

FOREST HILLS NEWS



Cutting the ribbon to open the bikeway are Vice Mayor John C. Lovell, Commissioner Bill Coke, former Congressman Bob Clement, and Mayor Charles Evers.

Bikeway is now open!

After more than 10 years the bikeway in Forest Hills officially opened to bikers and walkers June 4.

A large crowd gathered at Percy Priest School for short speeches, the surprise naming of the bikeway for Vice Mayor John C. Lovell, a demonstration on bike safety, and lemonade before the ribbon-cutting sent the bikers and walkers on their way for the "Tour de Forest Hills."

Mayor Charles Evers introduced former Fifth District Congressman Bob Clement as "the person who had a big, big part in getting the project underway back in 1995. He helped write the federal project that made this bikeway possible—'Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991'—better known by its acronym, ISTEA."

Clement, who served on the Transportation Committee, credited the local leadership for its vision and courage and for providing information and education that "kept the dream alive" during the 10 years it took to complete the bikeway.

Commissioner Bill Coke surprised Vice

Mayor Lovell by announcing the bikeway is named the John C. Lovell Bikeway in honor of "the person primarily responsible for making sure the bikeway was the very best and for the numerous hours he devoted to the project since June 1995."

Other speakers offering congratulations were State Representative Beth Halteman Harwell, Councilperson Lynn Williams, and Commander Mickey Miller of the Metro Police.

Lead-off bikers for the first official ride as part of Tour de Forest Hills were Don Campbell; Richard Hawkins; Jonathan, Molly, and Annie Richmond; and Addie and Emma Davis.

The fun climax was a yellow duck water race on Otter Creek. Children signed up for numbered ducks, which Parke Brown sent on their way downstream while children and parents cheered. Prizes were awarded for the first three ducks to cross the finish line and be caught in a net by Brown. Winners of the duck race were: first place, Richard Hawkins; second place, Addie Davis; and third place, Chandler Hawkins. 

See more photos on page 3

Grant helps plant trees for bikeway

The City of Forest Hills has a \$5,000 matching grant to plant 42 native trees along the John C. Lovell Bikeway.

The grant from the USDA Forest Service and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry, provides funding for the City of Forest Hills Bikeway Tree Preservation Plan.

The 42 trees of diverse species will be planted and maintained by The Parke Company to promote the bikeway's "aesthetic value, increase its shade through tree density, protect its banks along Otter Creek Road, and to add real value to the community through the structure of trees."

The Tree Preservation Plan also supports the City's Tree Ordinance "to regulate the management, care, removal, and preservations of trees and woody vegetation within the city of Forest Hills."

Residents of Forest Hills will be invited to participate on tree planting day. 

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Commissioners meeting
agenda hotline
298-5389



Tom Balthrop returns as interim city manager

Former city manager Tom Balthrop will return on an interim basis until a permanent replacement is found for Jim Pitman, who resigned the position effective August 5.

"We regret very much Jim's resignation but wish him well in his new position as a Learjet captain for Corporate Flight Management based in Smyrna," Mayor Charles Evers said.

"We are especially fortunate that Tom agreed to return to his job while the Commissioners search for a permanent city manager," Mayor Evers said.

Pitman was an airline pilot for 12 years with Delta and American Eagle airlines and worked for the state of Tennessee in human services before joining the City of Forest Hills on December 6, 1998.

He became City Manager

January 1, 1999, when Balthrop retired after more than 14 years of service.

In his resignation letter, Pitman said, "I wish the entire Forest Hills community good fortune in the years ahead. I shall miss you all." 



Commissioner Bill Coke, Mayor Charles Evers, and Vice Mayor John Lovell bid farewell to City Manager Jim Pitman at a goodbye luncheon held August 5.

Minutes update

Charles Evers was unanimously re-elected Mayor of Forest Hills for a sixth term by the Board of Commissioners at the November 11, 2004, meeting. He defeated investment banker Bill Joy in the November 2 election.

John Lovell was re-elected vice mayor.

* * *

Members of the new Cultural and Natural Resources Committee were introduced at the January 13 meeting.

