

The Commissioner's Corner

City Hall progress continues

In the March issue of the *Forest Hills News*, we reported to you that Allard Ward Architects had been selected to design the new Forest Hills City Hall, and that R.C. Mathews Company was named as the construction manager for the project.

On April 29, David Allard and Michael Ward presented their concepts for the floor plan and exterior elevations for the building to the members of the City Hall Task Force and to the members of the Board of Commissioners at a specially called meeting for that purpose.

They presented a floor plan that will include a large meeting room for public hearings, offices for the City Manager and the Administrative Assistant, and space for the Building Inspector as well as storage and work spaces.

The goal set by the City Hall Task Force and the three Commissioners is to design a distinctive municipal structure with strong

residential characteristics that will fit into the suburban and rural character of the City of Forest Hills.

Joe Hodgson with Hodgson and Douglas Landscape Architects has been retained to design a comprehensive site plan that will include the location for the building on the eight-acre lot as well as planning the entrance drive and parking areas. In addition to any new trees and shrubs, he will use the existing mature trees to highlight the natural setting of the building.

The final floor plan and elevation drawings of the building will be presented in the August newsletter. It is hoped that construction will have started by that time and that the new City Hall will be completed in the fall of 2010 or early winter of 2011.



Bill Coke
Mayor



Andover Drive was one of several Forest Hills areas hit hard by the May flood.

Commissioners approve flood clean-up service

Following widespread flooding May 2 and 3, the Board of Commissioners has arranged for removal of storm debris and materials.

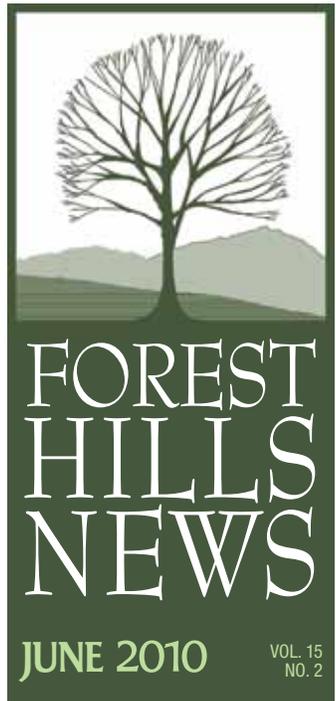
Clean Earth Sanitation will attempt to cover the City of Forest Hills each Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday afternoons between 4:30 p.m. and sunset. Service began May 12.

The City will provide this service for a limited period to help alleviate the problems created by this extraordinary event. Clean Earth will pick up construction materials,

carpet, furniture and other household articles.

Please separate chipping materials and normal yard waste from storm debris. As always, place the items near the street, without interfering with traffic or obstructing the drainage system.

The Parke Company will continue to handle chipping, brush, and bagged leaves. (See story on page 2.) Parke will follow the normal schedule as much as possible, considering the abnormal amount of material.



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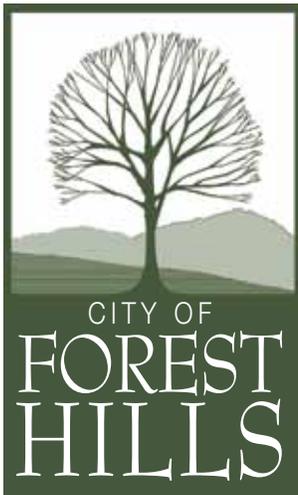
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- 6 You can help discourage coyotes in Forest Hills

Watch for delays during repaving of Hillsboro Pike

The Tennessee Department of Transportation has announced plans to repave a section of Hillsboro Pike, starting in June.

The affected stretch of road runs from Harding Place to Old Hickory Boulevard.

Plan to use caution and expect delays while paving is in progress.



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

Cooperation keeps chipper service on track

The Parke Company has been the City's service provider for many years, offering chipping service and removal of bagged leaves. During a period when many cities are reducing services, the Board of Commissioners is pleased to continue offering this service on a monthly basis.

A few restrictions are necessary in order for the contractor to have enough time to cover the entire City each month.

Please place your limbs and bagged leaves as close to the street as possible, without placing items within the ditch. This is important because piles of limbs and branches can block the flow of stormwater or wash down the ditch and clog culverts in the drainage system, causing flooding and erosion of the roadbed.



The chipping service is for curbside pickup. The contractor is not able to enter private property to retrieve the chipping material.

Branches should not exceed eight inches in diameter and should not include root balls.

The chipping service is intended to handle debris generated by normal yard maintenance. If you hire a professional to trim or take down trees, then that provider is responsible for removing all the debris generated. Please make those arrangements when you hire a tree service.



