



# CITY OF FOREST HILLS

## Speed humps yes or no?

Approximately 65 residents attended the Board of Commissioners Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 30, at 7 p.m. at Percy Priest School to hear the traffic calming study on Otter Creek Road and Robert E. Lee Drive.

Robert Murphy of RPM Associates Traffic Engineers did the study and presentation, and showed photos and surveys of how the speed humps slow traffic.

Several residents have since started a letter-writing campaign against the speed humps. The letters are interesting and very revealing.

Residents opposing the speed hump noted the following items in their letters:

### **Residents' comments were:**

- That they have not noticed any speeding traffic on either Otter Creek Road or Robert E. Lee Drive.
- They would rather have a portable speed (advisory) device to show the actual speeds.
- Very few know exactly what a speed hump is — most refer to the Metro case on Cross Creek Drive.

### **The City says:**

- Those are not like the speed humps in Forest Hills.

### **Residents' comments were:**

- Many letters suggested a 66.5% rule — that if 66.5% of the residents living on Otter Creek Road and Robert E. Lee Drive are in favor of the speed humps (side street residents were exempted) the devices would be installed.

### **The City says:**

- The Board of Commissioners does not have a 66.5% rule.

### **Residents' comments were:**

- Letters showed that nineteen residents did not know the correct spelling of the name of the city.

### **The City says:**

- Forest Hills is spelled with only one "R" and not two.

### **Residents' comments were:**

- Many noted the delay in emergency fire and medical vehicles possible due to speed humps.

### **The City says:**

- This is true — but mainly due to Metro communication and location of fire and medical equipment. A new Metro policy requires every fire and medical vehicle to make full stops at every traffic signal or at every stop sign.

### **Residents' comments were:**

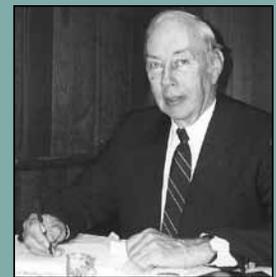
- Several mentioned the speed humps on their streets would reduce their property values.

### **The City says:**

- We checked with Metro's property tax department, and this is not true they say.

Continued on page 6

## The Mayor's Corner



BY CHARLES EVERS

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The traffic light installation and construction of additional turn lanes (east and west) at the intersection of Kingsbury Drive and Old Hickory Boulevard have been completed. Many residents have called to thank the city office for this safety problem being corrected.



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Commissioners meeting  
agenda hotline

**298-5389**



# Minutes from board meetings

October 2001 — May 2002

## Street maintenance

Clean out under most bridges was finished and inspected in November. No new guardrails were needed at this time. Sessions Paving Company continued general street repairs, and the city's bridges were reported in good condition and needing minor repair, according to the state.

## Kingsbury Drive signals

With work on the traffic signal at Kingsbury Drive and Old Hickory Boulevard complete, city residents J.B. Paul and Em J. Ghianni stated that tree branches obscure not only the signal, but also the yellow warning sign east bound on Old Hickory Blvd.

## Cromwell Drive

City Engineer Brad Bivens stated that the street's signage had been inspected. A recommendation was submitted in October, and signs were installed by December's meeting.

## Hillsboro Road traffic

Two residents — Larry Goldberg of Breckenridge Drive and J.B. Paul of Gardendale — noted the traffic backup on Hillsboro Road at the Tyne Blvd. intersection during rush hour. Goldberg stated its cause to be the traffic light timing. Mayor Evers relayed the problem to John Gregory of the Traffic and Parking division of Metro Public Works.

## Subdivision regulations

A final revision of the previously adjusted subdivision regulations, adopted by the Planning Commission on July 12, 2001, was completed. Copies are now available with Jim Pitman.

## Mail box destruction on Tara Drive

Spencer Thompson of Tara Drive expressed continuing concern about speeding traffic on his street, as well as the destruction of mailboxes as a result. Mayor Evers noted Thompson's recommendation of speed signs. Speed signage and markings for Tara Drive were reviewed in January.

## Mirsaidi landscaping

In October the Homeowners' Association approved the landscape plan for Lots 45 and 46 in Hound's Run. City Attorney Jonathan Harwell reported in December that the Mirsaidi work did not appear to be in accordance with the court order and that he would meet with Bivens to discuss the status of the work. Harwell requested the board and other city officials not take action with plans submitted by the landowner until reviewed by the Homeowner's Association's Architectural Review Committee. Harwell reported he would notify Mirsaidi's lawyer on the status of the case and if necessary, file a petition for contempt against Mirsaidi.

