



CITY OF FOREST HILLS

City starts cable franchise committee

For the past 2 1/2 years, the City of Forest Hills Board of Commissioners has requested a share of the monthly revenues that Inter-media Cable pays Metro for cable television subscribers in Forest Hills.

The City is asking for revenues that other Tennessee cities such as Lebanon, Gallatin, Portland, Franklin, Brentwood, and many others are already receiving, but have been stonewalled repeatedly by the Metro Legal Department, Metro Council lawyers, and Metro's Cable Franchise Committee.

Two, and maybe three, new cable and internet providers are already laying underground fiber optic cables. The City is in contact with these providers as they expand their coverage area.

The Board of Commissioners appointed Em Ghianni, one of our local citizens, as the Chairman of Forest Hills Cable TV Franchise Commission.

Street pavings

Our annual street paving projects are nearing completion. This year, we paved the following streets: Kingsbury Drive, Hemingway Drive, Alcott Drive, Hillcott Drive, and Everett Drive. We believe that our annual paving program keeps Forest Hills' streets the best maintained in Davidson County

Fiber optic cable lines

For the last nine months, three out-of-state construction companies have installed underground fiber optic cables along Old Hickory Boulevard and Hillsboro Road.

These optical cables are the latest technique for television

cables, internet, and dedicated telephone lines. The work is mostly complete except for possible work on Cromwell Drive and Kingsbury Drive.

Bikeway project

We have received final approval from all federal and state agencies to start our long anticipated bikeway, which will run along Robert E. Lee Drive from Granny White Pike to Otter Creek Road and end at Priest Road/Percy Priest School area. Right-of-way acquisitions for this project are underway at this time.

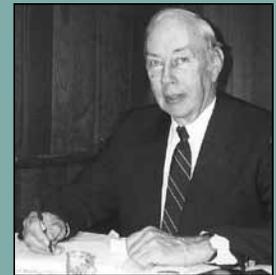
City office changes

We have a new city office employee, Cynthia Despot, working on Mondays and Thursdays. Cynthia, a resident of Forest Hills, will enjoy talking with you when she is in the office.

The City office has recently acquired a new computer with the latest programs.

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The Mayor's Corner



BY CHARLES EVERS

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Photo courtesy GCA Publishing

Six speed humps were installed along Kingsbury Drive in an effort to slow traffic in the area. Signs were installed informing motorists of upcoming speed humps and the speed limits.



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Meet commissioner Em Ghianni

When Em Ghianni moved his company to Nashville from the Chicago area in 1972, he spent a lot of time looking for a home to raise his family.

They wanted hills and beauty and wildlife and birds and convenience. They found it in Forest Hills, then “in the middle of nowhere,” he said.

Now surrounded by growth with fewer controls than in the City of Forest Hills, he was more than willing to serve on the planning commission when appointed by Mayor Charles Evers seven years ago.



Ghianni

The ten-member Planning Commission meets monthly to review all projects to make sure they are in compliance with all laws and ordinances, particularly easements and variances.

Ghianni is especially pleased that Forest Hills has been able to expand its growth while maintaining the beauty and integrity established by the city’s founding fathers through the controlled growth advocated by the commissioners and planning commission.

One change he does like is the addition of speed humps on Kingsbury Drive. “It’s now safe to walk or ride a bike on Kingsbury

again,” he said. “The speeders who used to barrel down the street have either gone elsewhere or slowed down.”

He plans to continue to advocate for more street lights in Forest Hills as well as ways to curtail frequent power outages.

The well maintained roads, a chipper service that is convenient and useful to residents, and the recently added unidentified protection patrolling city streets are other reasons he cites for living in Forest Hills.

Ghianni, formerly chair and chief executive officer of Comfortzone Corporation, sold the company in 1991. Since retiring in 1992, the native of Buffalo, New York, now busy with church and civic activities – and his four grandchildren who live nearby. He is an elder at Brentwood Cumberland Presbyterian Church where he chairs various ministries, is a past commander of American Legion Post 5, past board member of Downtown Kiwanis Club, and a member of the senior executive group of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce.

