

# The Commissioner's Corner

## Thank you to all who worked on our Comprehensive Plan

THE CITY of Forest Hills marked a milestone recently.

On January 21, at the regular Board of Commissioners meeting, a resolution endorsing the 2010 Revised Comprehensive Plan for the City of Forest Hills was passed unanimously by the three Commissioners. This plan replaces the first Comprehensive Plan for the City of Forest Hills, which was adopted on December 12, 1991.

Because it has taken over two years of intensive study by many residents of Forest Hills, it is important to understand what the role of the Comprehensive Plan is and why it is so important for every one who lives in Forest Hills. The primary purpose is to establish a clear vision of the kind of place Forest Hills residents would like for it to be in the future and to provide a course of action that strengthens the process of creating and preserving the community envisioned.

The Board of Commissioners and we as residents owe a debt of gratitude to all those who worked so long and diligently on the Comprehensive Plan. Reaching this milestone would not have been possible without all the untold hours given by the volunteers listed below.

The Resolution itself enumerates the many steps taken to adopt the Plan since 2007, when the City hired McBride Dale Clarion planning consultants to initiate a study of methods for preserving open space within the City.

Their report was received in August 2008, at which time the Board of Commissioners appointed the Green Community Initiative Committee to further study the consultants' report and to make recommendations including, but not limited to,

the revision and adoption of a Comprehensive Plan. Several Study Committees composed of Forest Hills residents were formed to make these recommendations. Sally Huston chaired a committee charged with identifying funding sources for acquiring lands for public preservation.

Recommendations from these Study Committees were incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan, and they will also form the basis for any changes that might be needed in Forest Hills ordinances to implement the visions for the City set forth in the Comprehensive Plan.

The proposed Revised Comprehensive Plan was presented to the Planning Commission in November 2009 for its study and recommendations. By a unanimous vote on January 21, 2010 the Planning Commission adopted the Comprehensive Plan and resolved to forward it to the Board of Commissioners for its endorsement which was done that same evening.

Throughout these deliberations, the committees were ably supported by City Manager Al Deck, City Attorney Matt Foster, and City Planner Mort Stein.

The next step in this long process involves reviewing our existing City ordinances and determining how they may need to be revised to make the Comprehensive Plan a living reality. At its February 4 meeting, the Board of Commissioners agreed to contact the Office of Local Planning of the State of Tennessee to begin the process of making changes to the Ordinances.



Bill Coke  
Mayor



**FOREST HILLS NEWS**

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JOIN THE  
**CleanTeam**  
Saturday, March 27

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### Comprehensive Plan Committee

Winston Evans CHAIR  
Warner Bass  
Bill Coke  
Jim Gardner  
Tom Hudson  
Mary Singleton  
Gilbert Smith  
David Waller

### Study Committees

#### Protecting Large Property Parcels

Clay Jackson CHAIR  
Martin Brown  
Linda Evers  
Mac Johnston  
Audra Ladd, *Land Trust for Tennessee*

#### Improving Small Parcel Protection

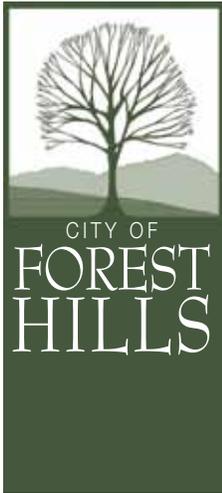
Jim Littlejohn CHAIR  
Greer Broemel  
Bill Coke  
Lanson Hyde  
Matt Hamilton  
Dibbie Martin  
Mickey Martin  
Krista Ramsey  
Flem Smith  
John Sparks

#### Improving Natural Resource Standards

Tim Douglas CHAIR  
Cissy Akers  
Terry Allen  
Betty Jane Barringer  
John Barringer  
Neal Clayton  
Gayle Smith

#### Long-Term Plan for Greenways, Bikeways, and Interconnectedness

John Lovell CHAIR  
Geoff Brittingham  
Amy Brown  
Andy Dunn  
Chuck Kimbel  
Reggie Ramsey  
Lisa Wooley



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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 keeps responsibility for stormwater management

What is stormwater, and how does it become polluted?

Stormwater is the rain and snow that runs off driveways, streets, and other impervious surfaces. As stormwater travels, it picks up and carries trash, oil, chemicals, and other items and deposits them into the City's drainage system, and ultimately into our surface waters.

