



CITY OF FOREST HILLS

Residents hear historic report

On Thursday, September 14, the Forest Hills Planning Commission heard a historic presentation given by Phil Thomason of Thomason and Associates on the history of property and houses in the City of Forest Hills. He showed slides of 100 to 124 sites and houses in Forest Hills that are 50 years or older, giving a description of the style of the house, plus the architect, builder, and owner. Thomason gave an overview of the history of the area as far back as the early 1800s.

We were extremely pleased to have 160+ residents attend the historic presentation in the Fellowship Meeting Room of the Hillsboro Church of Christ. There were many questions asked by residents of Thomason at the end of his presentation. He will finalize his presentation so it can be picked up at the Forest Hills City Office at a later date.

Zoning board member resigns

Ed Johnson, a long time commissioner on the Board of Zoning Appeals, has resigned from his position. This is one of the most important Boards in the city of Forest Hills. His expertise and guidance will be greatly missed, but his work schedule has changed

requiring him to be out of town frequently.

The Board of Commissioners would like to thank him for his years of dedicated service to the residents of Forest Hills.

Percy Priest School PTA playground

The Board of Commissioners of Forest Hills were greatly impressed by the work and study done by Kathi Padgett and Carol Milam of the Percy Priest PTA to build a new modern safe playground behind Percy Priest School not only for the school's students but for the residents of Forest Hills.

At our June board meeting, the Commissioners not only approved a \$25,000 donation to the Percy Priest PTA to buy the new playground equipment but additionally offered up to \$25,000 to match on a one-to-one basis any additional money raised from school parents and interested individuals in the neighborhood by July 30. Due to the very hard work by Kathi and Carol and many others at Percy Priest, they raised \$25,325. At the September 14 Board of Commissioners meeting the three board commissioners presented Kathi and Carol the additional check for \$25,000.

Continued on page 2

The Mayor's Corner



BY CHARLES EVERS

INSIDE

- 2** Planning commission approves expansion
- 4** Minutes
- 5** New Percy Priest playground
- 6** Chipper service expands for fall

Thomason recommends historic designation for Forest Hills homes

After working for about a year to survey some 130 residences in Forest Hills to document their architectural and historical significance, Philip Thomason of Thomason and Associates presented a preliminary report to Forest Hills commissioners on

September 14.

He focused on homes built before 1955 within the city limits of Forest Hills.

Thomason noted that three homes in Forest Hills already are included on the National Register of Historic Places:

Continued on page 3



The Guilford Dudley Senior house, Hunter's Hill



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Planning Commission approves expansion

The City Planning Commission approved in September issuing a building permit to Otter Creek Church of Christ allowing it to install two temporary portables.

Representing Otter Creek Church of Christ, Richard Cowart said the Church plans to relocate its facilities but needs two additional portables to accommodate members in the interim. He said

that no trees or shrubs would be removed, and no additional parking required.

The City agreed to the portables on these conditions:

- The permit is for two years and no longer.
- Portables must be installed in accord with plans filed with the City.
- All fire safety codes must be met.
- The permit is not transferable.

• The portables may be occupied by Otter Creek Church of Christ after the property is sold, but for no longer than two years under any conditions.

• No subsequent property owner may occupy the portables for any purpose.

• The portables must be removed at the end of the two-year period when Otter Creek Church of Christ ceases to use and occupy them, whichever comes first.

Mayor's Corner (continued from page 1)

The playground dedication was held on Friday, September 22 at 5 p.m.

All Forest Hills residents are invited to visit and use this new playground and park located behind Percy Priest School.

Cable franchise status

The City of Forest Hills continues to work toward getting our own Cable Franchise Committee recognized as the authorized agency to regulate the cable, internet, and telephone providers coming into and on our city roads and telephone poles. At the present time we have three providers, subject to approval by Metro Council. They are Intermedia, Knology, and Digital Access. Em Ghianni of the Forest Hills Planning Commission chairs our Cable Franchise Committee.

At the present time, the decision is resting on Mayor Bill Purcell's desk awaiting his action. We will keep you informed.