They are chair Clay Jackson, Collie Dailly, Sally Huston, Carroll Kimball, Richard Patton, Bailey Robinson, and Frank Wade.

Mayor Evers charged the members as follows:

The Cultural and Natural Resources Committee is charged by the Board of Commissioners of the City of Forest Hills to assist the Commission in identifying and maintaining those cultural and natural resources within the City that contribute to the beauty and historical character of the City. This includes maintaining an inventory of such resources within the City as parks, public spaces, stone walls, cemeteries, and such other resources as

they may discover. The committee shall make periodic recommendations to the Commission for maintaining or preserving these resources both on public and private property. In addition, they shall identify ways of improving the appearance of public spaces and roadways within the City and recommend to the Board of Commissioners the adoption of such improvements with appropriate cost estimates. The members of this Committee will serve at the pleasure of the Board of Commissioners.

* * *

A resolution honoring W. Joe Diehl upon his retirement as a long-time member of the Planning Commission for the City of Forest Hills was unanimously adopted by the Board of Commissioners and presented to him at the February 10, 2005 meeting.

Saying he had had served the City with "great wisdom, thoughtfulness, dedication and distinction," the resolution continued that "he has been committed to the concept of fair and impartial decisions by the City's Planning Commission.

Diehl and his wife Nancy Fawn moved to another area of Davidson County. 

Bikeway opens at last

Two new bridges cross Otter Creek as part of the bikeway, right, named for Vice Mayor John C. Lovell, who receives a plaque from Mayor Charles Evers, below, during opening festivities June 4.



Above, bikers are eager to be the first to officially ride on the John C. Lovell Bikeway as Mayor Charles Evers steps aside after cutting the ribbon.

Left, Parke Brown follows as the ducks float down Otter Creek in the yellow duck water race while children watch to see if the numbered ducks they selected will win.

Commissioners vote to join Lakewood lawsuit against Metro

By JONATHAN HARWELL, City Attorney

In a special meeting, City of Forest Hills Commissioners voted to join the City of Lakewood in a suit against Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County.

Lakewood, one of Metro's satellite cities, filed a lawsuit on June 3 claiming that, under its Charter, Metro must provide satellite cities with governmental services to no lesser extent than other areas in the General Services District.

The lawsuit demands two forms of relief: 1.) a declaratory judgment to determine the legal rights of the satellite cities in Metro, and 2.) a constructive trust for monies that Metro should have shared

with the satellite cities in prior years.

At the same time, Lakewood also filed a motion asserting that the other satellite cities—Belle Meade, Berry Hill, Forest Hills, Goodlettsville, and Oak Hill—were indispensable parties. All five cities have voted to join in the suit.

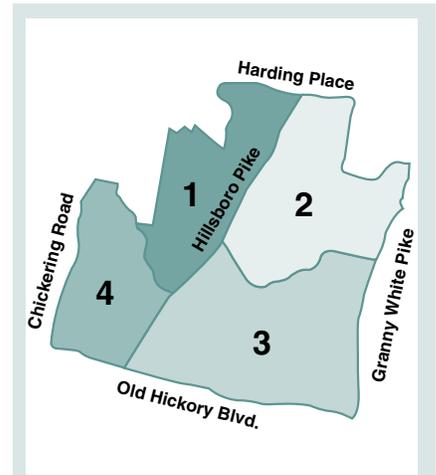
On July 8, Metro filed a motion to dismiss the Lakewood complaint. During a conference call on July 15 involving city attorneys representing the satellite cities; James Charles, counsel for Metro; and Chancellor Claudia Bonnyman, the chancellor ruled that the satellite cities must declare whether they would join the litigation and respond to Metro's motion to dismiss by August 26. 🌳

NES buys property for substation

Nashville Electric Service has purchased 20.3 acres on the northeast corner of Old Hickory Boulevard and Hillsboro Pike for a proposed substation.

The property owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints was final choice of six parcels NES had studied.

Mayor Charles Evers said NES had the right to purchase the property through eminent domain and that the City of Forest Hills had no say in the matter. He said it is his understanding that a public hearing will be held at a later date. 🌳



Chipper service is provided in these 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



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