



Kellytown represents priceless historical treasure for region

Middle Tennesseans have a priceless treasure hidden in their midst, safe for the moment but still threatened by the relentless pressure of development.

Situated just across Old Hickory Boulevard from Forest Hills City Hall lies an incredible archeological find, the ruins of a Native American village dating from the mid-1400s. It is the largest late-prehistoric town remaining in Davidson County, and one of the few intact towns of its era in the region.

The village, which archeologists and supporters call “Kellytown” in honor of the Kelly family who owned the property at the time of the discovery, provides an incredibly detailed picture of Native American life during the

Mississippian Period (about A.D. 900 to 1500). Artifacts including cookware, tools, food remains, and earrings were uncovered at the site.

The discovery of the site came about as a result of a proposal by Tennessee Department of Transportation in 1997 to build a turn lane for northbound traffic at the southeast corner of Hillsboro Pike and Old Hickory Boulevard. State archeologist Gary Barker reported that the area possibly had historic graves, requiring more extensive exploration before construction could begin.

What Barker discovered during his

Continued on page 4

Help save Kellytown!

You can help by making a contribution to Friends of Kellytown. Use the form on page 8 to make your gift, which can be spread over a three-year period.

If you have ideas for soliciting or giving large gifts, please contact any of the three members of the Board of Commissioners or Ridley Wills III at ridley@willscompany.com.

The Mayor's Corner

Support Kellytown to protect the City we love

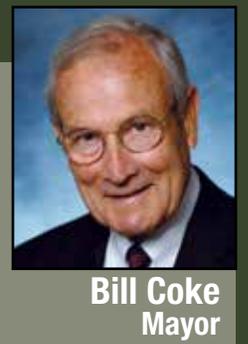
The September and December Forest Hills newsletters had extensive coverage of the formation of the Friends of Kellytown not-for-profit group. Its purpose is to buy and preserve the archeologically important seven-acre tract of land on the southeast corner of Hillsboro Pike known by archeologists as Kellytown.

Friends of Kellytown has signed a contract with the present owners to buy the site for \$1.2 million. For this reason the Friends of Kellytown is now actively involved in a capital campaign to raise funds to meet the purchase price.

The group is made up of residents of Forest Hills, neighbors from Metro, and officials from Metro Nashville and Brentwood. Your Forest Hills Board of Commissioners made the first gift of \$100,000. A Forest Hills family has committed to making a gift of \$100,000. Greenways for Nashville announced on January 22 that it would make a gift of \$25,000. With other gifts and commitments, \$267,000 has been raised to date.

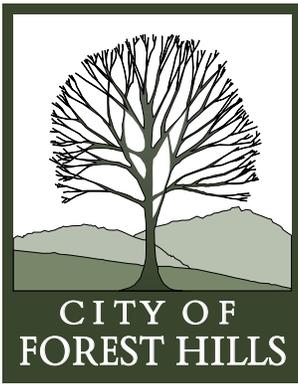
You may ask why saving Kellytown is of such importance that the Board of Commissioners would make a lead pledge of \$100,000. Here are three reasons:

● **Preservation of an endangered site.** This part of Tennessee was heavily populated into villages during the Mississippian period from roughly 1100 to 1450, long before Europeans came to this continent. Because of population growth in the last 30 years almost all of these village sites have been destroyed to make way for commercial centers and housing developments. Tennessee State Archeologist Mike Moore said that Kellytown “is the largest, late prehistoric town remaining in Davidson County.” He further stated, “Preservation of the Kellytown site is



Bill Coke
Mayor

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6300 Hillsboro Pike
Nashville TN 37215
615/372-8677
CityofForestHills.com

City Manager

Amanda Deaton w 372-8677

Board of Commissioners

- William G. Coke, Mayor H 665-1992
- John Lovell, Vice Mayor H 371-1716
w 292-9925
- Lanson Hyde III H 714-9699

City Attorney

Matthew Foster w 256-0500

City Engineer

Brad Bivens w 383-8420

Planning Commission

- Winston Evans, Chair w 259-4685
- George David Waller III, Vice Chair H 373-2360
- Jennifer Frist 372-8677
- James C. Gardner III H 665-0936
- Em Ghianni H 373-1359
- Blair Myers w 760-5157
- Sandy Moore H 373-0239
w 850-2723

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

Board of Zoning Appeals

- Janie Rowland, Chair H 665-0642
- Jim Littlejohn H 371-0008
w 385-4144
- Mark Richard Banks H 447-4262

Safe location

In case of storm or natural disaster, Hillsboro Church of Christ at the corner of Hillsboro Pike and Tyne Boulevard will be open to the public as a safe place to come for shelter.

