

# Bill Coke elected Mayor

Long-time Forest Hills resident William G. Coke was elected mayor of the City November 6.

Coke said his primary goal is to ensure that Forest Hills remains green and residential. He plans to oppose development like the project at the corner of Old Hickory Boulevard and Hillsboro Pike, which was withdrawn by the developers after a Planning

Commission public hearing November 13. (See story below.)

Coke, a resident of Forest Hills for 33 years, was appointed to the Board of Commissioners in 1997 to fill an unexpired term and was elected to a four-year term in 2002 and again in 2006.

John Lovell was re-elected Vice Mayor, a position he has held since 1995.



## Douglas elected Commissioner November 4

Tim Douglas is sworn in as Commissioner of Forest Hills by City Attorney Matt Foster November 6. Douglas, a former member of the Forest Hills Board of Zoning Appeals, received 2,196 votes.

# Residents make their voices heard on development

Forest Hill residents and their elected officials were loud and clear in their opposition to a commercial development at Old Hickory Boulevard and Hillsboro Pike just south of Forest Hills city limits.

And it worked.

First, the development team released architectural concepts for a new neighborhood center at a meeting of the Forest Hills Board of Commissioners November 6.

Despite restrictions that the developers outlined, the commissioners and residents were strongly opposed, citing increased traffic, "casually amending" the Green Halls-Midtown Community Plan, and Native American graves on the property.

More than 150 showed up at the Metro Planning Commission's public hearing at Congregation Micah on November 13 when Metro Planning

Department's Robert Eadler presented the proposed land use changes from "residential low density" to "suburban neighborhood center."

Mayor Bill Coke said the people of Forest Hills want to maintain its rural character, then described a commercial

development domino theory he believes would follow.

The protests were many with only a few in favor.

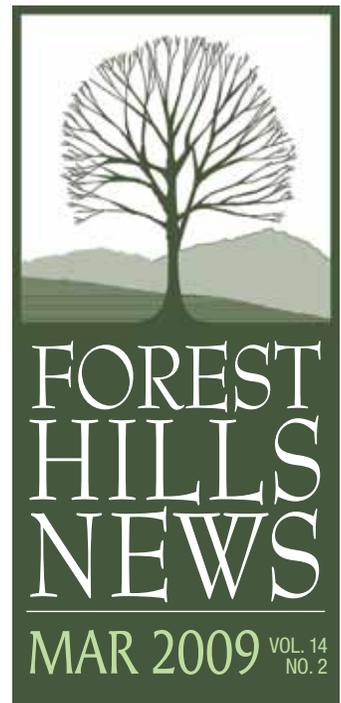
When the staff of the Metro Planning Commission disapproved the request, the application was withdrawn.



## Mayor Evers gets warm send-off

Commissioners John Lovell and Bill Coke show retiring Mayor Charles Evers his official portrait that will hang in the City offices.

See page 5.



**2** Mayor Coke: It's a time of change for Forest Hills

**3** Task forces study green initiatives, land preservation

**4** New gates, signs, posts to mark City entrances



4012 HILLSBORO PIKE  
NASHVILLE, TN 37215  
615/383-8447  
CityofForestHills.com

**City Manager**

Al Deck w 383-8447

**Board of Commissioners**

William G. Coke, Mayor H 665-1992

John Lovell, Vice Mayor H 371-1716  
w 292-9925

Tim Douglas H 221-4323  
w 255-1775

**City Attorney**

Matthew Foster w 256-0500

**City Engineer**

Brad Bivens w 383-8420

**Planning Commission**

E. Warner Bass, Chair w 742-6210

Winston Evans, Vice Chair w 259-4685

James C. Gardner III H 665-0936

Em Ghianni H 373-1359

Carroll Kimball 665-8998

Sandy Moore H 373-0239  
w 252-6867 ext. 146

George David Waller III w 256-1316

The Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Commissioner also sit on this commission.