Speed humps

At the September Board of Commissioners meeting the commissioners approved a project by RPM and Associates to make a detailed traffic study of Kingsbury Drive since the installation of the six speed humps. The results will show the amount of traffic before and after as well as the speed of cars on Kingsbury Drive since the speed humps were installed.

This study was planned when we originally installed the speed humps.

Electric power outages

We continue to get comments from residents about the electric power outages. They seem to occur more frequently during good weather periods rather than during stormy weather.

We have written to the outside investigator hired by Nashville Electric to document the number, frequency, and cause of the electrical outages. One month after our first letter we have not had an answer. Our second letter will show five additional outages.

Clearly, Nashville Electric has some distribution problems and should be able to solve them.

Bikeway report

As reported in the last Forest Hills News, our bikeway project is moving ahead.

We are acquiring the small amount of land we need from the property owners affected. We have received approval from the Metro School Board and Metro Council on our request to terminate one end of the bikeway on Percy Priest School property.

Traffic light

The traffic light we are going to install at Kingsbury Drive and Old Hickory Boulevard is now awaiting final signatures from the Tennessee Department of Transportation. This project has taken a long time, but it will provide a better safety situation for all of our residents using this dangerous intersection.

Meetings and the City Hotline

Please remember that the City Hotline (298-5389) has the latest current information on all city meetings as well as chipper service. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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.

Commissioners meeting
agenda hotline
298-5389

Historic designation (continued from page 1)

- The McCrory house on Old Hickory Boulevard, built around 1790.

- “Long Leaf” on Hillsboro Pike, built in 1932.

- The Hibbett house on Old Hickory Boulevard, built in 1937.

As a result of his survey, Thomason recommends nine other Forest Hills homes as candidates for the National Register. Representatives of

both Metro Historical Commission and Tennessee Historical Commission agree with his opinion.

He cites these locations:

- The Henry Compton house on Tyne Boulevard, circa 1819.

- The Guilford Dudley Senior house “Hunter’s Hill” at 5401 Hillsboro Pike, built in 1928.

- The R.E. Martin house

“Castlewood” just off Hillsboro Pike, built in 1931.

- The Edwin Craig house at 1418 Chickering Road, built in 1935.

- The Cobb Pilcher house “Deep Wood” at 5335 North Stanford Drive, built in 1936.

- The Thomas P. Kennedy house at 6321 Hillsboro Pike, built in 1937.

- The Persis Houston house at 5617 Hillsboro Pike,

built in 1941.

- The Howard Werthan house at 5826 Hillsboro Pike, built in 1942.

Thomason is in the process of preparing a summary report for Forest Hills commissioners. After reviewing the report, the Board of Commissioners may chose to publish the findings or encourage property owners to pursue historic designations. 🌳



Right, the Edwin Craig house at 1418 Chickering Road

Below the Cobb Pilcher house, “Deep Wood” at 5335 North Stanford Drive



**Remember
to vote in
City elections
November 7.**





Minutes from board meetings

July–September, 2000

Cable television

Representatives continue to make progress with Metro concerning Forest Hills' right to control and license its own rights-of-way for cable television providers. Mayor Charles Evers and City Attorney Jonathan Harwell attended Cable Advisory Television Franchise committee meetings and discussed the situation with Karl Dean, director of Metro's law department. Metro Mayor Bill Purcell has the matter under consideration.

The City Attorney's office received an legal opinion from Sid Hemsley that Forest Hills has the right to contract directly with cable service providers, to issue franchises to cable companies, and to collect cable franchise fees. The City Attorney's office forwarded copies of the opinion to Metro's law department, CATV committee members, and cable companies.

Traffic lights

Installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Old Hickory Boulevard and Kingsbury moves closer to reality. Forest Hills obtained a permit at Metro's request from Tennessee Department of Transportation, which clears the way for the City to advertise for construction and award bids.

The City must obtain a permanent drainage easement on the north side of the intersection next to Kingsbury, and will work with the affected homeowner to secure the easement. No other taking of property will be necessary.