Emergency and Information Line
309-1324

Understanding your local tax environment

One of my favorite topics is taxes. This is not because they fund governments (and by extension, me), but because they vary so substantially from place to place. Citizens can truly choose where they wish to live based on how taxes are levied. Businesses determine where they will locate based on tax schemes and incentives.

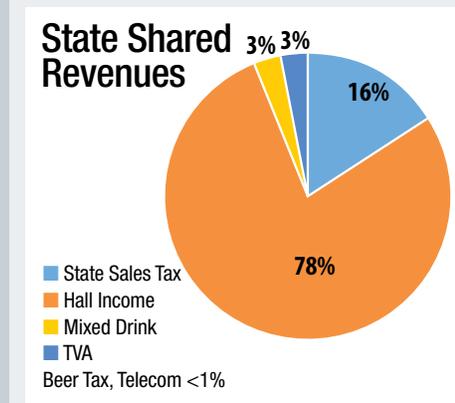
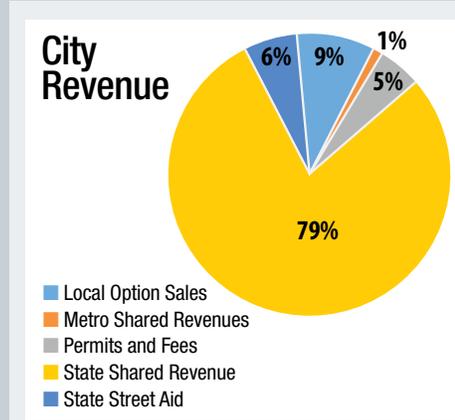
Changes in tax paradigms can change whole economies—just talk to producers in Hollywood who are asking themselves why so many of the new shows/movies are being filmed in the South. Answer: Tax incentives. So I thought it might be helpful to know about our current local tax environment.



amanda.deaton@cityofforesthills.com 372-8677

Taxes in Forest Hills

We have a unique set-up in Forest Hills: residents do not pay any taxes to the City. As residents of Davidson County, Forest Hills



City Revenue Sources

Local Option Sales	\$212,000
Franchise Fees	\$30,000
Permits and Fees	\$117,350
State Sales Tax	\$300,000
Hall Income	\$1,417,200
Beer Tax	\$2,400
Mixed Drink	\$48,000
Gas-Motor Fuel	\$77,000
City Street & Trans	\$10,000
1898 Gas Tax	\$14,000
3 Cent Gas Tax	\$30,000
TVA	\$55,700
Telecom	\$450
Interest	\$36,200
Miscellaneous	\$5,510
Total	\$2,355,810

citizens pay property taxes to the Nashville-Davidson County Metropolitan Government. To Forest Hills, you pay none.

Residents often assume that the City receives a portion of that money back from Metro. That is not the case.

Unless you, as a resident, develop property, build a house, pool, accessory building, or improve/change your property in some way, you may never write a check to the City of Forest Hills. The City assesses fees on these projects in order to recoup its expenses.

So how is the City funded?

The largest portion of our revenue is State Shared Revenue, a share of the taxes assessed by the State of Tennessee. Two examples of the state shared revenue are the Hall income tax and sales tax. The largest portion is the Hall income tax, a tax established by the State and assessed on certain types of income. This is actually the largest part (60%) of our budget!

The amount an individual pays in Hall income tax is based on income, not residence. The state gives the municipality or county that the individual lives in a share of the proceeds. That means that an individual pays the same amount whether living in Brentwood, Memphis, or Forest Hills.

The second-highest revenue item is sales tax. It has two parts: the state and local option. The state's portion is 7%. The local option sales tax is adopted in cities and counties. In Davidson County, it is 2.25%. The state shares a portion of its 7% based on a per capita basis. (That's why that recent census was so important!)

The local option sales tax differs in that it is returned to the city and county where the tax was originally collected. By state law, half of that is spent on education and the other half is returned to the local government. Forest Hills has very few retail businesses within its boundaries, but enjoys some revenue (6%) from this source.