**Board of Zoning Appeals**

Janie Rowland, Chair H 665-0642

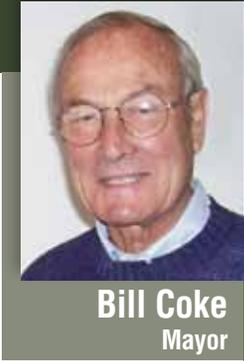
Tim Douglas H 221-4323  
w 255-1775

Jim Littlejohn H 371-0008  
w 385-4144

Commissioners meeting  
agenda hotline  
**298-5389**

**The Commissioner's Corner**

**It's a time of change for Forest Hills, too**



**Bill Coke**  
Mayor

AS IN THE rest of the country, this has been a time of change in Forest Hills.

After 12 years of dedicated service as Mayor of Forest Hills, Charlie Evers retired from the Forest Hills Commission in November. (See page 4.)

Tim Douglas was elected as a new Commissioner, and he began his duties in November.

Further changes have taken place with the installation of new distinctive street signs and a handsome stone gateway entrance into Forest Hills at the intersection of Old Hickory Boulevard and Hillsboro Pike. Citizens will see more changes when similar gateway entrances are built at Harding Place and Hillsboro Pike. Also, distinctive stone columns will replace the entrance signs on the other streets leading into the City. (See pages 4-5.)

Under the leadership of the Cultural and Natural Resources Committee, chaired by Clay Jackson, these changes are being made to "brand" the City and to create a sense of

community for all citizens of Forest Hills.

One of the most important events in the past six months is the adoption by the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Hills Green Community Initiative designed to more completely protect the character of the City of Forest Hills. City Manager Al Deck reports on this initiative in detail on page 3. A new Comprehensive Plan is being developed under the leadership of Winston Evans, which replaces the 1991 Comprehensive Plan as the blueprint for the future of Forest Hills.

Your Board of Commissioners—Vice Mayor John Lovell, Commissioner Tim Douglas, and I—are dedicated to protecting the character of the City of Forest Hills with its hills, trees, open spaces, and green spaces that make Forest Hills the unique residential area that it is. This is our continuing commitment to the citizens of Forest Hills.

**Lanson Hyde joins BZA**



Lanson J. Hyde III was appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals in November to fill the position vacated by Tim Douglas, who was elected Commissioner.

Hyde also serves on the task force for small parcel protection standards.

"The Commissioners, the Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals were there for me and my family when several aggressive development plans were proposed in our neighborhood," Hyde said. "So when Mayor Bill Coke called and asked me to serve on BZA, it was an honor to give something back to the city and a privilege to serve on the board with Janie Rowland and Jim Littlejohn, who have both given so much to Forest Hills over the years," he said.

Hyde, senior vice president and chief operating officer of Surgical Development Partners, has lived in Forest Hills for nearly 20 years.

**Write in 1904 on tax return**

Be sure your income tax return contains "City of Forest Hills" and 1904, the four-digit location code so the City receives its due portion of various local and state taxes including Hall Income Tax. These annual reimbursements fund the city's operating budget.

**New Japanese Consul resides in Forest Hills**

The official residence of the Japanese Consulate is located in Forest Hills.

The consulate promotes Japanese economic partnerships in five southern states.

The first country to have a consulate in Tennessee, Japan is the state's top foreign investor: Japanese-owned businesses employ more than 40,000 Tennesseans. The state has 155 companies with Japanese affiliations, including Nissan North America now headquartered in Franklin.