Metal rings embedded in the pavement will trigger the traffic light when cars approach the intersection. Flashing lights will alert motorists of the new traffic signal.

Power outages

The City has sent a letter of concern to NES regarding frequent power outages in Forest

Hills, but NES has not responded.

Em Ghianni of Andover Drive documented several outages over the past months, including lack of power on a clear day in May. He said the NES message center responds, but fails to return complaint calls until after the problems are fixed.

Sequoia Club

City manager Jim Pitman sent a letter to Sequoia Club regarding violations of the City Zoning Ordinance, citing the necessity of getting required building and grading permits. Because Sequoia is considered a non-conforming property under the ordinance, any improvements or expansions Sequoia undertakes must conform to City requirements.

Sequoia recently built an outdoor pavilion without a building or electrical permit, and expanded a gravel road and parking area without a grading permit.

When Pitman and Mayor Evers met with Sequoia president Joe Dughman, Dughman said neither he nor his contractor knew that permits were required.

Chuck Kirkpatrick of Chickering Lane, whose property adjoins Sequoia Club, referred to a letter he wrote to Mayor Evers expressing his concerns that the club has an unsightly appearance and increases traffic, noise, garbage, and dust. He said adverse conditions will cause a decrease in property values in the area, and estimates an increase in club membership of 20% over the past three or four years.

Speed humps

Most of the residents of Kingsbury Drive apparently approve of the new speed humps, although some drivers honk their horn each time they drive over a hump. Carol Milam of Kingsbury Drive requested putting another hump closer to Hillsboro Road.

When asked if the Kingsbury humps had created more traffic

on Cromwell, Mayor Evers and Pitman said they were not aware of an increase.

The Board of Commissioners approved RPM and Associates' proposal to study the effectiveness of the speed humps at a cost of \$3,000.

Bikeway

Vice Mayor John Lovell reported that Joe Chester met with representatives of Metro Schools and Metro Property, who agreed that placing the bikeway on Percy Priest School property would not present problems. However, getting necessary easements will take three or four months.

Property owners near the Percy Priest School and school officials have some minor objections to the project, but property owners at the corner of Robert E. Lee Drive and Otter Creek Road are in favor of it.

Karin Brunstein of Otterwood Drive commended the City for the bike path project, but expressed concern about people disregarding the stop sign at the corner of Otter Creek Road and Robert E. Lee Drive. She fears the problem will be worse after the bike path is completed, and raised the possibility of restricting large trucks and installing speed humps on Robert E. Lee Drive and Otter Creek Road.

Hillsboro/Harding intersection

Steve Mathews representing Northumberland Homeowners Association expressed concern in a letter to Mayor Evers about the impact of Curb-property ponds on Northumberland, located on the west border of the Curb site. He also asked whether run-off from the new Covenant Presbyterian Church being constructed on the northeast corner would flow under Hillsboro Road onto the Curb property.

Mayor Evers reported that he had appeared before the Metro Storm Water Board and learned that a detention pond is being constructed on the northeast corner to handle the run-off. He said that he and Mark Jones will meet with Mathews to examine the Curb property and eastern border of Northumberland. Jones

said he does not think Northumberland will be affected by the new construction.

Lighting standards

City officials met in July with lighting representative Gary Lowe to discuss possible lighting restrictions in Forest Hills. Lowe explained current lighting technology and how to control illumination from various types of lights, which the City will consider with respect to zoning ordinances and revisions to subdivision regulations.

City Attorney Harwell will obtain examples of ordinances from other municipalities that have strict lighting codes.

Hound's Run home

A residence in Hound's Run was built five feet outside the building envelope because the surveyor measured by scale rather than by the City's setback regulations, and this is affecting the homeowner's ability to get a mortgage.

Mayor Evers said in his opinion the City has no liability because it committed no error. When he wrote to the agency responsible for overseeing the surveyor, the agency responded that scale measurements are acceptable, to which Mayor Evers pointed out that Forest Hills does not measure by scale. The City Attorney's office will look into the issue and advise the City which standard to accept.