The outcome is uncertain

Now you know a little about the revenue and taxes in Forest Hills. As I stated above, changing tax schemes can change a whole economy. We may have our own changing environment with the Hall income tax. The outcome is uncertain. As the General Assembly considers the future of this tax, so too must we consider what that could mean for Forest Hills. There are many options, and I assure you that your Commissioners are considering every possibility and will take great care and discuss it publicly if they must make a decision.

Spring Recycling Clean Out Day is April 12

Plan now to participate in Forest Hills' Spring Recycling Clean Out Day on Saturday, April 12.

Representatives from collection companies will be available at Forest Hills City Hall, 6300 Hillsboro Pike, to receive your items from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., rain or shine

Accepted items include usable donations, e-waste, batteries, hangers and packing peanuts, bulbs, and bulk items. **NOT ACCEPTED:** Motor vehicle fluids, molded Styrofoam, and paint.



GUIDELINES
cityofforesthills.com/
cleanout.html

Team leaders needed

In addition, a few leaders will be taking teams through selected sites for neighborhood clean-ups. If you would like to participate, contact City Manager Amanda Deaton amanda.deaton@cityofforesthills.com or 615-372-8677.

Piedmont nearly done

The Piedmont Natural Gas pipeline project through Forest Hills is nearing completion, with most of the construction due to be done by February.

Landscaping will be installed, and erosion control measures will continue until June.

"The project generally has gone according to plan, with few surprises for Forest Hills residents," said City Manager Amanda Deaton. Stuart Brown, a Gardendale Drive resident, said that when a problem arose, the company was responsive.

"Piedmont has been responsible and caring with me," Brown said. "I suffered some property damage last summer. After contacting Piedmont, I was put in contact with one of their contractors. Though they couldn't assume they were at fault for the damage, they paid for my loss anyway.

"Please count my positive comment on their behalf," he said.

Work continues on pipeline regulator stations. Some sites will have occasional testing, which can cause loud noise as air moves through the pipes.



New stop signs

All-way stop signs went up at the intersection of Hemingway and Everett Drives on December 20.



Rain gardens

Rain gardens, also called bio-retention areas or bioinfiltration cells, are shallow depressions used to improve the absorption and infiltration of stormwater run-off.

They can be designed to filter out specific pollutants and are especially effective as parking lot islands. Carefully selecting the vegetation for a rain garden is important because most plants do well in either dry, average, or wet conditions but cannot tolerate all three conditions.

A rain garden should be located at least ten feet away from buildings so that water does not drain into the foundations and sewer lines.

This stormwater management tip is provided as part of the City's education requirement under its state permit. For more tips visit <http://bit.ly/stormwatersolutions>.

Committee to Save Kellytown

- Forest Hills Board of Commissioners
- Metro Parks
- Metro Historical Commission
- Congregation Micah
- Tennessee state archeologist
- TDOT archeologists
- Council representative Carter Todd
- Real estate attorney Matt Foster
- Citizens of Forest Hills and Metro Nashville



Kellytown discoverer succumbs to cancer

Gary Barker, the TDOT archeologist who discovered the presence of priceless historical treasures and named the site Kellytown, died December 28, 2013, following a battle with cancer, just weeks after giving an informative presentation at the Forest Hills City Hall. He was 52.

“Gary’s passion and zeal for the preservation of the site will forever be an inspiration to us all,” Forest Hills Mayor Bill Coke said. “We are grateful for his contributions, and he will be truly missed.”

Mr. Barker worked for Tennessee Department of Transportation for more than 20 years. He held a bachelor’s degree from Louisiana Tech University and a master’s degree from University of Memphis.



Kellytown a priceless historical treasure

investigation from February through June 1999 was astounding. In just 30 feet of right-of-way along Hillsboro Pike, he found evidence of the following:

- Twelve structures.
- Seven human graves.
- Two palisade lines with bastions.
- Wattle and daub walls.
- Domestic artifacts including frog-shaped bowls and remnants of corn and nuts.

The total village site is estimated to be about seven acres, running from the eastern side of Hillsboro Pike onto Forest Hills Baptist Church property on the western side and north along Old Hickory Boulevard, with the

exact eastern and southern boundaries yet to be determined.

