



Forest Hills still reeling from flooding

Several articles in this edition of the *Forest Hills News* should be of great interest to the residents of Forest Hill. Foremost among these is the article on page 2 by City Manager Al Deck, concerning the extensive damage to both private and public property caused by the heavy rains on May 1-2.

In addition to flooded basements and yards, there were 81 landslides within the City of Forest Hills itself. Al has been in constant communication with FEMA and TEMA throughout this period as we have tried to assess the damage within the City.

The rains also caused a great deal of damage to Radnor Lake State Park. Although not in the City limits, the hiking trails are heavily used by Forest Hills residents for recreation and exercise. Because of the importance of Radnor Lake to Forest Hills, the Board of Commissioners agreed to make a gift of \$100,000 toward the repair and restoration of the hiking trails, bridges, and roadways that have been damaged. (See story on page 5.)

The landslides brought into sharp focus the process the Planning Commission and the Board of Commissioners initiated in 2007-2008 to more fully protect the hillsides and open spaces in Forest Hills from development that could do damage to the environment. The new Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2009 mandated that City ordinances be

revised and updated to follow the Plan. The City contracted with the Office of Local Planning of the Division of Economic Community Development of the State of Tennessee to write these ordinance revisions as recommended in the Plan. This process should be completed before the end of 2010.

As a reminder, the Board of Commissioners meets every first and third Thursdays of each month at the Forest Hills City Hall. The meetings are open to the public. We welcome your participation.

City Hall plan approved

The Board of Commissioners approved plans for the new City Hall at the corner of Hillsboro Pike and Old Hickory Boulevard at the August 19 meeting, allocating approximately 1.5 million to the project.

David Allard and Michael Ward from Allard Ward Architects presented drawings of the design and floorplan of the building. Allard explained that the floorplan not only provides more space for officials to do their work, but also allows room for future expansion.



Architect David Allard discusses plans for the new City Hall.

Coke, Lovell unopposed in November election

Voters in Forest Hills who go to the polls on November 2 will find only two candidates on the ballot to fill the two commissioner seats up for election.

Current Mayor William G. Coke and Vice Mayor John Lovell are unopposed for reelection for four-year terms on the Board of Commissioners.

The three-member Board rotates the expiration dates of terms, so that not all are elected at the same time. Coke and Lovell were elected as commissioners in 2006, and Tim Douglas, whose term is up in 2012, was elected commissioner in 2008. The three commissioners will select among themselves a mayor and vice mayor, who serve for two years, at the regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting November 4.

Coke, a resident of Forest Hills for 35 years,



Bill Coke



John Lovell

has served on the Board of Commissioners since he was appointed in 1999 to fill an unexpired term, then elected in 2002 and re-elected in 2006. He was selected mayor in 2008.

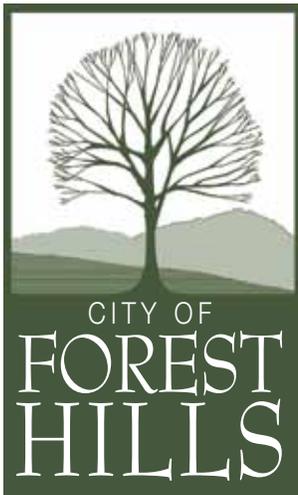
"I am asking for reelection to the Forest Hills Board of Commissioners in order to bring to fruition several projects that have

Continued on page 6

City to make last pickup of flood debris Sept. 18

If you still have flood debris, you have just one more chance to get it hauled away by the City.

Forest Hills will provide the last pick up of debris and construction materials created by the May flooding on Saturday, September 18.



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

Ern 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

Residents, City cope with flood damage

The flood of May 2010 generated more than just water damage. The City of Forest Hills received notice of 81 landslides within its boundaries.

While there were several incidents of damage to homes, most of the slides resulted in destruction of trees and havoc with the landscape. We have not received any estimate of total damages to private property; however, there are single instances which could reach \$500,000.

Just as residents suffered damage to both personal and real property, the City of Forest Hills sustained damage to its infrastructure. To date the City has expended \$413,096 in direct labor and material cost in repairing streets and rights-of-way; however, the work is not complete.