## Sequoia Club

City attorney Jonathan Harwell met with the Sequoia Club attorney and a board member to review the issues in dispute. Decisions are on hold until the board can review all Sequoia proposals and meet with Harwell on litigation status.

## Historic Homes of Forest Hills

Over \$15,000 in copies of the book have been sold. The City

will assist with the cost of registering 10 houses with the National Register, donating \$1,000 per homeowner. As of March six residents were interested, two had no interest, and two were undecided.

## Percy Priest lighting

Residents near Percy Priest Elementary School complained of the glare created by the school's security lighting. The lights have been adjusted to discontinue this disturbance.

## Chipper service

City Manager Jim Pitman reported on all final runs of the chipper service and its pickup, limited to October, November, and December.

## Paving funds

The price per ton for asphalt with Sessions Paving Company averages \$41.80. The city will receive \$83,000 from the Metro Road Fund this year.

## Erosion on Jefferson Davis

Bivens sent a letter to the Linebaughs and the Loyds, both of Jefferson Davis Drive, ordering no further construction in a ditch from which increased water flow from Radnor Glen and Hounds Run subdivisions caused erosion on the Linebaugh property. The City will evaluate upstream circumstances to determine the proper size culverts needed for the street.

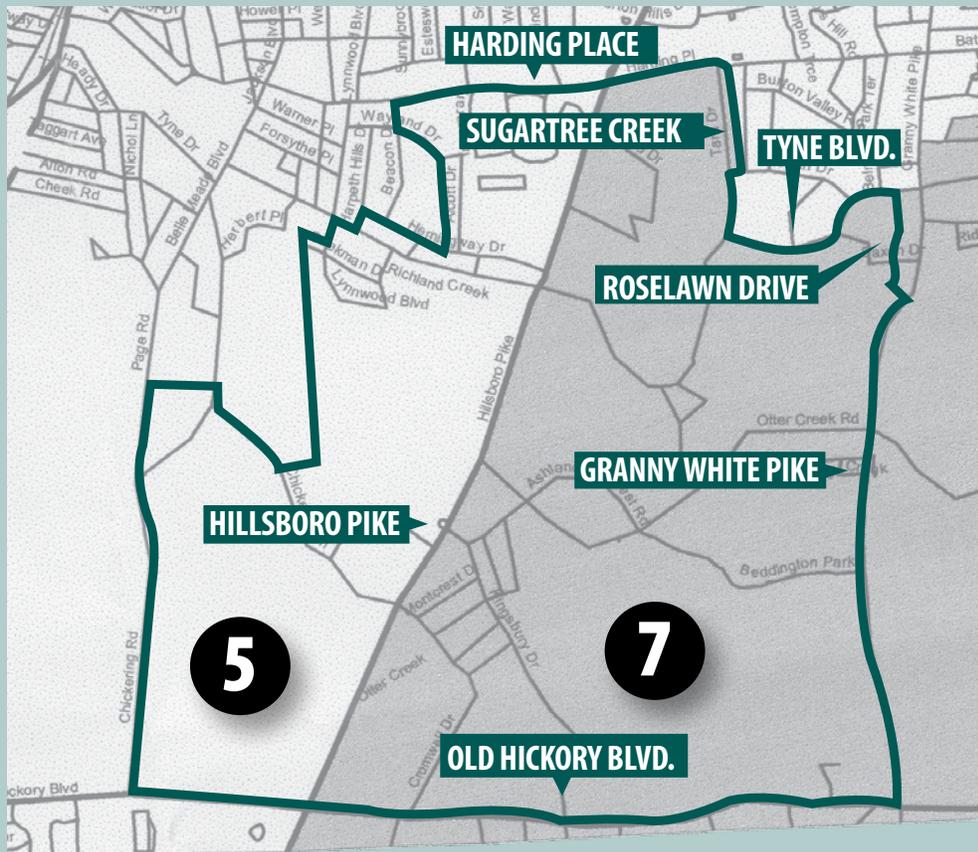
## Bikeway project

Residents Ron King and Karyn Brunsting, both of Otter Creek Road, voiced opposition to the proposed bikeway project. Vice Mayor John Lovell responded with his belief in the benefits of the project and the City's aim to ease negative effects on property owners.

*Continued on page 3*

# Voting district change

Forest Hills residents, who have traditionally been in the Fifth Congressional District, have been split between the Fifth and Seventh districts. The new Fifth District is the white area and the Seventh District is shaded, with Hillsboro Pike as the dividing line. The green line is the boundary of Forest Hills.