ON DECK
with Al Deck
City Manager

Bagged leaves will be picked up year-round if placed by the street. Please do not rake loose leaves into the drainage system. Also, as mentioned in a previous article, burning leaves is prohibited by the Fire Marshal.

This service is provided free to residents of Forest Hills for normal yard maintenance. It is not designed to assist with clearing properties of trees, shrubs, or trash.

Follow these guidelines for limbs, branches

- Stack all branches and limbs at the front of the property next to the street. Crews will not drive onto property or private streets, nor will crews go beyond the edge of the right-of-way to collect the limbs.
- Put all branches facing the same direction (no cross-stacking) with the cut end facing the street
- No stumps or limbs greater than 8" in diameter are allowed.
- No vines, weeds, leaves, or yard waste will be collected.

For after-hour emergencies such as streets blocked by trees, call **201-9999**.

FROM THE MINUTES

Church addressing noise

Hillsboro Church of Christ continues to take steps to address sound-abatement issues as a condition for getting a building permit to cover the proposed expansion of its facility at 5800 Hillsboro Pike.

Earlier, the church tried installing sound-dampening blankets around its HVAC equipment in an effort to lessen the noise it creates. The sound-dampening blankets alone were not sufficient.

Recently, the church raised a wall sur-

rounding the equipment by about three feet. Plans call for adding sound-dampening blankets to the higher wall, but these have not yet been installed.

Pilot sign project approved

The Commissioners approved a contract with Neel-Schaffer Engineering to study traffic signs on Kingsbury Drive as a pilot project. The City Manager is obtaining an estimated cost of signs and posts to match the existing street signposts.



Bison Meadow improved

Recent improvements have enhanced visibility for Bison Meadow, the natural area on the corner of Tyne Boulevard and Hillsboro Pike.

These include changing the front footprint of the “driveby park,” moving one of the bisons, adding plants, and improving the walking trails with wood-chips for those who enjoy the experience of walking though the natural meadow.

Native grasses and perennials, including veronica, primrose, salvia and sand coreopsis, have been planted around the bison, now covered with Hicks yew for a dark, shaggy topiary coat. The bison steel armatures by sculptor Alan LeQuire were just frames when they were installed in 1995 at the site, an area bison crossed en route to salt licks in the Sulphur Dell.

New signage, repaving of a small parking area on Hemingway Drive, and the addition of stone edging are planned but have not been completed.

The 2½-acre plot owned by the City of Forest Hills includes two types of wildflowers for meadow and wet areas and some of nature’s indigenous grasses for a wonderful walk-through experience as well as a pleasant view for drivers.



Clean Team makes a difference on streets

Regular efforts to eliminate litter along the streets of Forest Hills are making a difference, Clean Team coordinator Sally Huston reports. Clean Team volunteers have been spreading out to pick up trash regularly.

“I think what we’ve been doing is working, that people are littering less,” Huston said. The

efforts have been so successful, she said, that she plans to hold just two clean-up days in the fall and spring, instead of three or more like previous seasons.

Watch for details in the August newsletter about dates, times, and locations to help the Clean Team this fall.

Committee beautifies City intersections

This spring the City of Forest Hills has seen the results of the work of the Cultural and Natural Resources Committee, under the direction of chair Sally Huston. The committee was responsible for beautifying two major intersections, Hillsboro Pike at Harding Place and Hillsboro Pike at Old Hickory Boulevard, with an abundant planting of daffodils.



Forest Hills sponsors Cherry Blossom Festival



The City has planted 100 cherry trees to support the festival.

The City of Forest Hills was a Gold Level sponsor of the Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival on March 17 on the public square of Metro Courthouse.

The festival’s mission is to plant a thousand cherry trees throughout Nashville over a ten-year period, including 100 trees in Forest Hills. The City planted 16 Yoshino Cherry trees in cooperation with the festival last year, and planted another 84 this spring.

The Cherry Blossom Festival has special significance to the City of Forest Hills, as Japanese Consul General Hiroshi Sato’s official residence is here.

Tree trimming policy improves NES reliability

Nashville Electric Service is committed to providing safe, reliable, and cost-effective power to its customers.

Recently, NES became one of only six public electric utilities in the nation to receive the electric industry's highest designation for meeting 100% of criteria standards for reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement.

The utility also has been certified as a Tree Line USA by the Arbor Day Foundation.

NES has undertaken a number of measures in recent years to improve its reliability. Perhaps the most notable initiative is its Vegetation Management Program. Since the implementation of the program in 2002, the time an average customer is without power has dropped from 215 minutes per year to 92 minutes per year. Other reliability indexes show similar improvement.