This type work is normal after disasters and is simply intended to repair damaged areas and return the infrastructure to its previous condition. The City filed applications with FEMA for reimbursement of expenditures involved in eleven projects and expects to recover approximately 75% of those funds.

The City will also make application to FEMA for additional funding to help reduce or eliminate long-term risks to public infrastructure caused by floods or landslides. This type work is preemptive rather than remedial action. The goal is to modify existing exposures and reduce the likelihood of experiencing the same damage, in exactly the same locations again and again.

This process is referred to as Hazard Mitigation. Mitigation is a planning process and is considered one of the four phases of emergency management:



ON DECK
with Al Deck
City Manager

- Mitigation
- Preparedness
- Response
- Recovery

Having recently experienced the recovery process, the Board of Commissioners wishes to be proactive and investigate ways to be better prepared for future events. The City is currently advertising for qualified companies to design a hazard mitigation plan for Forest Hills.

At the same time the Board of Commissioners is actively revising the City's Zoning Ordinance. Enforcement of a more rigorous planning process and exercising greater control over the development of property situated on steep slopes and questionable soil will help reduce additional exposure to landslides. Once the City has properly identified the hazardous areas, planning and building codes can be used to assist in the protection of both natural and improved areas of Forest Hills.

The flood of 2010 gave us a new respect for the power of water. The City of Forest Hills is learning from this experience and is returning to the first two stages of emergency management . . . mitigation and preparedness.

Residents eligible for NFIP flood insurance

Since the May 1 flood, FEMA officials have made regular visits to provide assistance and information about the National Flood Insurance Program. The most shocking information they produced was that only 20 Forest Hills homes have flood insurance.

The standard homeowners insurance policy does not cover flooding, and with two creeks winding through the City there certainly is exposure.

In 1968, Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program to help provide a means for property owners to protect themselves against financial loss from flooding. NFIP is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and offers

flood insurance to renters and homeowners through a network of nearly 90 private insurance companies. The City of Forest Hills is a member of NFIP, and residents are eligible to participate.

NFIP offers flood insurance through property and casualty insurance agents. Rates are set and are the same from company to company. The rates are based on several factors, and the website FloodSmart.gov provides information about rating property. See the chart on the facing page for a summary of the factors that affect rates.

If you have questions and concerns about flooding and flood insurance, contact your insurance agent to discuss the NFIP.

Scenes from the flood



Flood insurance info

Q. Who is eligible for flood insurance?

A. Flood insurance is available to homeowners, renters, condo owners/renters, and commercial owners/renters.

Q. Does it cover just the building?

A. All policy forms provide coverage for buildings and contents. However, you might want to discuss insuring personal property with your agent, since contents coverage is optional.

Q. Am I required to buy flood insurance?

A. If your home is in a high-risk flood area and you have obtained a mortgage through a federally regulated or insured lender, you are required to purchase a flood insurance policy.

Q. Do I need flood insurance if I live in a low-risk zone?

A. Even though it isn't federally required, nearly 25% of all NFIP flood claims occur in moderate-to-low risk areas.

Q. How long do I have to wait before coverage goes into effect?

A. Typically, the waiting period is 30 days.

Q. How much will flood insurance cost?

A. Costs vary depending on how much insurance is purchased, what it covers, and the property's flood risk.
Preferred rate. Most homeowners in a moderate-to-low risk area are eligible for Preferred Risk Policy premiums, the lowest premiums available through the NFIP, offering building and contents coverage for one low price. In fact, build-

ing and contents coverage starts at just \$119 per year.

Standard rate. If you don't qualify for a Preferred Risk Policy, or if you live in a high-risk area, a standard rated policy is the only option for you. It offers separate building and contents coverage.

Q. What else affects rates?

- A.**
- When the building was constructed
 - Building occupancy
 - Number of floors
 - Location of contents
 - Location of the lowest floor in relation to the elevation requirement on the flood map (in newer buildings only)
 - The deductible you choose
 - The amount of building and contents coverage

Elegant markers welcome visitors

Elegant entry signs, posts, and gateways will mark the entrances to the City of Forest Hills at eight locations.

