

The Commissioner's Corner

Architect selected to design city hall for Forest Hills

AT THE Board of Commissioners meeting on June 4, Commissioners agreed to a proposal that a City Hall be planned and constructed at the corner of Old Hickory Boulevard and Hillsboro Pike on approximately eight acres of property leased to the City by Nashville Electric Service. This is a 99-year lease, for which the City will pay NES \$250 per year.

In October the Board of Commissions sent a letter to every Forest Hills household to inform the residents about the plan and how a new City Hall will serve the needs of the City for the future. For over 35 years, the City's business and the City's public meetings have been held in the same cramped, one-room office space. In a special report commissioned by the City in 2000, the Municipal Technical Advisory Service described the office space as failing to serve the needs of the residents of Forest Hills.

Since that time, the City has employed another full-time administrative employee and a part-time building inspector without adding space for them to work in. Public meetings of the Board of Commissioners, the Planning Commission, and the Board of Zoning Appeals are often so well-attended that inadequate space remains for Forest Hills residents to be seated.

To provide the large meeting area needed as well as office and storage space would require approximately 4,000 square feet. A survey of office space in the Green Hills business area revealed that Grade B office space rents for \$17 to \$18 per square foot and Grade A office space is \$23 to \$25 per square foot. The total cost for renting space in Green Hills would be between \$75,000 and \$100,000 per year. There would be additional build-out costs to make the space ready for occupancy.

Because there is no land cost associated with building on the leased NES property, it makes it economically viable to build the City Hall at this location. It is estimated that the cost of the City Hall would be approximately \$1,000,000. This would represent an investment for the City rather than paying rent for expensive space in Green Hills.

An Advisory Task Force was formed to give advice to the City on hiring an architect and planning for the new building. Members

of the Advisory Task Force are David Waller, chair, and Alison Douglas, Clay Jackson, Jim

Littlejohn, and Jeff Orr. This Task Force has been charged to do the following:

- Determine the short-term and long-term needs and space requirements and to develop a time frame for completion of the project.

- Develop a process for selecting an architect for the design of a City Hall that is compatible with the natural environment of the City of Forest Hills.

- Make the final selection of an architect.

- Advertise for and award a construction contract for the building.

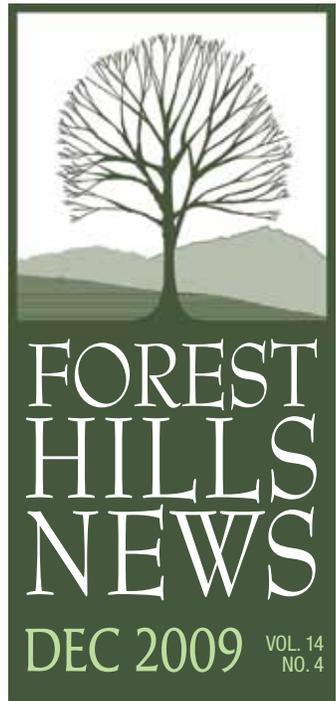
- Oversee the construction and completion of the City Hall including landscaping.

This Task Force developed a "long" list of 18 architects and asked them to present their qualifications for designing the City Hall. After reviewing the qualifications, the Task Force selected four architectural firms to be interviewed. At the Board of Commissioners meeting on November 19, the Commissioners approved the recommendation presented by Task Force chair Waller that the firm of Allard Ward be selected to design the City Hall.

Your Board of Commissioners welcomes your questions, your suggestions, and your support for this enhancement for the City of Forest Hills.



Bill Coke
Mayor

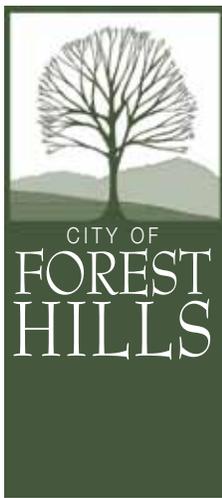


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- 5 Natural Resources Committee plans improvements

The Clean Team hits the streets

The Clean Team led by Sally Huston, below, conducted litter pick-ups in September, October, and November.





