

Building

Around City Hall

Safety tips



#### Mayor's Forum is January 17

The next Mayor's Forum will be January 17 at 10 a.m. at Franklin Road Academy, 4700 Franklin Pike. Mayor Tommy Alsup said the public meeting in

update residents at the halfway mark of the city's fiscal year.

the FRA Theater/Fine and Performing Arts Center will be an opportunity to

"I'm looking forward to giving a status report on our search for a city man-

ager and hearing what's on the minds of our residents," said Mayor Alsup.

## Security is Oak Hill's priority

BY AUSTIN McMULLEN, Vice Mayor

The City of Oak Hill is working to improve safety by hiring off-duty Metro officers to supplement on-duty Metro police patrols.

Oak Hill is not allowed to have its own police force, so over the years the City has explored a number of options, including creating our own private security organization or contracting with the cities of Brentwood, Belle Meade or Berry Hill. Each of these efforts proved unworkable for various reasons.

Current Metro ordinances do not allow satellite cities to hire off-duty officers, but the Oak Hill City Attorney and I recently had a successful meeting with representatives of several Metro departments, including the Police Department, the Mayor's Office and the Metro Legal Department.

Based on that meeting, the Metro Council will likely consider an amendment to allow Oak Hill and other satellite cities to hire off-duty Metro officers. This amendment must be approved by the Metro Council in three separate meetings, so this program probably cannot begin until at least early February.

Off-duty Metro officers would increase the existing police presence in Oak Hill. They would patrol in Metro police cars and have the ability to enforce laws, including writing traffic citations.

These patrols would obviously be a tremendous benefit to Oak Hill residents, and we intend to pursue this program until it is successfully implemented.



### Metro Police respond to 'eyes on the street' report

Former Vice Mayor Tommy Jacobs received a report from an Oak Hill resident December 9 of a suspicious vehicle at Robertson Academy Road and Lealand Lane.

When the vehicle was still there when Jacobs, a retired police officer, drove by, he called the police to check it out. The police discovered that the man, who was doing some work for a family on Robertson Academy who was not at home at the time, had an active warrant on file. He was arrested and his vehicle towed.

While four police cars with blue lights and four police officers were on the scene, a truck and trailer with lawn equipment was stopped for speeding.

This is a good example of "eyes on the street" that led to a police investigation and attention to the Oak Hill area, said Jacobs who explained to each person who stopped exactly what was going on because "I knew the police did not have time to answer all their questions."

Jacobs cautions that residents need to be extra careful at this time of year and during these unprecedented economic times.

# Season's Greetings to our Oak Hill residents

May the blessings of this truly special holiday season be with you and yours, and may you enjoy excellent health and abundant happiness in the coming new year.

See safety tips on page 7.

#### City of Oak Hill

#### Mayor

Tommy Alsup

Oak Hill Office: 371-8291

#### Vice Mayor

Austin McMullen 298-1492

#### **Commissioner**

Ray Throckmorton 255-3559

#### **Planning Commission**

Mike Allison, Chair

Patricia Carlson

Judy Hoover

Trevor Howell

Art McWilliams

Annelle Rucker

Julia Wesley

The mayor, vice mayor, and commissioner also sit on this commission.

#### **Board of Zoning Appeals**

Tom Lawless, Chair Lorelee Gawaluck

Steve Wasserman

**City Attorney** 

Robert J. Notestine 297-1568

**City Engineer** 

**Chad Collier** 331-1441

#### **Interim City Manager**

M.C. Sparks

#### **Administrative Assistant**

371-8291 Patrick Steiner

#### **Building Official**

371-8291 **Bill Burdette** 

#### Office 5548 Franklin Pike Suite 102

**Hours** 

Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

#### www.oakhilltn.us

#### **Meeting Dates**

Third Thursday

Planning Commission, **Board of Commissioners Meeting** 

Oak Hill City Hall, 5548 Franklin Pike, 5 p.m.

Tuesday before Commissioners' Meeting

**Board of Zoning Appeals** Oak Hill City Hall, 5548 Franklin Pike, 5 p.m.



## Oak Hill News

#### From the Administrative Assistant

## Building permits are required for.

f you're thinking about making changes or additions Lto your property or residence, you're probably thinking:

- How much is it going to cost?
- Can I do it myself or do I need a contractor?
- Do I need to get a permit? The third question is what I want to discuss with you. There are several different kinds of projects that require permits in Oak Hill.
- Any kind of addition to the residence that will require additional square footage outside of the current footprint of the house. The first step should be to check what the setbacks (front, side, and rear) are in your area, as the City of Oak Hill has six different residential zones, each with its own setback regulations.
- Renovations to the interior of the house, with no exterior additions. Any time walls are removed or added, the structural integrity of the house could be compromised. Depending on what type of rewiring or plumbing may be required, renovations need proper care and installation, otherwise problems could occur which could be costly.
- Pools and pool houses. These also have to fall inside the building area of your property; i.e., must comply with setbacks just like a residence. For new pools, Oak Hill has a secondary fence ordinance, which requires a minimum four-foot fence surrounding the pool area, without direct access from the

house. The reasoning for this is that while there may be a fence already around your property, children may be able to get out to the pool from the house and fall into the pool with terrible consequences.