The dry-stacked stone pillars marking secondary entrances each will have a plaque with the Forest Hills logo facing oncoming traffic as it enters the City. Designed by Hodgson Douglas Landscape Architects, the features are reminiscent of the historic fences remaining in the City.

The secondary posts will be located at:

- 5141 Granny White Pike
- Granny White Pike and Old Hickory Boulevard
- Chickering Road and Chickering Lane
- Chickering Road and Old Hickory Boulevard
- Tyne Boulevard and Lynwood Boulevard
- Tyne Boulevard near Granny White Pike

Two gateways mark primary entrances to the City on Hillsboro Pike. The gateway at Old Hickory Boulevard and Hillsboro Pike has a dry-stacked wall with pillars on the east and west side. The gateway at Hillsboro Pike and Harding Place has curved stonewalls on one side and dry stacked stone pillar on the other.

Hillsboro Pike gets repaving, bike lanes

Hillsboro Pike is slated for repaving and the addition of bike lanes.

The improvements begin at Bridalway Drive, near Old Hickory Boulevard, and extend to Harding Place.

Drivers will experience closed lanes and delays as construction will be done during the day. The project is scheduled to be completed by October 31.

Pilot project tests new traffic signs

Forest Hills plans to test a new type of traffic signs by installing 17 signs on Kingsbury Drive as a pilot project.

Once they are installed, officials will be able to evaluate the appearance, cost, and other factors to determine whether to expand the new signage to other streets.

The installation should get underway in late August.



The primary entrance at Hillsboro Pike and Harding Place is almost complete.

City leaders monitor property maintenance to protect local values

An appreciation for natural beauty and quality of life are among the reasons residents choose to live in Forest Hills.

The City's Board of Commissioners is committed to protecting those attributes, along with practical considerations like protecting and enhancing property values. To that end, the City sometimes is forced to take action to clean up neglected lots.

Each year the City must send letters to property owners informing them of violations to the regulations concerning property maintenance. If the condition is not remedied within 10 days following the notification, the City can immediately take steps to bring the property into compliance by cleaning it up at the owner's expense.

To recoup the costs, the City Attorney files notice with the Metro office of the register of deeds, placing a lien on the property to be collected at the same time and in the same manner as property taxes are collected. If the owner fails to pay, the amount owed to the City of Forest Hills accrues penalties and interest along with any delinquent taxes.

Through the cooperation of all residents, the Board of Commissioners can fulfill their duty to protect and enhance quality of life and property values. If you wish to report a property that needs attention, please call the City Manager at 383-8447 or email a.deck@cityofforesthills.com.

Regulations regarding property maintenance

The City Code prohibits:

- Any situation that endangers the health, safety, or welfare of other citizens, or encourages the infestation of rats and other harmful animals:
 - Overgrown trees, vines, grass, underbrush, or other vegetation
 - Accumulated debris, trash, litter, or garbage
 - Residential garbage placed at curbside
- Storing waste or junk, except by validly issued building permit
 - Construction debris
 - Trash or garbage
 - Litter
 - Junk
- Storing any materials or debris in the front yard
- Parking construction vehicles or equipment outside a garage
- Parking or storing boats, unregistered vehicles, or any commercial or recreational vehicles outside a garage, unless screened from adjacent lots and roads

To report violations:

383-8447

a.deck@cityofforesthills.com

Mark your calendar

Saturday, September 18

Saturday October 16

Saturday November 13

8 a.m.

Percy Priest School

1700 Otter Creek Road

Clean Team needs volunteers for fall litter pickup days

Now that autumn is just around the corner, Clean Team leader Sally Huston is ready to recruit new volunteers and welcome back returning ones to pick up litter in Forest Hills neighborhoods.

“Clean Team volunteers are making a difference in Forest Hills,” she said. She wants to build on the momentum generated in the spring, again turning littered eyesores back into places of natural beauty.

Fall clean-up days are scheduled for three Saturday mornings—September 18, October 16, and November 13—beginning at 8 a.m. Volunteers gather at Percy Priest School, 1700 Otter Creek Road, to sign in and get equipment including gloves, reflective vests, and grabber devices.

This is a great opportunity for churches, youth groups, neighborhood associations, and families to work together on a gratifying project that benefits everyone who lives or travels in Forest Hills.

