



CITY OF FOREST HILLS

Changes, changes and more changes

Tax Reform

We continue to have tax changes that affect the citizens of Forest Hills.

Probably the most important one was the action taken by the Tennessee State Legislature in June. After months of debating changes the way state taxes are collected and the amount distributed back to the various shared tax agencies, the legislators suddenly passed several amendments quickly that were very damaging to a few cities such as Forest Hills.

The tax plan as revised totally restructures the shared tax cuts, so that in the aggregate, the cuts represent 5.5 percent of shared taxes. But some items aren't being cut at all and others are being cut by much more than 5.5 percent. The Hall Income Tax, however, is being cut 33 percent. The average county cut is only 1.8 percent but the average city cut, such as to the City of Forest Hills, is 8.1 percent. This situation will probably lead local officials to take action to increase or start some new taxes, cut services or otherwise adjust the city

budget. So far we have only trimmed the City of Forest Hills' budget slightly.

Bikeway Status

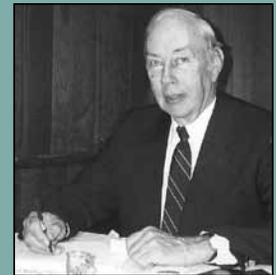
The City of Forest Hills has completed the acquisition of all of the 13 parcels of land needed to start construction of the new bikeway on Robert E. Lee Drive, Otter Creek Road, and Priest Road. Congratulations are due to Vice Mayor John Lovell for working hard past the many technical items that came up in this almost 10-year project. In late August we received the official notification from the State of Tennessee Department of Transportation that we were cleared to start construction of the bikeway. The project will be put out to bids soon.

Speed Humps

As many of you know, speed humps have been installed on Robert E. Lee Drive from Granny White Pike west to Otter Creek Road.

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The Mayor's Corner



BY CHARLES EVERS

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No Comment

Concerning the federal lawsuit filed against the City of Forest Hills and others, the Board of Commissioners has been advised by its attorneys not to comment.



Workers install speed humps on Robert E. Lee Drive.



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Commissioners meeting
agenda hotline
298-5389


Chipper service to sweep each of 4 areas monthly

The new chipper service, The Parke Company, Inc., will sweep the four quadrants of City of Forest Hills monthly on a set schedule for each area.

Check the map for when the chipper truck will be in your neighborhood. To avoid amassing huge piles for a longer period of time, wait until a week or two before the next scheduled service to put out brush.

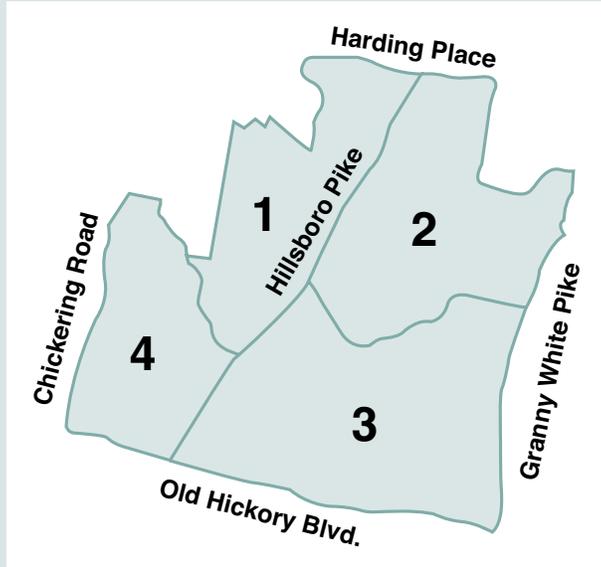
Remember:

- Sticks and branches will not be picked up if they are over four inches in diameter.
- Root balls may not be discarded because rocks in them could break the chipper machinery.

- Stick piles need to be placed as closely to the street as possible to save time.
- Bag leaf pickup is offered only during the months of October, November and December. Bags of leaves left out at other times will not be picked up.

The Parke Company took over chipper service July 21 and finished sweeping all four quadrants of the city in three weeks, according to Forest Hills City Manager Jim Pitman.

Numerous citizens had expressed dissatisfaction with prior quality of chipper service during the public comments portion of regular monthly meetings of the Board of Commissioners for several months. 



Chipper service will be provided the four areas on a set schedule:

- Area 1**
First week of each month
- Area 2**
First and second week of each month
- Area 3**
Second and third week of each month
- Area 4**
Third and fourth week of each month

City resident wins Lawn & Garden award

Judith Humphreys, 1000 Foxwood Drive, is a 2003 Lawn and Garden Contest winner in the amateur with professional assistance category.

Sponsored by Metro Beautification and Environment Commission, the contest recognizes neighbors that landscape, mulch, plant, grow, seed, weed, and generally make Nashville a prettier place to live. 

Street paving scheduled

The paving of selected streets in Forest Hills is scheduled to begin between the first and second week in October.

Streets to be paved include Sherwood Court, Sherwood Drive, Kenwood Drive, Stonehaven Court, Stonehaven Drive, Andover Drive, McGrace Lane, Mary Helen Drive, Stanford Court, Beekman Drive west of Lynnwood Boulevard, and possibly portions of Jefferson Davis Drive.

