put Ms. Liwanpo in contact with Chris Wilson as a project consultant. Mr. Wilson led a similar effort in 2007 to populate Google Earth's virtual representation of McMinnville, Tenn.

Thanks to Mr. Wilson's and Ms. Liwanpo's familiarity with Google's SketchUp 3D modeling software, their team of about 25 volunteers so far have created 14 models, some of multiple buildings.

Partners such as RiverCity and local independent architects and architectural firms have offered the team computer-aided design schematics for many downtown buildings to speed up the modeling process.

The show of support has been encouraging, Ms. Liwanpo said.

"This is such a great project, and it's people thinking 'big picture' for Chattanooga," Ms. Liwanpo said. "This is something large-scale, not for profit for us, but for Chattanooga, it could be really beneficial."

The models are now awaiting final approval for inclusion into Google Earth, but Google representatives' interest in the project should accelerate that process.

"We're excited to see the Chattanooga community working together," said Bruce Polderman, Google's senior business project manager, in an e-mailed statement. "Whether you're a resident or have never visited Chattanooga, being able to explore the town virtually ... is a great way to learn more about it, no matter where you are."

Aside from the appeal of seeing a city represented in 3D, there are many applications to efforts like Chattanooga 3D, said Stephen Culp, who co-founded the project.

Google Earth's ability to integrate contact information, Web sites and other data into the maps makes a vibrant presence on the service of obvious use to tourists, city planners and event organizers, Mr. Culp said.

"This project can make Chattanooga more accessible to all kinds of people and organizations," Mr. Culp said. "Eventually, folks everywhere will be able to explore Chattanooga in Google Earth, create presentations, plan events, conduct research, showcase art, promote their business or neighborhood — you name it."

Ms. Liwanpo said she hopes to attract more volunteer support for Chattanooga 3D and involve other groups such as university courses in the process.

The project so far has focused on buildings downtown, between the riverfront and Main Street. Within a year, given sufficient support, Ms. Liwanpo said she would like to have modeled all the landmark buildings and pieces of art on display throughout the city.

THE WORK SO FAR

Many Chattanooga buildings already have been modeled and are awaiting approval from Google before being uploaded, including:

- **Big River Brewing Company** (2001 Riverside Drive)
- **The Bijou Theatre** (215 Broad St.)
- **The DoubleTree Hotel** (407 Chestnut St.)
- **Smart Furniture** (413 Market St.)

DIGITAL SIGHT SEEING

Chattanooga 3D is a work in progress, but many cities' virtual counterparts are almost fully digitized. Download Google Earth for free at earth.google.com, check the "3D Buildings" box and you can be virtually walking the streets of any of the following cities in minutes:

- Seattle
- Dublin
- Tokyo
- Valencia, Spain
- New York City
- Sydney
- Miami

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

■ Visit www.chattanooga3D.com to sign up as a volunteer or view a list of buildings that need to be photographed or modeled.

■ Download Google Earth and Google SketchUp for free at earth.google.com and sketchup.google.com, respectively.

IMAGES COURTESY OF KAREN LIWANPO