Around town

Major work to clean sediment out from under the Otter Creek bridges on Kingsbury and Cromwell Drives will not require state bridge permits, provided workers maintain a set distance on either side of the bridges. The State issued a general permit to clean beneath the bridges until 2005. Work will begin when the areas dry out from rains.

The driver of a large truck knocked down the stop sign at the intersection of Stanford Road and Hillsboro Pike. The City will ask the company that owns the truck to pay for a new stop sign.

City Manager Jim Pitman and Spencer Thompson col-

Continued on page 6

Forest Hills neighbors gather at new Percy Priest Elementary playground

Several hundred Forest Hills residents initiated the new playground at Percy Priest Elementary School during the ribbon-cutting and family picnic on September 22.

A grant from the City of Forest Hills helped fund the Metro public school playground — an initial contribution of \$25,000, plus matching funds up to \$25,000. Thanks to Forest Hills' generosity, the Percy Priest PTA and community raised \$93,000.

Two play areas, one for kindergarten and first-grade students and another for youngsters ages 5 to 12, features "vandal-proof" equipment in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Because Percy Priest Elementary is a Metro public school, all residents are welcome to use the playground after school hours and on weekends.



Kathi Padgett holds the check for \$25,000 in matching funds presented by Commissioners John Lovell, William G. Coke, and Mayor Charles Evers at the September 14 meeting while Carol Milam, co-chair of the project to build a new playground at Percy Priest Elementary School, smiles in approval.



Taking a break at the dedication of the playground are (clockwise from left) PTA president Liz Allen-Fey, Laura Lee Garrett, Katelin Murdock, Eli Orland, Principal Teresa Dennis, Kelly Gunter, and Alina Diehl.



Above and below, workers install new playground equipment at Percy Priest School; Forest Hills residents may use the playground after school hours and on weekends.



Minutes (continued from page 4)

lected signs and tagged other signs that violate the City's sign ordinance. Pitman notifies owners of property where he finds signs why the signs were removed and where they can be retrieved.

Due to storm damage in May, Forest Hills will get money to cover damages from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency. Jim Campbell from FEMA estimated that the City will receive \$12,000 to \$13,000 to remove storm debris and clean culverts.

He bases the estimate on 75% of the approximately \$17,000 total cost of storm damage.

Input from residents

Spencer Thompson of Tara Drive said he thinks the traffic lights on Tyne Boulevard present danger when drivers turn left, and that traffic lights controlling left turns at the Old Hickory Boulevard/Hillsboro Pike intersection appear not to be traffic sensitive. Mayor Evers noted that traffic flow in that area should improve when the State com-

pletes widening the Old Hickory Boulevard/Hillsboro Pike intersection.

D.J. Long of Laurel Ridge Drive said the City needs an additional guardrail on the curve descending from Laurel Ridge on the northwest side of Fredericksburg Drive, to prevent cars from leaving the road. Mayor Evers said the City will review the location from a safety standpoint.

Em Ghianni of Andover Drive requested a street light to be installed mid-block on Andover. 🌳

Keep dogs on leash

Up until August, Kasey at age 24 was the oldest cat living in Forest Hills.

Sadly, as the cat lay sunning in its own yard on Kingsbury Drive, a roaming dog attacked and killed Kasey.

Please remember that Forest Hills has the same leash law as Metro Nashville. Dogs must be confined in their own yard or on a leash at all times. 🌳

Chipper service expands for fall

Chipper service in Forest Hills follows its regular route in October, November, and December to collect limbs and brush.

In addition, chipper trucks will repeat the routes a second time in October, November, and December especially to pick up bagged leaves.

For limbs and brush, please leave out only sticks four inches in diameter or less – no big logs and no root balls. Put only leaves in leaf bags, no trash.

Remember that the City's chipper service collects only material left by homeowners. Please inform your tree or lawn service company that they must remove all debris they generate and cannot leave any for the Forest Hills chippers. 🌳



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