The successful bidder, Nickell, Inc. of Columbia, was awarded the paving contract by the Board of Commissioners at the August meeting. 

City Engineer tells students about stormwater

Where does our stormwater go?

That's the question City Engineer Brad Bivens answered for 170 third and fourth graders at Percy Priest Elementary School in Forest Hills.

During his presentation April 24, Bivens used Noah I.Q., a character he developed to speak to children, to tell them about stormwater issues. Demonstrating what an average storm drain collects during a rainfall event, Bivens also explained how the water from storm drains can impact the water quality and aquatic environments of local streams, rivers and lakes.

Students learned the importance of keeping our environment clean by making wise decisions in the use and disposal of oil, pesticides and fertilizers, and the disposal of grass clippings, leaves, our pet's waste, and erosion and sediment control.

Bivens' presentation was in conjunc-



Percy Priest students learn about stormwater from City Engineer Brad Bivens

tion with the City of Forest Hills Phase II Stormwater Permitting Process, fulfilling one of the federal government's require-

ments for public education.

Bivens is senior project manager of the Nashville office of Neel-Schaffer. 

Department of Interior reviewing nominations for placing seven homes on National Register

BY BILL COKE

Seven homes in Forest Hills unanimously approved by the Tennessee Historical Commission for the National Register of Historic Places are now being reviewed by the U.S. Department of Interior.

Copies of *Historic Homes of Forest Hills* are available at Forest Hills City Hall, 4012 Hillsboro Road, for \$45. The books are on sale at Cheekwood, Davis Kidd Booksellers, Elder's and other bookstores.

A decision is expected by the end of the year.

The State Review Board of the Tennessee Historical Commission reviewed all the nominations and voted on each submission individually May 28.

In early 2000, City of Forest Hills commissioners contracted with Phil Thomason of Phil Thomason and Associates Preservation Planners to survey homes in Forest Hills that were at least

50 years old. The study also included a comprehensive history of the Forest Hills area from the late 18th century to modern times. The study was of such great interest to residents and local historians that the commissioners voted to publish the findings in book form. The result was the handsome book, *Historic Homes of Forest Hills: An Architectural Survey*.

The study also revealed that 10 homes were eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The commissioners voted to share half of the cost of nomination with each register-eligible property owner. Of these property owners, seven elected to pursue nomination.

Homes nominated are:

- Dr. Cobb Pilcher House on Stanford Drive
- Guilford Sr. and Anne Dallas Dudley House on Hillsboro Road
- P.D. Houston Jr. House on Hillsboro Road
- Thomas P. Kennedy Jr. House on Hillsboro Road

- Richard E. Martin House west of Hillsboro Road
- Henry Neuhoff House on Chickering Road
- Mrs. Edward B. Craig House on Chickering Road

Homes in Forest Hills on the National Register of Historic Places include the Hibbetage House on Old Hickory Boulevard; the McCrory-Mayfield House on Old Hickory Boulevard; and the Longleaf House on Hillsboro Pike. 

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

City of Forest Hills 383-8447

Security
Metro Police 862-8600

Down trees and limbs
The Parke Company, Inc. 201-9999

Water
Metro Water and Sewer 862-4800

Mayor's Corner *Continued from page 1*

Since completion of the work the first week of May 2003, we have received several complaints that the speed humps on Robert E. Lee are not the same as those on Kingsbury Drive. Upon checking, we discovered some differences and will probably make some modifications to those that don't conform on Robert E. Lee Drive.

Hillsboro Road Widening

All three commissioners of Forest Hills attended the recent Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)

Commission Meetings

The Board of Commissioners meets second Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. in Forest Hills City Hall, 4015 Hillsboro Road.

All residents of Forest Hills are welcome to come and address the commissioners. We get a lot of suggestions from the numerous citizens who attend these open discussion sessions.

informational meetings at Grassland Middle School. The subject was the proposed TDOT plan to widen Hillsboro Road to five lanes from Berry Chapel Road (the north city limit of Franklin) to Old Hickory Boulevard (Metro Nashville south boundary).

The meeting was very well attended by about 225 people who live on or adjacent to Hillsboro Road in the affected area. It seemed to me that 80 to 85 percent of the citizens who made remarks were strongly against the widening. After reviewing all the remarks, TDOT decided that the citizens on Hillsboro Road who would be affected did not want the proposed changes at all and decided to abandon the widening project.

This decision should help us with the Hillsboro Road project from Old Hickory Boulevard north to Harding Place. Our citizens were also against widening that stretch of road five years ago.

Bethel Church Project

A number of Forest Hills citizens who live in the southeast corner of the

city (namely the Granny White Pike and Old Hickory Boulevard intersection) would have been very much affected by the Bethel World Outreach Center's proposed paving of a large additional area.

At the last moment, The Bethel Church withdrew its proposed plan of expansion before the Metro Planning Commission.

Our residents were very surprised and pleased that the Bethel Church plan was withdrawn as it would have affected the storm water run-off problem and increased church traffic on Saturdays and Sundays.

Street Pavings

Our annual street repaving covering 12 or 11 streets is scheduled for October. (See story page 2) The worst part of this is when the water, sewer, and stormwater covers are raised two to three inches before the streets are paved.

Be on the lookout for signs that will be put up alerting motorists to the raised utility covers. 



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