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

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 850-2723

George David Waller III H 373-2360

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

Board of Zoning Appeals

Janie Rowland, Chair H 665-0642

Lanson J. Hyde III H 370-5896
w 550-2600

Jim Littlejohn H 371-0008
w 385-4144

Emergency and
Information Line
298-5389

City codifies ordinances

After an extensive period of examination and consolidation, the City of Forest Hills has adopted a standard Codification of Ordinances. The Board of Commissioners passed the codification on final reading on November 5.

Having a municipal code allows the City to maintain its laws in a comprehensive, up-to-date, and understandable form that the average citizen can find and use. Compiling the City's basic ordinances and all amendments into one up-to-date document eliminates the need to refer to multiple separate documents. The most current information is now easily accessible.

The Codification of Ordinances also provides a clear view of existing situations and makes it easier for the City's leadership and residents to determine the impact of proposed changes and amendments.



Tornado siren installed

The City has installed a second storm warning system to help keep residents safe. The new system is located on the Nashville Electric Service site at the corner of Hillsboro Pike and Old Hickory Blvd.

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 local and state taxes including Hall Income Tax. These annual reimbursements fund the City's operating budget.



ON DECK
with Al Deck
City Manager

Comprehensive Plan being updated

The City is undertaking to update its Comprehensive Plan adopted in 1991 that guides decisions affecting Planning and Zoning.

The purpose of having a Comprehensive Plan is to preserve the character of Forest Hills and its residential land uses, and to provide a clear statement of the policies that will enable the City to accomplish the goals established. The existing plan addresses the central theme of the City—preserving Forest Hills' community character—from two standpoints:

- First, the overall community character of the City, focusing on density, landscaping, and the design of developments.
- Second, the protection and conservation of natural features that provide Forest Hills with its name.

The Planning Commission began work on the plan in November.

Contracts renewed

The Board of Commissioners voted to renew contracts for chipper service and snow removal.

The Parke Company, which provides chipper service, received a two-year renewal covering years three and four of its six-year agreement with the City.

A contract for snow removal services was awarded to Johnson Landscaping.

Permit fees reduced

Forest Hills residents who undertake building or remodeling projects will welcome news that some permit fees have been reduced. The chart below summarizes changes in the fees.

Permit	Old fee	New fee
Minimal permit	\$450	\$350
Roof	\$450	\$250
Temporary structures	\$350 flat fee	\$100 for one, \$250 for two, \$350 more than two <small>(Dumpsters, Port-a-Pots, construction trailers, etc.)</small>



City takes steps to slow traffic

In an effort to control speeding in the City, Forest Hills will employ a variety of methods for traffic calming, including speed limit signs painted on the pavement and speed humps on streets that meet the guidelines.

The City will evaluate and address speeding concerns using the following process:

- A radar trailer will display the speed of each vehicle and make drivers aware of their speed in relation to the posted limit.

- Additional signage for Speed Limits, Speed Zone Ahead, Residential Speed Control District, or Children at Play will be posted.

- The City will request Metro Police to dispatch radar cars to the neighborhood to work traffic as often as possible and issue citations. All fines and court costs go Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County.

- The next effort will be consideration of painting the speed limit in large block letters and numbers on the pavement. Prior to considering this measure, the City will require a petition signed by at least 25% of the property owners on the affected street. Upon receiving such petition, the City will initiate a mail survey. The survey must receive a 67% favorable vote of all properties on the street in order to proceed with pavement markings.

If the survey fails to achieve a positive vote, the Board of Commissioners will not reconsider the question within one year of the date of the last survey.

- A speed hump policy was prepared for the City of Forest Hills by RPM & Associates and adopted in 2001.



Forest Hills makes plans to maintain culverts

In the coming months, the City of Forest Hills will begin formulating a policy to deal with replacing privately installed drainage culverts under driveways, headwalls, and other decorative features, as they begin to wear out and disintegrate.

“The goal of keeping culverts in good working order is to maintain the flowline of storm water and maintain

the structural integrity of the City’s roadways,” City Manager Al Deck explained. He said the City is looking at replacement policies of other cities.

City Engineer Brad Bivens will compile the data and present recommendations for elements of a policy, which could include minimum size of the replaced culverts and materials used for the replacements.