Such a treasure is irreplaceable. Once destroyed by development, it would be gone forever.

“The presence and distribution of the palisades, structures, burials, and other features uncovered by TDOT provide explicit proof that intact archeological resources occur within the undeveloped tracts southeast of the Old Hickory Boulevard/Hillsboro Road intersection,” state archeologist Michael Moore said. Archeological sites, and especially significant sites such as Kellytown, can’t be replaced once they are removed, he said.





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In 2002, a commercial retail development firm bought the property, intending to build a shopping center, gas station, or quick market. The development firm tried twice in ten years to get the property rezoned from its residential status to commercial retail use. Public outcry opposing the change kept the rezoning from passing each time, with more than 200 residents attending a public hearing in 2008 to voice their disapproval of any commercial development on the site.

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Forest Hills has long advocated that the Kellytown site not be developed for commercial purposes but rather that it be preserved

Design depicts potential park

This conceptualization by Joe Hodgson of Hodgson and Douglas Landscape Architects provides an idea of how the Kellytown property could be utilized as part of the greenway system.

The design features a small park with recreations of the original palisade and a structure.

The park includes a pavilion and a walking path that could eventually connect to the Brentwood Greenways as well as possible future walking paths at Congregation Micah.

Expanded plans include a network of walking trails and an overlook along nearby Harpeth River.

and maintained for the public as open space. Moore supports that concept.

“Protection of the intact archeological features at Kellytown (including human burials) could be accomplished by developing the site into a park or green space,” he said.

In October, the Tennessee Preservation Trust included the Kellytown site on its 2013 Ten in Tennessee Endangered Properties List, while Historic Nashville recognized it among the “Nashville Nine,” properties considered to be threatened by demolition, neglect, or development.

“The artifacts discovered at Kellytown will help tell the story of the thriving Native American community that existed here centuries ago,” Nashville Mayor Karl Dean said. “I commend the community leaders who are taking steps to help ensure that they are preserved for generations to come.”

Forest Hills Commissioners contracted with Joe Hodgson of Hodgson and Douglas Landscape Architects to create conceptual plans of options for using the site. (See story at left.) A committee has been established to work with Hodgson and Douglas to develop a plan for preserving the site. Discussions include incorporating a fitness trail and markers interpreting the Mississippian Period lifestyle.

The only way to ensure the future of Kellytown is to buy the land from the real estate development firm that owns it. The firm has agreed to sell the site for \$1.2 million. As an initial gift, the City of Forest Hills has pledged \$100,000. Purchase of this tract of land will require funding from Metro government as well as grants from foundations, nonprofits, and interested individuals.



Just imagine...

IT IS THE year 1400. Christopher Columbus has not yet been born. Constantinople has not yet fallen. In what will one day be known as “Middle Tennessee,” on the banks of a river that will one day be known as the “Harpeth River,” a tribe of people will establish a settlement that will one day be called “Kellytown.” The people will live here for decades.

Sixty or so families construct wattle and daub houses where they sleep, cook, and live together. The people construct community buildings for storing food and supplies. The families hunt, fish, and farm the land. They construct a palisade fortification to surround their homes. The palisade keeps wild animals out and livestock in. The palisade includes fortifications making it easier to defend the village from hostile intruders.

One night 'round the year 1450, something terrible happens. Maybe a fire in the hearth of a home burns out of control. Maybe a group of people hostile to this community invades the village. The settlement burns. The surviving villagers leave quickly. They leave behind their dead, the remains of their homes, their cooking utensils, their possessions. All is lost.

—Friends of Kellytown



Share snapshots of City wildlife

One of the things that makes Forest Hills special is its natural beauty, including local wildlife. You can help document this aspect of the City by sharing your photos.

City manager Amanda Deaton gets the ball rolling: "This is a fox squirrel located in Warner Park in late December," she said. "Fox squirrels are not as common as your everyday gray squirrel. This one is showing his age with a gray face. He is a grandfather squirrel," she said.

Add your entry to the Forest Hills wildlife scrapbook. Send your interesting animal snapshots to amanda.deaton@cityofforesthills.com.



Let City scan your photos, documents

Janie Rowland shared this old photo of her dad taken in the 1920s at the family's farm on Hillsboro Pike. The hills in the background are the site of Castlewood on the right and Bancroft on the left. Help Forest Hills document its history by sharing photographs, drawings, or other documents about family farms, homes, land tracts, or cemeteries. If you can contribute, contact cityofforesthills@cityofforesthills.com.