The storm drainage system in Forest Hills consists of ditches, culverts, and catch basins throughout the City. The system collects the runoff, but stormwater is not carried to the sewer plant. That means there is no treatment of stormwater—and that is the reason we need to control hazardous items from entering our drainage system.

Some of the items that cause the most concern we never consider to be harmful. For instance, soil seems harmless enough. Yet as it enters surface waters, it settles in river beds and reduces the depth and width of the channel. Controlling erosion on construction and development sites is one of the first lines of defense against soil entering the system.

Another natural item we fail to consider in stormwater is animal waste. As we walk our pets, we need to be mindful and respectful, by picking up after them.

## Stormwater fee

A few months ago Metro implemented a stormwater fee, which was added to the water/sewer bill of each utility customer. The purpose of the fee is to generate additional funds to better maintain the drainage system (ditches, culverts, catch basins) and manage runoff of pollution into streams.

The fee is based on the amount of impervious surface on each lot and might have averaged between \$3.00 to \$4.50 per month for Forest Hills homeowners.



**ON DECK**  
with Al Deck  
City Manager

While the fee was a consideration, the primary concern for the City of Forest Hills was surrendering maintenance control to Metro Nashville. During a Forest Hills Board of Commissioners meeting, Metro officials stated they had a backlog of approximately 800 non-critical service calls. Non-critical status would represent drainage problems which do not pose a threat to life or property. Based on that definition, 95% of the drainage problems in Forest Hills would fall into the non-critical category.

The Board of Commissioners decided not to surrender control of our drainage system to Metro. That decision also eliminated the possibility of Metro levying the stormwater fee on Forest Hills residents. The Federal government requires cities to operate under stormwater permits and have management plans in place. Forest Hills will hold its own stormwater permit and be responsible for the quality of water within its jurisdiction.

This responsibility is where the management of stormwater is important. The City of Forest Hills will monitor the quality of stormwater as it enters and leaves our boundaries. At a minimum, the goal is for the water to exit at the same standard as it entered. Of course by implementing best management practices, there is an opportunity for water to leave Forest Hills at a higher quality.

We will continue this discussion about stormwater and pollution in future issues.

## Write in 1904 on tax return

Be sure your Hall income tax return contains "City of Forest Hills" and the number 1904, the four-digit location code for the City.

Writing in the code is necessary for Forest Hills to receive its due portion of various local and state taxes, including Hall Income Tax. These annual reimbursements fund the City's operating budget.

# Jim Littlejohn reappointed to BZA

Jim Littlejohn, owner and president of Littlejohn Engineering Associates, has been reappointed to the Forest Hills Board of Zoning Appeals for his fifth consecutive three-year term.

A resident of Forest Hills since 1985, he first joined the BZA in 1997.

"Jim's extensive background in civil engineering as well as planning, landscape architecture, and environmental services is invaluable to the City," said Mayor Bill Coke. "Our residents are fortunate that he will continue to share his expertise in the zoning appeals process."

Littlejohn said he welcomes the opportunity to give back to the community. "Forest

Hills is a community that is so well situated in this region, it is easy to see the value we have by living here. If I can bring even a few of the skills I deal with professionally to preserving the quality of this place and help make it better, I am fine with that."

He has a master of science in engineering administration from University of Tennessee and a bachelor of engineering from Vanderbilt University.

A past president of the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers and previous board member of American Consulting Engineers Council, he is a trustee and past president of Currey Ingram Academy and a member of the Nashville Zoo board.



Jim Littlejohn

## Plans for new City Hall move ahead

Plans are moving forward on the new Forest Hills City Hall to be constructed on nine acres at the corner of Hillsboro Pike and Old Hickory Boulevard.

Allard Ward Architects has been selected to design and lead the project. Architectural services include creating a basic plan for the facility, conducting a site evaluation, preparing drawings, evaluating costs and making recommendations as the process unfolds. The architecture fee is set at 7.5% of the construction cost, estimated at one million dollars.

Representatives of Allard Ward met with commissioners in February to begin the first phase of design, which involves determining what the contents of the building need to be. When the architects have a good idea of what needs to be included, they will draw schematics to determine where things are located.

When the City has approved the schematics, the firm will assign costs to the various aspects, then draw plans based on feedback from the City. For example, the architects will recommend ways to make the building environmentally friendly, following LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards of the U.S. Green Building Council. The City will make decisions about which features to include and which to omit, based on cost, impact, sustainability, and other factors.

When those decisions have been made, Allard Ward Architects will create detailed construction documents that the contractor works from.