# City's contribution aids Warner land purchase

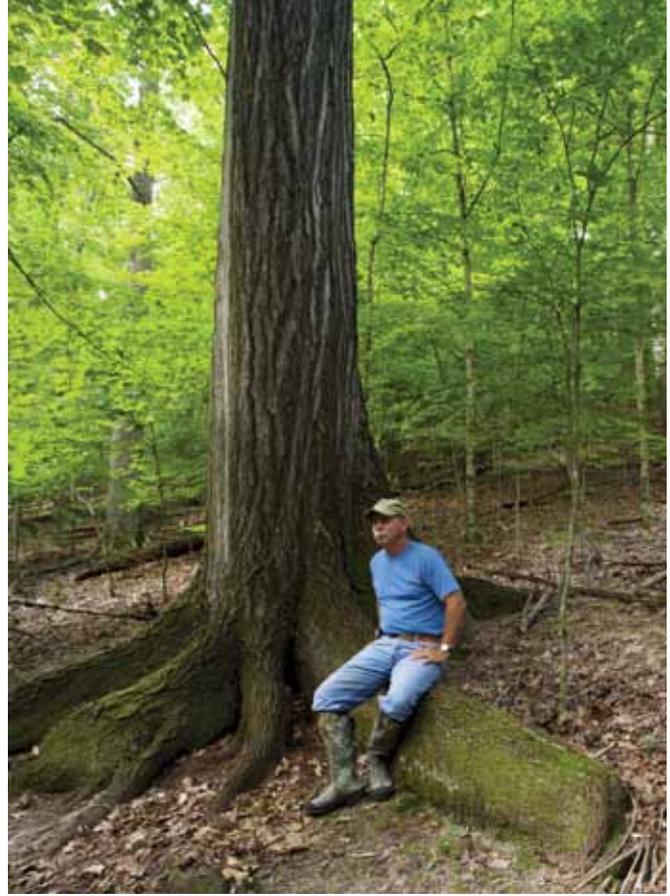
The City of Forest Hills pledged \$100,000 to help Friends of Warner Parks purchase the Hill Tract, a 324-acre property with an old-growth forest of trees more than two centuries old.

The Board of Commissioners noted that the "project is consistent with the City's efforts to conserve green space. Forest Hills is proud to support two natural treasures, Radnor Lake and the Warner parks, which bookend the City."

The pledge was made in honor of Edwin Warner Bass for his tireless efforts for Friends of Warner Parks and his stewardship of the City of Forest Hills, the board said. Bass has chaired the City's Planning Commission since 1975. He is past president of Friends of Warner Parks, a nonprofit group that preserves and protects Percy and Edwin Warner Parks. He's been instrumental in helping the group raise nearly \$10 million to purchase the last large tract of undeveloped property adjacent to the parks.

Friends of Warner Parks still needs to raise \$1 million to finalize the purchase. For more information or to make a donation, visit [www.friendsofwarnerparks.com](http://www.friendsofwarnerparks.com).

H.G. Hill property manager William Fields sits under one of the Hill Tract's giant trees.



# Group to study green initiatives

In 2007 the City of Forest Hills hired McBride Dale Clarion Group to develop a strategy for protection of the community's character and preserving open spaces.

In August 2008 McBride delivered the final version of the Green Community Framework Report. The process and report were vetted through public meetings, and the City received public input at two such events.

## Green Community Vision for the Future

The City of Forest Hills will maintain its unique community character and low-density pattern over time. Scenic vistas, environmental features, and unique landscapes will be permanently protected in their natural state. The community will be linked to regional parklands through preserved

natural corridors. New residential neighborhoods will be built in a context-sensitive manner that takes into account the natural qualities of the community. New neighborhoods will include natural open-space areas that enhance community character. New homes will be sited and designed to protect important natural



**ON DECK**  
with Al Deck  
City Manager

features and scenic qualities of lots. Existing neighborhoods will be enhanced by redevelopment that reflects the character of the city, and is consistent with existing homes in the neighborhood. Additional recreational opportunities will be provided in the form of greenways, trails, and new parklands.

To that end, the Board of Commissioners appointed a nine-member committee called the "Green Community Study Group" to study the Green Community Framework Report. (*See box at right.*) The committee, chaired by Mayor Coke, will present its findings and recommendations no later than August 31.

Committee meetings are the first Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at the City offices. "We are always open to add any citizens," said Mayor Coke. Call the office at 383-8447 or visit [CityofForestHills.com](http://CityofForestHills.com) with questions or comments.