Street work planned for Granny White Pike

Forest Hills residents may want to plan alternate routes to avoid upcoming street work on Granny White Pike.

Metro Water Services will be modifying water lines along Granny White between Overton Lea Road and

Robert E. Lee Drive beginning this week.

The work is expected to last several weeks, during which time sections of the road will be reduced to one-lane traffic.

Hillsboro church addresses sound problem

Hillsboro Church of Christ has installed sound blankets around the HVAC plant to reduce the sound levels from it. Depending on the effect of the blankets, they also will modify the wall with sound panels and masonry mate-

rials, and by height of the wall.

Meanwhile, Tennessee Department of Transportation has approved plans to add a southbound left turn lane on Hillsboro Road to better facilitate traffic flow and to ensure safety.



Cannons mark Battle of Nashville December 12

Six cannons will be fired on the hour from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. December 12 to mark the 1864 Battle of Nashville.

Presented by the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society at St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, 4800 Belmont Park Terrace, the artillery

display includes replicas of Union and Confederate cannons and 50 living historians, reenactors who will fire the cannons. The event is free and open to the public from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, call Jim Kay, BONPS president, at 405-9000.



Legend

- TVA Lines
- Proposed Foot Path
- Existing Bike Route
- Existing Brentwood Trail
- Proposed Bike Routes
- Proposed Sidewalk
- Percy Priest School
- Streets
- Parks
- Proposed Greenways
- Forest Hills
- Adjacent Cities

- A** Current bikepath, north on Robert E. Lee, west on Tyne, south on Belle Meade Boulevard, terminate at Percy Warner Park
- B** Current bikepath, north on Robert E. Lee, east on Tyne to Granny White
- C** Granny White from Old Hickory Boulevard north to Radnor Lake entrance
- D** Granny White between Robert E. Lee (where current bikepath ends) and Radnor Lake
- E** Granny White from Radnor Lake entrance north to Harding Place
- F** Starting at current bikepath, through Hounds Run to Granny White
- G** Current bikepath, along Otter Creek to Kingsbury
- H** Sidewalk around Percy Priest School
- I** Current bikepath, west on Otter Creek, south on Ashland, south on Kingsbury to Old Hickory Boulevard to connect with Brentwood path at end of Kingsbury
- J** TVA power lines (probably a walking path)
- K** Old Hickory Boulevard between Kingsbury and Chickering
- L** Old Hickory Boulevard between Kingsbury and Granny White
- M** Hillsboro Pike between Old Hickory Boulevard and Harding Place
- N** Easement along Richland Creek on Hillsboro Church of Christ property
- O** Chickering Road between Old Hickory Boulevard and Belle Meade Boulevard
- P** Certified Wildlife Community Habitat program (along Otter Creek)

The Commissioner's Corner

City eyes greenways, paths



John Lovell
Vice Mayor

THE Green Community Framework Report, which seeks to develop strategies for protecting community character and preserving important open spaces in the community, noted that there is a desire for additional recreational opportunities within Forest Hills. Many citizens suggested that passive recreational opportunities like greenways and trails would further enhance the character of the community.

A committee was formed to examine how a system of connecting trails, paths, and greenways might be established both within Forest Hills and with our neighboring communities. Amy Brown, Geoff Brittingham, Chuck Kimbel, Reggie Ramsey, and Lisa Wooley spent months researching the various types of connecting paths that might be appropriate to Forest Hills. They also interviewed adjoining communities like Brentwood, Belle Meade, and Oak Hill as well as Metropolitan Nashville to learn about their plans for developing paths within their boundaries.

The resulting report identified three major types of connectors:

- Wildlife corridors, which are contiguous natural lands that allow wildlife to travel, live, eat and multiply.
- Recreation areas and corridors, which might include hiking trails, walking paths, wildlife viewing areas, and small parks.
- Pedestrian and bicycle corridors, which

might include sidewalks and various classes of bike paths.

Various local and regional studies have identified Forest Hills to be at the very center of a "Southern Arc" which would connect the Warner Parks with Radnor Lake. Forest Hills is also at the center of an envisioned north/south bikeway connection between Brentwood and downtown Nashville.

