

## Health Risks

### EPA identifies Bradley County as zone at risk for radon issues

by D. Gary Davis  
Bradley County Mayor

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has declared January as Radon Action Month.

This naturally occurring radioactive gas is produced during the normal decay of uranium found in the earth's crust and is harmlessly dispersed in outdoor air. However, when radon is trapped in buildings especially at elevated levels, it poses a significant health risk.

Bradley County has been identified as a zone one high risk area in Tennessee with the high potential for indoor radon problems.

Radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer deaths in the U.S. and the number one cause among non-smokers with more than 21,000 deaths attributed to radon exposure each year. One in 15 homes across the United States has elevated radon levels. In Tennessee the EPA estimates that 70

percent of the population lives in moderate to high risk radon areas. It follows then that a substantial number of Bradley County residents are at risk of radon exposure. In light of these facts my office is cooperating with the EPA and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation to educate the public about this hidden danger.

Radon is colorless, odorless, and tasteless and due to the differences in soil, any home in Bradley County may have an elevated level of this gas, even if other homes in the same neighborhood do not. This means you could be one of the 70 percent at risk.

The good news is, testing for radon is simple and inexpensive and the problem can be fixed.

First, if you plan to build a new home TDEC recommends installing one or more radon escape stacks at the time of construction. When purchasing a new home, require a radon test prior to

closing. Those who live in existing homes in Bradley County should seriously consider testing their home for excessive radon and installing a radon removal system if needed.

Radon test kits are inexpensive and in some cases provided free through the Tennessee Radon Program. You can learn more about the program at [www.tdec.net/ea/radon](http://www.tdec.net/ea/radon). The toll free number is 1-800-232-1139.

Here are a couple of additional facts about radon. Daily exposure to 4 picocuries of the gas is equivalent to smoking a half pack of cigarettes a day. One year's exposure to 10 picocuries is equal to having 500 chest x-rays each year.

I encourage you to be proactive. Your best defense against this silent killer is a good offense. Visit the TDEC web site above. Learn all the facts and get a radon test kit. The only way to know is to test.

# R & M YARNS

and Fiber Art Studio

New Location: 8510 Highway 60, Georgetown, TN 37336

**New Showroom ♦ New Studio ♦ New Classes**

**KNIT ♦ CROCHET ♦ WEAVE ♦ SPIN**

Yarn & Equipment Sales — New Luxury Yarns — Books — Gift Shop



Coming in 2009  
"Sit-n-Stitch"  
&  
"Sit-n-Spin"  
Sessions

**CLASSES OFFERED — CALL FOR SCHEDULE**

"Odd Lot" Yarns starting at \$5/pound

**Showroom Hours:**  
Tuesday—Friday 10:00 am to 5:30 pm  
Saturday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

**423.472.2600** **rmyarns.com**

## Happy with YOUR Medicare supplement rate?

*You could be with a Medicare supplement insurance plan from United of Omaha Life Insurance Company, a Mutual of Omaha affiliate.*

*Compare and save! Our superior service and affordable premiums equal a great value for you.*

	Age	Plan A	Plan F
Tennessee	65	\$56.73	\$82.21
	70	\$66.02	\$95.69

\*Sample base rates; female rates (male rates may be higher); nontobacco-user rates (tobacco-user rates may be higher); rates are subject to change and vary by ZIP code; lower rates may apply, if you're eligible

**For a competitive rate quote, contact:**  
**Charles Bishop**  
**423-472-7994**  
**Charles.Bishop@mutualofomaha.com**



**We've got you covered.**  
**GO PLAY!**

Medicare supplement insurance is underwritten by United of Omaha Life Insurance Company, Mutual of Omaha Plaza, Omaha, NE 68175. Neither United of Omaha Life Insurance Company nor its Medicare supplement insurance policies are connected with or endorsed by the U.S. government or the federal Medicare program. Policy forms UM1, UM2, UM3, UM4, UM5. These insurance policies have exclusions, limitations and reductions. United of Omaha Life Insurance Company is licensed nationwide except in NY. An outline of coverage is available upon request. For costs and complete coverage details, contact a United of Omaha insurance agent.  
**This is a solicitation of insurance and an insurance agent will contact you by telephone.**

AFN40776



**(423) 476-2142 • 1360 Wildwood Ave., Cleveland**

**FULL LINE OF FURNITURE**

- 90 Day Layaway •
- 12 Months
- Same As Cash



**More For Your Money At Mary's**

- Bedroom • Misc.
- Dining • Bedding • Tables

Choose the fabric on your Living Room Set

**"Best Prices In Town"**