Huston stresses that everyone can do their part to keep Forest Hills clean year-round, not just on clean-up days. You can pick up litter wherever you find it in your neighborhood, and you can remove the visual pollution of illegally posted signs.

Capital planning budget underway

To ensure financial stability for the future, the Board of Commissioners has approved creating a 10-year Capital Planning Budget as a tool to project expected expenses.

Having a 10-year budget provides a starting point for planning and properly allocating funds for projects that can be anticipated ahead of time, such as required maintenance and capital projects. It will function as a “rolling budget”—that is, as one fiscal year is



Mayor Bill Coke and Vice Mayor John Lovell present a check to Friends of Radnor Lake board president Charley Hankla and Radnor Park Manager Steve Ward.

City designates gift to restore Radnor

Radnor Lake State Natural Area provides, literally, a breath of fresh air to local residents and neighbors, including many from Forest Hills, who rely on it for a regular dose of nature.

Many parts of the 1,200-acre park suffered heavy damage from heavy rain and flooding in May. Fallen trees blocked trails including the Otter Creek Road trail, and portions of Otter Creek Road buckled, slid, and otherwise became impassable.

Recognizing the value of Radnor Lake to the residents of Forest Hills, the Board of Commissioners approved a donation of \$100,000 to Friends of Radnor Lake, designated specifically for repairs and restoration. Commissioners presented a check to Friends board president Charley Hankla and Head Ranger Steve Ward at the August 19 meeting.

completed, projections for another year will be added to the end.

The Commissioners will use the budget as a roadmap for where they think the City needs to go, having the ability to finetune the model as they go along.

The Board approved creating the 10-year plan at the July 1 meeting, and voted to move forward by contracting with Keith Thomas CPA at the July 15 meeting.

FROM THE MINUTES

Stormwater policy resolution adopted

Resolution 2010-1, establishing standard policies and procedures for stormwater infrastructure owned and operated by the City of Forest Hills, was adopted at the June 17 meeting. The new policies make clear that all stormwater projects must be constructed within an easement dedicated to the City for such purpose or within the public right-of-way, except for projects involving the removal of trees or debris from ditches or of an emergency nature.

Zoning ordinance amended

The zoning ordinance was amended at the June 17 meeting to permit certain real estate signs and to redefine “Building Cover.”

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.

November election *(continued from page 1)*

been initiated over the last four years," Coke said. "These include the Green Community Framework to protect community character and preserve important open spaces, the work of the Cultural and Natural Resources Committee to enhance the beauty of the City, and the new Forest Hills City Hall. This is a major investment in the future of Forest Hills."

Coke is a retired food broker. He has been an active advocate for land-use issues to prevent heavy development in Forest Hills since the 1980s.

Lovell, a Forest Hills resident for 26 years, was first elected commissioner in a run-off in 1995 and re-elected in 1998, 2002, and 2006. He has served as vice mayor since 1995.

"I would like the opportunity to amend our zoning regulations to include the suggestions made in the Green Community Frame-

Election calendar

Election Day: **November 2**

Last day to request absentee ballot: **October 26**

Early Voting: **October 13–28**

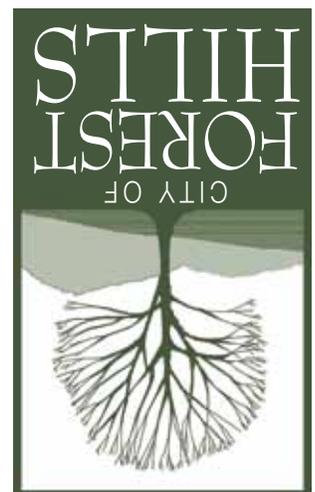
Last day to register to vote: **October 4**

For more information, contact the Davidson County Election Commission at 862-8800.

work study, including a strong desire among residents to expand walking and biking trails," Lovell said. "Also, I would like continue our efforts to work with Metro to provide the services the residents of Forest Hills deserve."

He is president of J.T. Lovell Company, a promotional products distributor. During his time as commissioner he worked for 10 years for the construction of the bikeway along Otter Creek Road, a goal finally met in August 2005 with the opening of the bikeway which was named in his honor.

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