The committee compiled the results of its studies in a map that identifies some 16 possible connecting paths and trails. These range in cost and complexity from building a separate bike path along Old Hickory Boulevard, to facilitating a Community Wildlife Habitat along Otter Creek as it flows from Radnor Lake through Forest Hills.

None of these projects will be developed quickly. The Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (which is identifying possible connecting paths among Davidson and surrounding counties) is working with a 25-year timeframe.

Some projects may never be developed at all due to cost or impracticality. Putting lines on paper is a necessary first step; your Commissioners invite your thoughts and input in moving ahead with this challenging and exciting project.

The Commissioner's Corner

Natural Resource Committee working to enhance the City

FOREST HILLS residents appreciate the beauty and character of our city; in fact, that's why most people choose to live here.

The Commissioners seek to preserve our natural resources and to raise public awareness of Forest Hills so that other Nashville residents will become conscious of the unique characteristics of our city. Implementing a plan to accomplish this will take some time, and it will be an ongoing effort.

The first step in this process is revising the City's Comprehensive Plan. (See page 2.) Specific measures to enhance the beauty of Forest Hills and to protect the City's unique character are also being taken. All of these things are vital commitments for the future.

You may have already noticed the new street signs throughout the City. And, each street sign bears the new City logo. Some upcoming initiatives to enhance the City's beauty include the following:

- Additional stone gateway entrances will be installed at several entry points to the City, providing attractive and handsome identifiers.

- Yoshino cherry trees have been planted along Hillsboro Pike, and many more will be planted for a Japanese-American project envisioned by Japanese Consul-General Hiroshi Sato, who is a City resident.

- Rejuvenation of Bison Meadow at

Tyne Boulevard is in progress.

- More consistent planting and landscaping throughout the City and along certain rights of way is being planned.

These initiatives were developed by the Cultural and Natural Resource Committee under the leadership of Clay Jackson. The role of this committee continues to grow, and it will be asked to manage future efforts related to stone walls, cemeteries, and historic homes. Members include: Betty Jane Barringer, Tim Douglas, Sally Huston, Clay Jackson, Bailey Robinson, Gayle Smith, Cindy Spengler, and Frank Wade. Ex-officio members Collie Daily and Richard Patton served for several years, and Sally Huston has recently taken over as head of this committee.

The Commissioners think it is important for people to know, visually, that they are entering Forest Hills. A rather substantial stone gateway entrance at Hillsboro Pike and Old Hickory Boulevard was dedicated last year and serves as an attractive welcome to all people. A similar gateway entrance is planned for Hillsboro Pike at Harding Place, as you head south from Green Hills. Smaller stone gateway entrances will be added to mark key entry points to Forest Hills.

The smaller stone gateway entrances were conceived by the Cultural and Natural Resource Committee, working with landscape architect Joe Hodgson of Hodgson and Douglas (no relation). Joe and Clay

have met with property owners at the sites for the new stone gateways, and special recognition and thanks should go to the various property owners who have given their enthusiastic support and approvals.

We believe property values will be enhanced as these measures are taken and as these long-term plans are carried out. We hope you will agree. The new City Hall building at Old Hickory and Hillsboro Pike will be a vital part of these efforts.



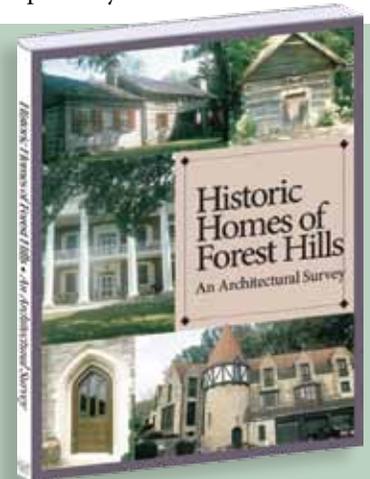
Tim Douglas
Commissioner

Improvements seen for Bison Meadow, Double Chickering

Sally Huston, who was named to succeed Clay Jackson as chair of the City's Cultural and Natural Resource Committee, made committee recommendations to the Board of Commissioners for visual enhancements to Forest Hills.