And as an active member of the planning commission, he is dedicated to maintaining the residential concept of Forest Hills so that “it will remain for eternity the same beautiful community it was when residents moved there.” 

City funds playground at Percy Priest school

The Forest Hills Board of Commissioners approved the gift of \$25,000 to the Percy Priest School PTA for the purchase of some new playground equipment for the park area immediately behind the Percy Priest School.

The new playground equipment should be installed between August 15 and September 1, and will be available to residents of Forest Hills after school hours and on weekends.

The City also agreed to match funds raised by the Percy Priest Elementary PTA up to \$25,000.

The cost of the equipment and installation is estimated at \$45,000, but that doesn’t include the cost of ground maintenance or the pos-

sibility that the area may be constructed over bedrock. “We want enough money to do the job right, so everybody feels good about it from the beginning,” said Kathi Padgett, a member of the Percy Priest PTA and key proponent for new playground equipment, who first appealed to the board in April for financial assistance.

The playground features two separate playing areas – one for younger children and one for older children. All equipment is certified for ages five through twelve. The lower playground is handicap accessible and complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For more information, or to make a contribution call Kathi Padgett at 269-0908. 

Commissioners meeting
agenda hotline
298-5389


City election set for November
The commissioner’s seat currently held by Mayor Charles Evers is up for re-election on November 7. Evers plans to run for re-election. 



Minutes from board meetings

January–May, 2000

Additional street lights

Em Ghianni of Andover Drive asked the Board to consider installing a street light on Andover Drive for the safety of evening walkers, to curb illegal dumping, and to minimize destruction of mail boxes in the area. Vice Mayor John Lovell, also a resident of Andover Drive, said he would discuss the idea with neighbors and report their comments.

City manager Jim Pitman reported that the Otter Creek Road street light survey was distributed to 31 homeowners, and of 20 responses, 13 persons were in favor of more lights and seven were opposed. Pitman met with NES in May regarding street lights along Otter Creek Road from Granny White Pike to Hillsboro Pike, and NES recommends seven to 10 lights along Otter Creek Road. He said the NES report and a map showing the location of existing street lights on Otter Creek Road are available. Commissioner Coke commented that street lights should be addressed on a city-wide basis in order to protect the residential nature of the City.

Installation of street signs

Dawn Kaatrude of Otter Creek Road inquired about the possibility of installing an additional stop sign at the intersection of Robert E. Lee Drive and Otter Creek Road. She complained of excessive speeding and tractor trailer traffic in that area. Mayor Evers responded that signs are posted disallowing truck traffic and that the City would review her request, in conjunction with improvements relating to the bikeway.

Installation of fiber optic cables

The Board adopted an Amendment to the Fee Ordinance requiring any such contractor installing fiber optic cables on City rights-of-way should pay an application fee of \$5,000 before proceeding with such construction.

Fire hydrants

J. B. Paul of Gardendale Drive expressed concern about fire hydrants in the City. Paul asked if the hydrants were properly tested and operative. Mayor Evers responded that operation and maintenance of water lines and fire hydrants are within the jurisdiction of the Metro Water and Fire Department, therefore the City was not responsible for those facilities, and in fact, could not touch them. City manager Jim Pitman agreed to follow up with proper authorities.

Intersection work

Mayor Evers and Commissioner Bill Coke attended a Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting regarding the State's plans for widening Old Hickory Boulevard. Mayor Evers stated that there was no current funding for Old Hickory Boulevard widening by TDOT and the City should proceed with installation of metal poles at the intersection at Kingsbury Drive and Old Hickory Boulevard in addition to its planned improvements.

City engineer Mark Jones reported that he completed the engineering work for the intersection, but the plans were not yet finalized. He described the project and property which would be acquired to meet TDOT standards. City attorney Jonathan Harwell agreed to contact TDOT regarding acquisition

procedures.