The City has named R.C. Mathews Contractor to serve as construction manager for the project. R.C. Mathews Contractor was chosen because of the firm's experience in managing large building projects and because of its cost-effective fee structure.

Other aspects of the City Hall project to be determined include plans for landscaping, telecommunications, and security.

The current timeline calls for breaking ground on the property in the summer of 2010 and moving into the completed facility in winter 2011.

### Watch for paving on Hillsboro Pike

Tennessee Department of Transportation will pave Kingsbury Drive and Hillsboro Pike from Harding Place to Old Hickory Blvd. in 2010, but no date has been announced.

Hillsboro Church of Christ is coordinating construction and paving of the turn lane on Hillsboro at Tyne with the TDOT paving. TDOT also will add a turn lane on Hillsboro at Kingsbury Drive.

### Contract awarded

Phipps Construction was awarded the bid for construction of the proposed gateway entrances and monuments.

Construction will begin after easements are obtained from all owners of the properties involved, which City Attorney Matt Foster reports are nearly complete.

### The City Hall Team

#### Forest Hills Task Force

David Waller CHAIR  
Alison Douglas  
Clay Jackson  
Jim Littlejohn  
Jeff Orr

#### Allard Ward Architects

- Established 1995
- Principals David Preston Allard and Michael Ward
- Award-winning projects: The Hermitage, Vanderbilt University, Fisk University, Currey Ingram Academy, Cheekwood

#### R.C. Mathews Contractor

- Established 1941
- Principals Walker Mathews and Bert Mathews
- Key projects: Belmont University, Gaylord, Regions Bank, Ryman Auditorium, Frist Center, Hermitage Hotel

# Plant a tree now for years of pleasure

Early spring is a great time of year to plant a tree, because the cool weather gives the tree a chance to become strongly established before the sweltering heat and drought of summer.

By following a few simple guidelines, you'll have a hearty tree that provides decades of pleasure to you and your neighbors.

- Choose the right tree for the right site. Imagine what the tree will look like at maturity, and plan accordingly. Stay away from buildings, other trees, and powerlines.

- Make the hole twice as wide as the rootball, and deep enough that about two inches of rootball stick up above the ground. Fill the hole with water and let it drain out before putting the tree in the hole.

- Put the tree in the hole. Loosen the burlap and remove as much of it as possible, then fill the hole with soil. Water it well.

- Arrange mulch so that it does not touch the trunk.
- Water newly planted trees twice a week for the first two years, unless there is significant rainfall.

This process gives your new tree a good start. You don't need to prune or fertilize it for the first year, although you should remove dead or broken limbs at any time.

Nashville Tree Foundation, in cooperation with Nashville Electric Service, Metro Tree Advisory Committee, and Metro Parks, has produced a "Powerline Approved Trees" booklet with guidelines for site selection and examples of species that can safely be planted under utility wires. Free copies are available at the City office.



## City plants cherry trees along Hillsboro Pike

The City of Forest Hills is planting 84 Yoshino cherry trees this spring in cooperation with the Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival.

The festival's mission is to plant a thousand cherry trees throughout Nashville, a hundred trees per year for 10 years. The festival will provide a total of 100 cherry trees to Forest Hills between 2009 and 2019. Sixteen trees were planted in Forest Hills last year.

The City has contracted with the Parke Company to plant, mulch, and water the 2- to 2½-inch-caliper trees on both sides of Hillsboro Pike up Hunter's Hill.

Japanese Consul General Hiroshi Sato's official residence is in Forest Hills, and cherry blossoms, or *sakura*, are a symbol of the friendship between the U.S. and Japan.



Cherry blossom festivals, or *sakura matsuri*, are held throughout the country.

The City of Forest Hills is a gold sponsor of the Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival, March 27 at Riverfront Park. For more information on the festival, go to [NashvilleCherryBlossomFestival.org](http://NashvilleCherryBlossomFestival.org).



# JOIN THE Clean Team

**Help keep Forest Hills litter-free!**

## Mark your calendar for monthly Clean Up Saturdays this spring

Get ready to help the Forest Hills Clean Team gear up for spring cleaning, beginning at 8 a.m. on Saturday, March 27.

Clean Team coordinator Sally Huston said she wants everyone in Forest Hills to be aware of the importance of keeping our City clean.

"I want to claim a major total community spring clean day in March," she said. "That may mean your front yard, your neighborhood—or if so inspired, join the Clean Team as well."

Being a litter-buster is one way to help, by picking up litter along roadways. Beekman Drive resident Bob Beaver does double duty when he takes a walk: He takes a bag along to pick up trash while getting his exercise.