Under the program, NES contractors trim or remove trees that pose a threat to power lines every three to four years. In advance of trimming, NES communicates with customers in a variety of ways—including postcards, door hangers, and, when requested, in-person meetings. Customers can call the NES Tree Trimming Hotline at 695-7400 with concerns. For questions about where to plant or to locate crews working in your area, visit the NES website at www.nespower.com.

Despite NES' efforts in reliability, some power outages are inevitable. NES has a dedicated number for reporting power outages: 234-0000. Be sure to report your outage through the automated line so that NES is aware of it. You'll need the NES account number, the meter number, or the phone number associated with the account.

The Commissioner's Corner

Gateways help define borders

In the fall of 2008, Forest Hills dedicated the stone gateways and entrance to the City at Hillsboro Pike and Old Hickory Boulevard.

It was a festive occasion with many local politicians in attendance. Forest Hills Mayor Charles Evers, Governor Phil Bredesen, Nashville Mayor Dean, and several other notables gave short speeches and praise for the contributions of Forest Hills. Clay Jackson, as chairman of the Cultural and Natural Resources Committee, also thanked Commissioners Bill Coke and John Lovell for their efforts to beautify the City and to preserve our natural resources.

The stone gateway entrance at Old Hickory and Hillsboro was planned in conjunction with a similar entrance to be constructed at Hillsboro Pike and Harding Place. This second phase was delayed while the Cultural and Natural Resources Committee made plans to construct other smaller gateways at various entry points to the City.

These other gateways were designed to be less grand than the corridor gateways on Hillsboro Pike, but the intent is for people to know when they are entering or leaving the City. These various gateway entrances should help define the boundaries of the City of Forest Hills. The stone design is very attractive.

The contract to construct all of these gateways was awarded earlier this year, and construction was originally scheduled to begin around May 1. It was necessary for Forest Hills to acquire easements from all the property owners at the selected entry-point locations, and this process has taken longer than originally anticipated. Negotiations with the Tennessee Department of Transportation for approval to construct in the right-of-way at Harding Place and Hillsboro took some

time, but all parties worked to reach agreements.

The City is grateful to all property owners who participated with us during this process. Please make a point of thanking those people who have agreed to allow the City to place stone markers on their property if you happen to know any of them. We believe all the residents of Forest Hills will benefit.

We seek to more clearly define our City borders and to uniquely identify our City through these and other ongoing improvements. The new street signs are an example of this. We have also planted 100 Yoshino Cherry trees along Hillsboro Pike just south of Harding Place—where the triangle has been planted with daffodils and natural grasses. We also have relocated one of the bison in Bison Meadows Park while cleaning out the woods at the corner of that property, and we have replanted the grasses to be more colorful without obscuring the bison. There are also plans to tidy up the parking area there. (*See stories on page 3.*)

The new City Hall will certainly improve the intersection of Hillsboro Pike and Old Hickory Boulevard, while providing a functional space for the public and residents.

The Cultural and Natural Resource Committee has other plans to enhance the City's natural beauty, and we welcome thoughts and input from our citizens about these matters. Sally Huston is the chair of this committee; feel free to communicate with her through the City Manager, Al Deck. Thank you for your support.



Tim Douglas
Commissioner



City submits long-term vision for bikeways, sidewalks

Nashville's Metropolitan Planning Organization is responsible for planning and prioritizing regional multi-modal transportation system projects for federal funding.

Nashville's 2035 Regional Transportation Plan is a 25-year vision and must look at all transit, walking, and biking projects. The plan will be updated every five years based on changes in funding and other impact studies, and early this year the MPO began a major update for completion in the summer of 2010

The City of Forest Hills recently applied for funding for several projects detailed below.

Forest Hills applied for funding so that its projects could be registered and detailed in Nashville's 2035 Regional Transportation Plan. These projects will now be on file with Nashville's MPO, and the City may update them in the future as development occurs and funding sources materialize.

This application for funding was made about two months ago when it was thought federal money might be available due to the administration's desire to stimulate the economy.

Some of these projects are priorities and may proceed within the next several years, whereas other projects are much more long-term in nature and may not proceed for another 15 to 20 years, if at all. Funding will be critical.

A couple of years ago during the process of developing the Green Community Framework Report, several committees were established. One committee was charged with revising the City's Comprehensive Plan, and this was done and approved earlier this year. Commissioner John Lovell is heading a committee that has studied greenways, bikeways, sidewalks, walking paths, and other related interconnectedness throughout the City. It is anticipated that this committee will continue to stay abreast of these issues and the projects detailed below.