For Bison Meadow, located at the corner of Hillsboro Pike and Tyne Boulevard, the group proposed relocating one of the bison and adding new grass and flowers, while removing invasive plants and an unsightly stump.

The committee recommended replacing trees along "Double Chickering," where aging Bradford pear trees are becoming unsafe. The committee suggests removing approximately 70 trees planted over 20 years ago and replacing them with about 25 trees of various species selected for beauty and compatibility with the location.



Historic Homes of Forest Hills: An Architectural Survey is on sale for \$10 at the Forest Hills Office, 4012 Hillsboro Pike.

The book has pictures and descriptions of 105 homes in Forest Hills built before 1952, with a brief history, architectural analysis, and color photograph of each. A historic overview describes the area from the construction of the Natchez Trace to the creation of the City. Call 383-8447 for more information or to place your order.

Holiday safety tips

In the wake of recent car burglaries in the City of Forest Hills, Lt. Shawn Parris of the West Precinct reports that Metro Police have adjusted their resources and developed strategies to place additional resources in the area.

She emphasizes, however, with the holidays right around the corner, crime prevention takes on new importance. She shares some tips to help you stay safe.

Safety Tips

- Always be aware of the people around you.
- Always have your keys in hand when approaching your vehicle.
- Never have your hands too full when going to your vehicle; this makes you vulnerable to attackers.
- Never leave packages in plain view in your vehicle.
- Keep your keys, identification, and check card on your person, not in a purse. If your purse is taken you still have your valuable information and transportation.
- If you need to call 911 from a cell phone, let the dispatcher know where you are first so help can be on the way to you, then tell what your emergency is.
- If you call 911 from a home phone and you can't talk to the dispatcher, just place the phone down and help will be dispatched to your home. You don't have to talk to the dispatcher.

Auto theft/burglary prevention tips

- Never leave keys in your ignition.
- Never leave your car unattended when it's running.
- Always lock doors and keep windows rolled up when parked.
- Do not leave items visible inside your car.
- Keep copies of your car's registration away from the car. If your car is stolen, the police will need this to make a report.
- Park in busy, well-lit areas.



Leaf Pick-up Program

City of Forest Hills provides a leaf pick-up program, for bagged leaves only. Our contractor chips brush and limbs and also will pick up bagged leaves during their regular monthly tour through the City.

Leaves should never be raked into the ditch or street. Storm water will wash loose leaves into the City's drainage system, clogging culverts and creating flooding problems.

To assure the best service, please note the following guidelines:

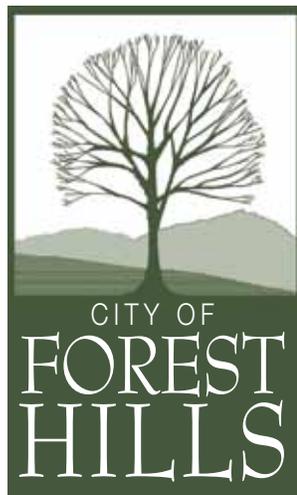
- It is not necessary to call and place an order. We will automatically pick up bagged leaves during the regular monthly routes.
- We do not charge a fee for bagged leaf collection.
- Bagged leaves should be at the edge of the street. We are unable to collect bags that are not accessible from the street.
- Bags should contain only leaves. The Contractor will not pick up any bag containing garbage or debris, since those materials will prevent recycling.
- We are not able to provide the specific day we will arrive in your neighborhood.

Another option: Recycle your leaves

To enhance and nourish your lawn and garden, consider mulching and composting as an alternative. Most Extension Offices recommend using shredded leaves as a mulch.

Placing your leaves through a shredder or a mulching mower provides excellent all-purpose mulch that can be used around plants immediately. A two- to three-inch layer of leaves provides good weed control. Shredded leaves will decompose fairly quickly. Whole leaves can also be used.

Another easy alternative is to compost your leaves. Leaf compost is an excellent soil amendment, adding humus and returning valuable nutrients to the soil. You can build a compost pile or even use a plastic trash bag to compost small amounts of leaves.



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