## Minutes *Continued from page 2*

### Lynwood landslide

Street maintenance was required on a small landslide that occurred on Lynwood Boulevard near Foxwood, where the land pulled away from the road, leaving a dangerous gap. Metro tested its water line for a leak, and found none. The City has repaired the gap.

### Budget resolution

Upon proposal and motion, the board passed budget resolution number 02-32 to adjust budget lines for the following: engineering from \$100,000 to \$145,000 to reflect an increase in usage of the city engineer; chipper service from \$150,000 to \$165,000; insurance from \$15,000 to \$16,000; beautification from \$12,000 to \$14,000 due to emergency trimming; and consulting from \$7,500 to \$25,000

due to traffic studies.

### Income tax form

The state of Tennessee has changed its Hall Income Tax Form; therefore city residents need to write in "Forest Hills" as their city rather than inserting a tax number for the City to receive that money.

### Snow crews

During winter months the city manager's report stated that snow removal crews had responded with immediacy and continued to be on alert.

### Re-zoning issue

Grace Community Church's application for rezoning from residential to educational and religious on a 20+-acre tract at Old Hickory Boulevard and Hillsboro was discussed. City

officials listened to residents who supported and opposed the project, and allowed statements from church representatives. After deliberation, the board denied the application in a two-to-one vote, and also refused an ordinance for a second reading.

### Storm Water Phase II

The city reported it would continue to study the Storm Water Phase II Program mandated by the EPA and the state of Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, and comply with ordinances.

### Minutes drafting

Harwell voiced concern about the length of time for drafting meeting minutes, and recommended additional effort be made to do so in a way to save on legal service expense. 🌳

## Streets to be paved

The Board of Commissioners approved the repaving of the following streets:

- Beekman Drive
- Cromwell Drive
- Timberwood Place
- Timberwood Drive
- Chickering Court.

Residents are advised to be on the lookout before paving begins for water and sewer manhole covers raised to the new street paving level. Please drive slowly on these five streets until paving is complete. 🌳

# Order your your copy of 'Historic Homes' today!

The City of Forest Hills showcases its finest homes in *Historic Homes of Forest Hills: An Architectural Survey*.

The 256-page coffee-table book features full-color pictures of more than 100 homes built between 1819 and 1952. The description of each home includes its ownership history and a comprehensive catalog of construction details, the results of a year-long survey by Thomason and Associates.

Dwellings in the city range from the antebellum home of wealthy planter Henry Compton on Tyne Boulevard constructed about 1819 to Colonial and Tudor Revival designs of the 1930s and

1940s, followed by modern Colonial-influenced ranch house designs of the 1950s.

The book opens with an extensive history of the area, beginning with its 18th-century roots in a land grant to Thomas McCrory, through the creation of the city in the 1950s. It covers the building of the Natchez Trace, which runs through the city; creation of the Compton and Scruggs estates in the early 1800s; the founding of several turnpike companies; and the area's role in the Battle of Nashville. A number of maps from the 1800s and early 1900s accompany the text.

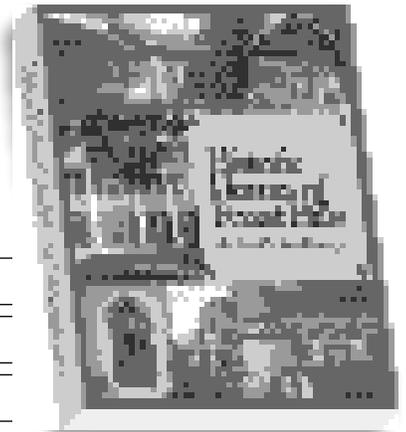
The history concludes with the post-

war building boom and the incorporation of the city.

Preservation planners Thomason and Associates completed the survey with the assistance of the Tennessee Historical Commission, and Forest Hills city historians Fletch and Bill Coke collaborated on the history section. Armour&Armour designed the book and coordinated production by Vaughan Printing.

To order copies of the limited-edition *Historic Homes of Forest Hills* for \$45 plus shipping and handling, call the Forest Hills office at 615/383-8447 or fax the form below to 615/269-4857. 

**YES!** I want to order *Historic Homes of Forest Hills*.



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Total amount enclosed \$

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 One book \$4.00  
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Books may be picked up at the office of City of Forest Hills, 4012 Hillsboro Road, during office hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 383-8447 before you come.

**FAX**  
 to 269-4857  
**MAIL**  
 to City of Forest Hills  
 4012 Hillsboro Rd.  
 Nashville TN 37215

# Meet your neighbor, the coyote

Coyotes survive in the wild and occasionally in suburban areas of large cities. Though they are common in most rural areas, few are seen due to their secretive nature. However, more Forest Hills residence are spotting coyotes, which now live in every county in the state.