Life-long resident Janie Rowland leads work of zoning appeals board

When Board of Zoning Appeals chair Janie Rowland says she is a life-long resident of the City of Forest Hills, she means it literally. She came home to the family farm on Hillsboro Pike from the hospital as a newborn infant, and she's still there today.

Her grandparents had purchased the 50-acre farm and built a home there in 1927. Her grandmother named it Rolling Acres, and people called her grandfather crazy for giving up two lots in Belle Meade to move "way out in the country."

After her grandfather died in 1945, her grandmother and father sold the original house and built a new one. That's the house where Janie lives today.

When Janie's parents got married, her grandmother gave them land to build the house that Janie and her brother grew up in. The family still owns about 30 acres of the original farm.

Janie went to Ensworth first through eighth grade and graduated from Brentwood Academy. After one year at University of Kentucky, she came to Vanderbilt and graduated as a history major.

Rowland takes after her father and grandparents in loving to work outdoors. Given the choice of working indoors at the family business, Bradford Furniture, or outside in the yard, she prefers the yard. You can often see her planting flowers at the "Four Mailboxes" on Hillsboro Pike or working in the yard where her grandfather's cattle used to roam.

She breeds Spotted Saddle horses for show at another farm in Spring Hill, and has owned 30 or 40 champion or grand champion horses over the years. She still enjoys working with the horses and at the Hillsboro Pike farm but has slowed down after recuperating from a serious tractor accident. "The horses and I have semi-retired," she says.



Among the changes she's seen in Forest Hills, Janie includes creation of Bison Meadow, the branding efforts defining the boundaries and look of the City through stone walls and street signs, and construction of the new City Hall on the Kelly family's property.

"I first got involved in City of Forest Hills when Fletch and Bill Coke came knocking on my door collecting signatures for a petition," Janie said. "Later, Mayor Margaret Tocknell asked me to be on BZA, around 1989. It's been my pleasure to serve with five mayors in my 20-plus years on the board."

Rowland said the specifics of the BZA have changed over the years, even if the intent has not. "In those days, people would bring you sketches on a piece of paper or drawings on a napkin," she said. "Regulations are more complicated now, and so is what people bring to use. They have professionally prepared plans and high-tech materials."

Another change she's seen is in the interest residents have in the operation of the City. "Citizens are more involved and better educated about the City of Forest Hills than when I first got involved," she said.

Rowland said the role of the BZA is important for preserving the City and protecting its future. "Part of function of BZA is to help residents understand the zoning rules. Our goal is to help applicants achieve the best plan possible within the current zoning guidelines," she said.

The job of the BZA is to hear situations that call for variances to the existing standard. "I see us as facilitators to help the residents achieve their goals within reasonable circumstances, while protecting the wonderful city in which we live."

SAFETY TIPS

Collect mail daily to lower theft risk

Mail theft can be a serious problem any time of the year, and right now we are right between two especially dangerous periods: we're just finishing holiday gift-giving season, and just moving into IRS tax time.

Several instances of theft from mailboxes occurred during December. This is a high-volume time for people sending checks and gift cards in greeting cards. The other high-risk activity during December is having packages delivered to your home and left where thieves can take them.

Do not leave packages sitting in plain sight. If you are not at home to accept them, ask a neighbor to take care of it for you. Have packages delivered to your workplace instead of home if no one is there during the day.

Do not let mail accumulate in the mailbox. Check it every day. If you are traveling, arrange for a neighbor to collect it or have the post office hold it until you return.

Theft of mail from boxes is a federal crime, and is investigated by the U.S. Postal Service investigators. Keep in mind that they rely as heavily as we do on tips from citizens. You can notify them at 800/ASK USPS (800/275-8777) or postalinspectors.uspis.gov.

If you see non-postal vehicles taking anything from a mailbox, please call Metro Police at 862-8600 immediately. Tell the call-taker to notify both the zone cars (who are aware of these thefts) and the postal inspector about the tip immediately. Dispatch will know how to reach the inspector.