Task forces will report on:

- Amendments to or a restatement of the Comprehensive Plan
- Initiatives for the preservation of green space, including identifying lands for preservation, identifying a funding source for acquiring land, and studying the use and promotion of conservation easements to preserve private property
- Methods of protecting large parcels of property within the City
- Methods of improving small parcel protection standards
- Methods of improving natural resource standards
- Feasibility and long-term plan for greenways, bikeways, and enhancing interconnectivity between Forest Hills neighborhoods and neighboring communities and resources, including, but not limited to, Warner Parks and Radnor Lake

### Task Force chairs

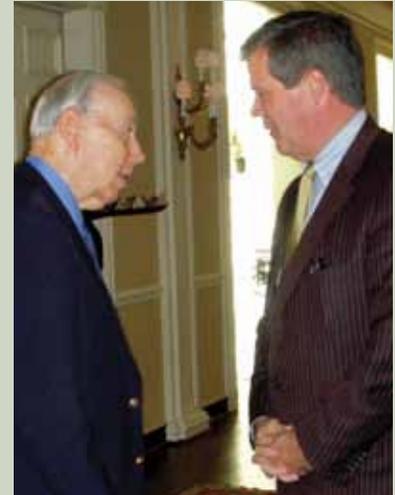
Winston Evans  
Janie Rowland  
Sally Huston  
Jeanie Nelson  
Audra Ladd  
Clay Jackson  
Jim Littlejohn  
Tim Douglas  
John Lovell

## Luncheon honors Mayor Charles Evers for his service to Forest Hills

Mayor Charles Evers was the guest of honor at a luncheon October 31 marking his retirement after serving 20 years on the Board of Commissioners of Forest Hills.

Former Mayor Red Norvell, members of the Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Commission, former and current city managers, friends and family honored their old friend.

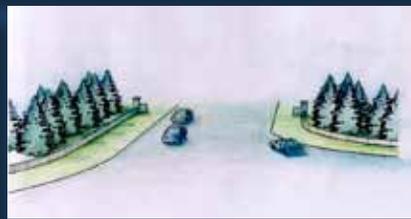
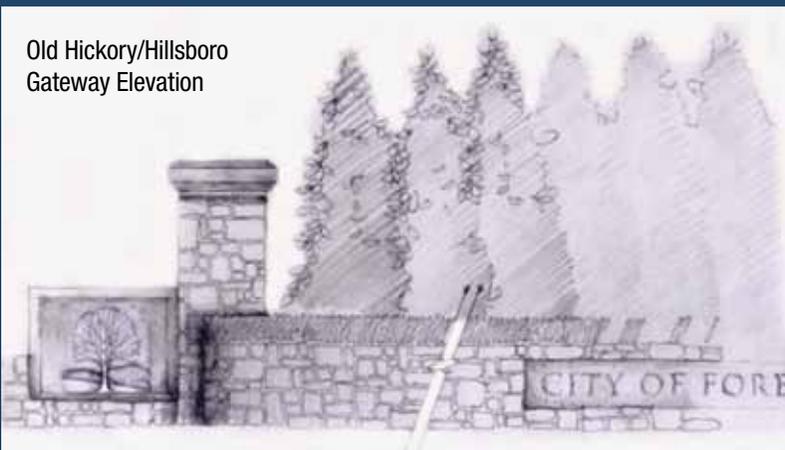
Vice Mayor John Lovell announced that a donation had been made to the Alzheimer's Association in memory of his late wife Mary Jane who passed away March 9, 2007.



Mary Frances Evers and Linda Ann Evers, above, hold their father's framed resolution made by City of Forest Hills honoring his service to the City. Mayor Evers chats with Nashville Mayor Karl Dean, right.

## City to add entry gateways, signs, posts

Old Hickory/Hillsboro Gateway Elevation



Gateway Plan and Perspective



Old Hickory/Hillsboro Pike small flowering tree plantings

Dry-stacked stone entry gateways into the City of Forest Hills are scheduled for the east and west sides of Harding Place at Hillsboro Pike.

In addition the entry will include dry-stacked stonewalls, reminiscent of the historic fences remaining in the city, and flowering trees and plantings similar to the recently installed gateway entrance at Old Hickory Boulevard and Hillsboro Pike.