Three new projects

The first application for funding under the Nashville Area 2035 Regional Transportation Plan MPO that the City of Forest Hills made was for an expanded sidewalk system around Percy Priest School. Specifically, this



The City has requested funding for building sidewalks and extending bikeways.

project calls for repair and extension of the Priest Road sidewalk from Wilshire Drive to East Ashland Drive and for creation of a multi-use path in front of the school along Otter Creek Road to cross the street and connect to Annandale, at the Otterwood subdivision.

All project applications request a completion date, and these dates are in five year increments. This project was requested to be complete by 2015.

The second application for funding was for creation of a bike lane to connect the existing John C. Lovell Bikeway at Otter Creek Road to Granny White Pike. This bike lane would run along Edenbridge Way and Beddington Park in Hounds Run subdivision. This project was requested to be complete by 2015.

The third application for funding was for extending the existing bikeway from the intersection at Robert E. Lee Drive and Granny White Pike north to Otter Creek Road and the entrance of Radnor Lake State Park. It is anticipated that there will be a marked and signed crosswalk across Granny White Pike at Otter Creek. This project was requested to be completed by 2015.

The remaining projects are more long-term in nature.

The next application for funding was for the creation of a bike path on Tyne Boulevard, beginning at the Belle Meade city limits to Robert E. Lee Drive and ending at the existing bikeway at Robert

E. Lee and Otter Creek Road. This project was requested to be completed by 2025.

The next application for funding called for the creation of a multi-use path along Otter Creek with access from the existing bikeway at Percy Priest Elementary School and Annandale to Hillsboro Pike and Old Hickory Boulevard. This section is also a portion of the Metro Nashville Long Term Plan for a continuous greenway from Radnor Lake to the Harpeth River. This project was requested to be completed by 2025.

The final application for funding called for the creation of a bike path on Kingsbury Drive from Old Hickory Boulevard to Ashland Drive to Otter Creek Road, ending at the existing bikeway at Percy Priest Elementary School. This project was requested to be completed by 2025.

These projects will require funding above and beyond what the City of Forest Hills currently is able to provide. There may be times in the future when federal, state, or local funding dollars may become available, and it will be important to have these projects registered and included as part of the City's long-term plan.

Please feel free to contact Commissioner Lovell through the City Manager Al Deck if you have any interest in assisting the City in its efforts to maintain a current plan for sidewalks, bikeways, and walking paths.



Do your part to discourage coyotes

Coyotes continue to be a problem in Middle Tennessee neighborhoods, including an incident of a family dog in Crieve Hall killed by a coyote in April.

Closer to Forest Hills, coyotes have been spotted this spring on Lealand Lane near Oak Hill and on Jackson Boulevard in Belle Meade.

Coyotes typically grow to about 30 inches in length, with coloring ranging from grayish brown to yellowish gray. They are speedy runners, sometimes reaching 40 miles per hour, and can jump 12 feet or more.

Pet owners especially should be cautious when coyotes have been spotted in their neighborhood. A coyote can easily pounce and kill small- to medium-sized pets including dogs and cats. Bring your pets indoors to feed them, and provide a secure place to sleep if they must stay outdoors. Keep dogs on a leash any time they are outside, and pick them up immediately if you see a coyote.

If you see a coyote in your neighborhood, do your best to scare it off. Make lots of noise and throw objects like tennis balls or rocks at it. Wave your arms or a broom. Some people have scared them off by banging pots or garbage can lids.

Tips for dealing with coyotes

- Eliminate outdoor food sources. This includes keeping bird feeders high enough off the ground that coyotes can't reach them, feeding pets and storing pet food indoors, and keep garbage containers securely fastened.

- Don't leave small children alone outdoors if coyotes are in your area.

- Eliminate water sources.

- Clean up any area that could attract rodents. Coyotes will populate areas where rodents are found.

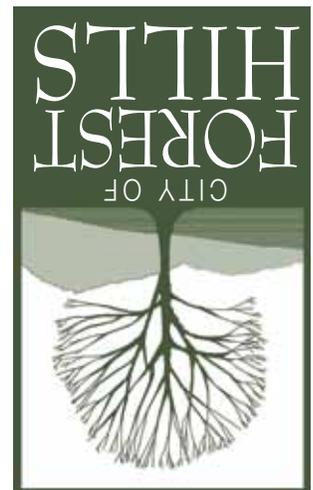
- Carry a whistle when you walk your dog. It may not scare off a coyote, but it will alert others in the area of the danger.

- Recruit the cooperation of neighbors. Tell each other about sightings, and assist your neighbors in chasing off coyotes. Several adults creating a ruckus is more effective than an individual.

- Report aggressiveness displayed by coyotes to Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency at 615-781-6610.

For more information about coyotes, go to www.state.tn.us/twra/coyote.html.

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