A big problem with mail theft at this time of year is IRS scams and identity theft. Identity theft happens when someone steals your personal information and uses it without your permission. It's a serious crime that can wreak havoc with your finances, credit history, and reputation—and can take time, money, and patience to resolve.

Here are points relating to IRS and identity protection, distributed recently by our Fraud Section.

Your identity may have been stolen if a letter from the IRS indicates more than one tax return was filed for you or the letter states you received wages from an employer you don't know. If you receive such a letter from the IRS, leading you to believe your identity has been stolen, respond immediately to the name, address, or phone number on the IRS notice.

If you believe the notice is not from the IRS, contact the IRS to determine if the letter is a legitimate IRS notice. If your identity is stolen for the purpose of filing a fraudulent tax return, follow these steps to protect identity:

- Contact banks or other financial institutions and close accounts.
- File a police report.
- Contact nationwide credit reporting agencies. Place fraud alert on your credit.
- File complaint with FTC at www.ftc.gov/identitytheft.
- Contact IRS to complete "IRS Identity Theft Affidavit," Form 14039.



Sgt. Twana Chick
Metro Police

615/880-1876 Direct line
615/862-7747 West Precinct
615/862-8600 Non-emergency
911 Crime in progress
twana.chick@nashville.gov
Preferred for appointments

Got a big tree?

Nashville Tree Foundation is looking for the biggest, oldest trees in Davidson County.

Deadline is April 1 for entering the Big Old Tree Contest.

The biggest tree in Forest Hills that the Foundation has honored is a white oak on Bridleway Trail. It was 155 feet high and 174 inches in circumference with a crown spread of 58 feet when entered in 2003.



ENTRY FORM
nashvilletreefoundation.org/enter

What to do if you hit a deer

Every year more than a million deer are hit by automobiles in the United States, causing about \$3,000 in damages per accident.

The best way to prevent collisions is awareness. Slow down in posted deer crossing areas. Deer are most active around dusk and dawn so pay extra attention then. Deer/auto accidents peak in October and December. And if you see a deer, slow down immediately. Remember that often more than one will try to cross.

If you hit a deer

● Move your vehicle off the road, if you can. Turn on hazard lights, and don't leave your vehicle unless absolutely necessary. If

you do, stay out of the roadway.

- Do not approach the animal. An injured deer could be dangerous.
- Call the police. Let them know if the deer is impeding traffic and if there was property damage or personal injury.

In addition, Tennessee's road-kill law says if you want to use or eat wild animals accidentally killed by a motor vehicle, you must notify the wildlife resources agency or law enforcement within 48 hours.

- Document the accident. Take pictures of the site and any damages.
- Don't assume your vehicle is drivable. Check for leaking fluids, broken parts, loose hood, and other safety problems.



YES! I want to help save Kellytown.

Here's my donation to preserve the Kellytown Native American Archeological Site.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Amount of donation: \$ _____ Your entire donation is tax-deductible.

PAYMENT

- Check payable to Friends of Kellytown
- VISA or MasterCard # _____

ExpDate _____ Security # _____

PLEDGE

I want to pledge \$ _____.

- I would like to pay the balance over:
- 12 months
 - 24 months
 - 36 months

Send to: Friends of Kellytown • P.O. Box 150732 • Nashville TN 37215

Kellytown continued from page 1

vital as it is a non-renewable resource of the type that is disappearing at a rapid rate due to urban expansion.”

● **Preservation of green space.** The plans are for Kellytown to become a greenway with trails connecting at Congregation Micah and then to Brentwood greenway trails. It would become a part of the Metro Parks greenway system. It would be an amenity available to Forest Hills residents for walking and exercise. It would also be available to school groups to learn about the culture and the people who lived here so long ago.

● **Halt commercial development around Forest Hills.** The Board of Commissioners has opposed and will continue to oppose any commercial development within the city limits of Forest Hills or on any property bordering Forest Hills. If we do not save this property by buying it now, it will only be a matter of time before commercial development takes place on that site. This would lead to further commercial development that would impair the tranquil beauty that we call Forest Hills.

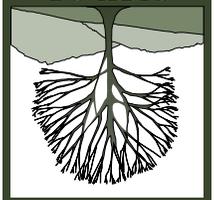
Use the form above to donate.

Help save
Kellytown!



Nashville TN 37215
P.O. Box 158973

CITY OF
FOREST HILLS



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NASHVILLE, TN
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