"I promote the idea of Forest Hills walkers also helping keep litter removed," he said. "When you reach down to pick up litter, you are also bending and stretching."

Another way to keep Forest Hills beautiful is removing the visual pollution of signs that violate the City's sign ordinance. It states that no sign "of any nature whatsoever" can be placed in a public right-of-way, and that only real estate, security, and political signs can be posted without a sign permit from the City.

Huston said she wants to involve churches, youth groups, neighborhood associations, and families in the community clean-up. "We had a beautification day several years ago with yard signs. We got 30+ people out and cleaned up two tons."

Please contact Huston if you can participate, so that she will have adequate gloves and grabbers for all volunteers. Call her at 373-9214 or email [hustonmkt@comcast.net](mailto:hustonmkt@comcast.net).

**Saturday  
March 27**

**Saturday  
April 24**

**Saturday  
May 22**

**Percy Priest  
School, 8 a.m.  
1700 Otter Creek**



## Who did this? Who left it there?

**We all have to care! Do your part to keep Forest Hills clean. Pick up litter every time you see it, and support the Clean Team in citywide clean-ups March 27, April 24, and May 22.**

## Be sure you're prepared for tornado season

Spring brings with it the possibility of volatile storms and tornados. Take a few minutes now to be prepared in case you are caught in a storm.

First, understand the language of the forecasters. Tornado "Watch" means a tornado is possible. Tornado "Warning" means a tornado has been spotted.

For more details on tornado and other emergency preparedness, visit the Forest Hills website at [cityofforesthills.com/disaster\\_preparedness.html](http://cityofforesthills.com/disaster_preparedness.html).

### What to do

- Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio.
- Know what the tornado warning siren sounds like.
- Pick a safe room: basement, storm cellar, or room with no windows on the lowest floor.
- Practice tornado drills so that everyone knows where to go.
- Put away lawn furniture, trash cans, hanging plants, and anything else that could blow around.
- Do not wait until you see a tornado to go to your safe place.

## Help City get its fair share

Beginning in March, Forest Hills residents will be among more than 130 million U.S. households to receive a 2010 Census form.

Your participation is critical, because census data affect how more than \$400 billion in federal funding is distributed to state and local governments. Tennessee also distributes State Shared Taxes on a per capita basis.

An accurate population count will ensure that the City of Forest Hills receives its fair share of the taxes you pay during the next decade.

Taking the census is easy, important, and safe. The 10-question form takes about 10 minutes to complete, and the information you give cannot be shared with anyone, including other government agencies.

The most efficient way to respond is to complete the form as soon as it arrives and return it in the post-age-paid return envelope. Census workers will visit households that do not return forms, but this costs taxpayers about \$85 million for every 1% of population requiring personal visits.

Do your part to control costs by returning your form promptly.

## Snow removal matters to City

Forest Hills takes seriously its commitment to keep its streets safe during bad weather.

For the winter of 2009–2010, the City spent more than \$140,000 to keep streets clear. “We are doing all we can to remove snow and ice from our streets,” Vice Mayor John Lovell said.

## Fire Marshal prohibits burning leaves or debris

The City has experienced problems with homeowners burning leaves or debris on their property.

The Fire Marshal’s office does not allow open burning except under certain strict conditions, which typically require a permit from the Fire Marshal. For example, open-pit forced-air-injection fires may be used for construction sites, provided they are approved by the health department and receive a Fire Marshal’s permit.

Occasionally, bonfire permits approved by the health department are issued from the Fire Marshal’s office to schools, churches, or civic groups, for special events only. This activity also requires a permit from the Fire Marshal.

The only other type of open burning permitted is campfires, and only firewood may be used. Leaves, trash, debris, and hazardous materials are prohibited. Campfires are allowed, provided they meet the following requirements:

- Contained within a three-foot-diameter noncombustible ring.
- Located 50 feet from any structure, property line, or right-of-way.



- Readily accessible approved method to control or extinguish the fire.
- Not located under any type of vegetation.
- Not burning in winds greater than 15 mph or in dry conditions.

Anyone who allows a fire to get out of control and damage other property is subject to civil liabilities.

Violating open burning laws is a misdemeanor in Tennessee. The Fire Marshal does not issue burn permits to burn leaves or debris.

If you witness open burning, please call the Fire Department, which will respond and extinguish the fire. If open burning becomes a nuisance to neighbors, the Department can issue a citation.

If the fire is an emergency, call 911. Otherwise call 862-8600 to report open burning.



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Nashville TN 37215

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