Em Ghianni expressed concern about accidents on Old Hickory Boulevard at Kingsbury, and Jones reported he has a meeting set with representatives of the Metro Traffic and Parking Commission and Metro Public Works to discuss the plans and need for easements.

Safety issues

City manager Jim Pitman discussed the City's security concerns with Metro Police, the City's private security service Brentwood Security, and the new block captains established by Cynthia Despot. Mayor Evers reported that Metro Police assigned special detectives from Metro's rape and sexual abuse section to investigate in the Forest Hills area. Brentwood Security increased patrols and Metro Police assigned undercover officers in unmarked cars to the area. A security report from the City's block captains resulted in an immediate response from Metro Police.

Power outages

Em Ghianni of Andover Drive expressed concern about NES power outages. He said that on two different days in May his power went off for several hours even though the weather was clear and NES could give no explanation.

Around town

Commissioner Bill Coke expressed concern about the lights in the parking lot of Hillsboro Presbyterian Church. City Engineer Mark Jones stated that he would review the manufacturer's specifications to determine what the lumens would be at the property line. The City Zoning Ordinance allows a one-half foot candle.

City manager Jim Pitman received bridge inspection reports from the State of Tennessee stating the condition of all bridges in the City to be "good," except for the one over Richland Creek which was reported to be in "fair" condition, based on the need to clean the drains. All of drains under the bridges were

cleaned and other recommended maintenance work was completed.

Commissioner Bill Coke received a proposal from Brian Bowen to maintain Bison Meadows again this year for a charge of \$7,700, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

The City received a letter from Grace Null, widow of long-time City resident and one of the original City officials, Ed Null, expressing appreciation to the City for flowers sent to the family at the time of Null's death.

Budget

In a special meeting on June 21 the board unanimously adopted a general municipal budget and appropriation of funds for expenses for the fiscal year July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001. 🌧

Special meeting notice

Philip Thomason of Thomason and Associates will present an architectural and historical survey of the City of Forest Hills on Thursday, September 14 at 6 p.m. at the Hillsboro Church of Christ.

For the past 12 months, Thomason has been researching the history of Forest Hills, focusing on the 1920s to present. He will show slides of each property inventoried, review the history of Forest Hills, and make recommendations for National Register listing. All residents are invited to attend this informative presentation. 🌧

Board commissions survey to aid stone fence preservation

BY **BILL COKE**
Forest Hills Commissioner

The present City of Forest Hills was mostly farmland owned by farmers and planters in the 19th century. These landowners built extensive stone fences for their properties, some of which still exist today.

In an effort to preserve and restore all of the stone fences still standing in the City, the Board of Com-

missioners has employed Dan Allen, a staff historical archeologist, mortuary specialist, and project director at DuVall and Associates, to conduct a survey of these fences.

Allen was the Director of Summer Archeological Camp at Belle Meade Plantation and has been involved with the archeological investigation of the Civil War Redoubts 1 and 2 of the



This stone fence on Hillsboro Pike near Tyne Boulevard is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Battle of Nashville.

From the survey, Forest Hills can recognize the farm or plantation on which the fences were built, and also alert the City to any fences

threatened by TDOT, construction of private driveways, or underground utility line installation.

A report of the survey will be available in November. 🌳

Mayor's Corner *(continued from page 1)*

Meetings and City hotline

Please remember the City hotline has the latest current information on all City meetings as well as chipper service and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at

298-5389.

The City of Forest Hills Board of Commissioners meets at 5 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month in the City office. It opens with a public hearing that all City residents are invited to attend. 🌳



Richard Brown and Bobby Lafata of Coke Tree Surgery place limbs into the chipper truck. Chipper service increased its operation from two weeks a month in the Spring to manage the collection of limbs and sticks on the City's rights-of-way.

City updating mailing list

With the acquisition of a new computer, the Forest Hills office is updating its mailing list.

If you are a new resident, or are a current resident receiving mail with an incorrect name, please contact the Forest Hills office at 383-8447. 🌳



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