Coyotes are not a big problem, however, according to Craig Harper, wildlife specialist with the Agriculture Extension Service at the University of Tennessee. He says coyotes' arrival in the state has filled a vacant ecological niche once

occupied by the red wolf, which preyed on rodents and other small mammals.

In the summer, coyotes' diets consist mainly of fruits, vegetation, and insects. In the fall and winter they consume more meat, feeding primarily on rodents, but may take other small animals. Coyotes can be very hostile in protecting their young, and may be dangerous to dogs when doing so. However, since they are afraid of humans, they will usually stay away from pets to frighten him off.

Coyotes are generally private animals who fulfill their duties in the ecosystem, and need not be hunted.

"Many people think that coyotes are hunting for deer, quail, or turkeys," Harper said. "While they may occasionally take a fawn, they're actually helpful to ground-nesting birds like quail and turkeys by preying on nest predators such as raccoons and possums."

"Studies have shown that few quail nests are disturbed by coyotes," he said. "It's mostly the black rat snake, raccoons, and possums that raid quail nests. So, where present, coyotes may actually help to increase nest success." 🌳

## The following are a few simple guidelines to keep coyotes at bay if you live near a wooded area:

- Don't leave pet food outside.
- Walk pets on a leash, especially near dusk or dawn, when coyotes are more likely to be seen.
- Keep outdoor garbage lids closed tightly.
- Don't leave food outside and unattended for a long period of time.
- Keep coyotes fearful of humans. If one sees you and does not run away, yell and cause a commotion



## Meadow blooms

Brian Bowen began managing the Bison Meadow project with flower plantings in April, which are currently in bloom.



Green Hills News

Spencer Thompson retrieves his stolen mailbox, found in Bison Meadow by City Manager Jim Pitman.

## West Meade mailboxes were brought to Bison Meadows

City Manager Jim Pitman was on his way back to his Green Hills office after his regular morning drive around Forest Hills when he spotted something unusual in the parking area of Bison Meadows.

Meanwhile, an anonymous caller was leaving a message on the city's answering machine that there were mailboxes at Bison Meadows.

"Sure enough, there were 10 to 12 mailboxes, complete with posts," Pitman said. "From looking at the numbers, I knew they didn't belong to Forest Hills residents."

Pitman called the police and the United States Postal Inspectors before loading all the mailboxes but one that was too heavy for one person to lift into his pick-up truck and took them to city hall.

With the help of Postal Inspector Alan Hale, he located the West Meade owners who were "happy and surprised to know where their mailboxes were." He located one owner through a church bulletin still in the mailbox.

All but two — which have no numbers on them — have been returned to their rightful owners.

It has yet to be determined who was involved in the vandalism of the mailboxes, which is a federal offense. 🌳

# Mayor's Corner *Continued from page 1*

## **Residents' comments were:**

- Several requested that we add stop signs at three or four additional locations.
- Many suggested the city get a policeman with a radar gun to check speeds.

## **The City says:**

- Unfortunately, Metro is not very cooperative with this.

## **Residents' comments were:**

- Several stated that the RPM proposal had way too many speed humps.

## **The City says:**

- Two residents suggested we raise the speed limit to 40 m.p.h.

The commissioners at our scheduled board meeting on Thursday, June 13, urged that the city resolve the issue along these two streets. Several residents on Robert E. Lee Drive, however, requested that the study be performed on their street separately.

## **Taxes and budget**

Since the budget passed by the Tennessee General Assembly July 3 continues to share tax monies with cities and counties, it will not be necessary for the city of Forest Hills to institute a property tax.

## **Chipper service**

Please do not begin putting out new brush immediately after receiving chipper pick-up service; it will be four to five weeks before the route will be run again.

## **Bikeway status**

Vice Mayor John Lovell, the project coordinator, has been acquiring the properties for the bikeway route in Forest Hills. At the present time, only two properties remain to be acquired. The bikeway plans look great and are in the City's office if you would like to see them, please stop by and look them over. 

## **Commissioners meeting**

Remember that the Board of Commissioners meets monthly at 5 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the City Offices at 4012 Hillsboro Road. All are welcome to attend and discuss anything they have questions about.

The Planning Commission meets on an as-needed basis following the Board of Commissioners meeting. The Board of Zoning Appeals also meets on an as-needed basis, usually on a Friday morning at 8 a.m.

If you have any other questions or information call the City Information Hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 298-5389. 



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