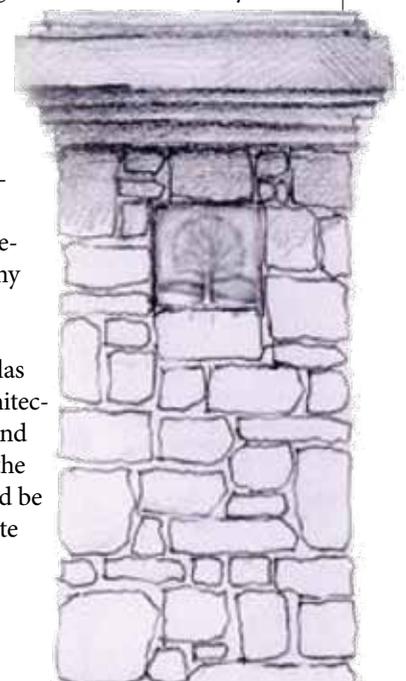
Secondary entry signs and posts will mark the entrances into the city at six locations:

- 5141 Granny White Pike
- Granny White and Old Hickory
- Chickering Road and Old Hickory
- Chickering Road and Chickering Lane

■ Tyne and Lynwood boulevards

■ Tyne Boulevard near Granny White Pike

Designed by Hodgson Douglas Landscape Architecture, Planning and Urban Design, the entrances should be completed by late summer.





# Celebration!

Forest Hills honored Mayor Charles Evers on his retirement, celebrated its 50th anniversary a year late, and dedicated the handsome new gateway entrance at Old Hickory Boulevard and Hillsboro Pike.

Paying tribute on November 1 to Mayor Evers for his attention to conserving green space, being a good steward of the city and dedicating years to make the city better were Governor Phil Bredesen, Mayor Karl Dean, and Representatives Jim Cooper and Marsha Blackburn, both of whom represent Forest Hills.

Then-Commissioner Bill Coke gave a brief history of the city, noting that the new gateways were to commemorate its 50th anniversary but their completion delayed the celebration a year.

Clay Jackson, chair of the Cultural and Natural Resources Committee, which conceived the gateways as a way of beautifying the city, closed the celebration with his vision for the future of Forest Hills.



Governor Phil Bredesen, top, addresses the celebration. Above, Belle Meade Mayor George Crook and Forest Hills Mayor Charles Evers visit with Oak Hill Mayor Tommy Alsup. Below, Congressman Jim Cooper chats with bagpiper and then-candidate for commissioner Tim Douglas.



Governor Phil Bredesen, above, discusses Forest Hills history with Fletch Coke, Mayor Evers, Clay Jackson, and Mayor Karl Dean. Mayor Bill Coke, right, talks with Metro Head Librarian Donna Nicely and Tennessee First Lady Andrea Conte.



## Help keep City free from signs

The City of Forest Hills has a sign ordinance intended to clean up the visual pollution of illegal signs.

The ordinance states: "No sign, other than real estate, security signs, and political signs shall be erected without a sign permit. . . . No sign of any nature whatsoever shall be placed in the right-of-way."

Signs that are allowed have to conform to standards of size and duration of display. (See the Forest Hills website for details.)

Mayor Bill Coke urges Forest Hills citizens to remove and dispose of any illegal signs, especially from the rights-of-way or affixed to any utility pole.

"We need to keep Forest Hills free of these illegal signs, which are an eyesore and safety hazard," he said.

# FOREST HILLS CLEAN TEAM

## SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, March 28

7:00 to 8:00 a.m.

Percy Priest School

Time to begin spring cleaning!

We need you to be ambassadors and help us grow the number of hands keeping Forest Hills litter-free.

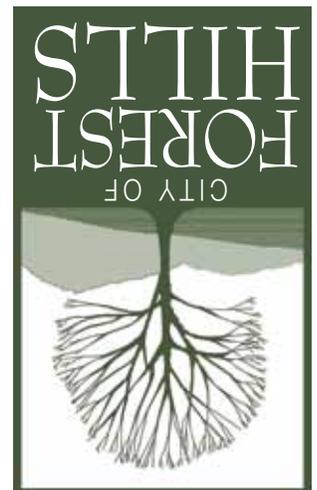
Please bring 5 friends on March 28.

As you know, this becomes addictive.

*Please let me know if you can join us, and the number of extra hands you are bringing so I have "grabbers" for everyone.*

Sally Huston • 373-9214 • [hustonmkt@comcast.net](mailto:hustonmkt@comcast.net)

4012 Hillisboro Pike  
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