- Fences. A fence can be erected anywhere on the property, up to six feet in height. It can be wood, chain-link, or even a concrete wall. We check these for placement, then structural integrity for two reasons—so the fence does not fall over when leaned on, and depending on the type of fence, it must stand up to 90 mph winds that can whip through this area.
- Sheds. Oak Hill has a maximum-size regulation for storage sheds-12'x16' footprint, 14' tall. Storage sheds must be located in the rear yard, at least five feet from the property lines.
- Reroofs. Building code allows for a maximum of three layers on a roof, and two layers on larger houses. If decking has to be removed, this requires a structural inspection, as no one wants their roof to cave in. In the last few years, we have found that several "companies" that have come through neighborhoods do not have any insurance or even a business license. They tell the homeowner they have extra roofing material from nearby and would be more than willing to repair their roofline. The resident ends up heavily overpaying and with a leaky

Driveways. If you were unaware, the area where the



driveway attaches

to the street is actually in the public right-of-way. Most of the time there is a drainage pipe under the driveway. When most companies tear out and replace the driveway, this pipe can be damaged or is in need of being replaced to a larger size. If you are resealing the driveway with a topcoat of asphalt, this needs no permit.

#### **Construction time**

Oak Hill has an ordinance in place that restricts the time for outside construction. Please inform your construction crews that times are:

Monday—Friday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday NO WORK Federal Holidays NO WORK

#### **Permits and inspections**

We are proud to say that electrical, plumbing, and mechanical permits can be pulled at the Oak Hill office by our Chief Building Official, Bill Burdette. As long as the meters for these three utilities do not need to be changed, our Oak Hill staff can make the much-needed inspections to keep the process of additions/renovations moving.

I hope these tips can help make the renovations/additions process move easily along. Always remember that the City of Oak Hill is here to help out whenever needed and we will be more than happy to go over anything that may be of concern for our citizens. \*\*\*





## **Dedication honors** Oak Hill's history

Oak Hill residents and history buffs gathered on a beautiful October afternoon at the home of Margaret and Patrick Boyd on Granny White Pike to celebrate the unveiling of a Metropolitan Historical Commission marker in honor of the neighborhood's dry-stacked stone walls.

Metro Nashville Mayor Karl Dean and Oak Hill Mayor Tommy Alsup praised the efforts of the Metropolitan Historical Commission and State Senator Douglas Henry in preserving and protecting dry-stack walls in Middle Tennessee. Jim Kay, president of the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society, read a passage from the diary of a Civil War soldier, written from the same spot where the historic marker now stands.

Historian Fletch Coke intrigued the audience of about 75 with stories of how the stone fences often were constructed to mark property lines. She shared maps showing the stone wall along Granny White Pike as a boundary for the Lealand plantation, presented by Travellers Rest owner John Overton to his daughter to celebrate her marriage.

Oak Hill Interim City Manager M.C. Sparks serenaded guests with performances on a bowed psaltry, an instrument related to lyres and zithers, played something like a handheld violin.

Mayor Alsup said the City of Oak Hill is indebted to Margaret for her diligence and dedication in researching the stone walls and working with the Metropolitan Historical Commission in getting the marker approved and installed. He said the City's Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to fund the marker.



Homeowner Margaret Boyd, Oak Hill mayor Tommy Alsup, and Nashville mayor Karl Dean unveil the historic marker.

"Fortunately, many residents—like the Boyds—cherish this tie to our past and spend time and money to see that they remain for future generations to enjoy," the mayor said in his opening remarks.

Boyd said the stone walls are a treasure, giving special character to Oak Hill and to Nashville.

She paid tribute to those who nearly two centuries ago gathered stones from fields and laid the miles and miles of walls, many of which are still standing today.

"The stone walls are very special," she said, "and I am proud to be the humble caretaker of a portion of the walls for a portion of time in history."

Among the other guests at the dedication celebration October 2 were Metro Council members Carter Todd and Parker Toler, Travellers Rest president-elect Fred Crown, "Civil War soldier" David Ragan who is senior interpreter at Travellers Rest, Tara Mielnik and Scarlett Miles from the Metropolitan Historical Commission.

Around 75 neighbors and history buffs, above left, attended the dedication of the Metropolitan Historical Commission marker honoring the area's dry-stack stone fences. Gary Burke, Jim Kay, Ross Massey, and Sidney McAlister, above right, represented the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society at the dedication.

#### Marker text

DRY-STACK STONE WALLS Dry-stack stone walls, a Scots-Irish building tradition adapted by slaves in the early 19th century, were common throughout middle Tennessee. During the 1864 Battle of Nashville, Confederate **Brigadier General Henry** Jackson was captured at this wall on the Middle Franklin Turnpike after the Confederate line collapsed at Shy's Hill.



**Unofficial summary** 

#### **Planning Commission**

October, November 2008

- Concluded during discussion of neighbors' petition to close Overton Street, a dedicated undeveloped road between Franklin Pike and Morriswood Court, that minutes of the Board of Commissioners reflect that both east and west easements for the road were closed in 1984. Planning Commission recommends to the Board of Commissioners that it affirms that Overton Street was completely abandoned as a right-ofway.
- Deferred request of Korean Methodist Church, 908 Old Hickory Boulevard, to update the Conditional Use Permit allowing removal of 45 parking spaces, as the remaining spaces are still within the number required by International Building Code and Oak Hill ordinances.

**Unofficial summary** 

#### **Board of Zoning Appeals**

September, October, November 2008

- Approved the request from John Overton High School, 4820 Franklin Pike, for a portable classroom to replace classroom lost for new construction with condition that it be removed by December 31, 2009.
  - Approved request by Gary

Waddey, 4716 Lealand Lane, to allow construction of a new threecar garage and home office.

- Approved request by Mr. and Mrs. Rivers Rutherford, 1142 Brookwood Lane, and Mr. and Mrs. Naill Falls, 1143 Sewanee Road, for construction of a new eight foot fence between their properties.
- Rejected request by Our Savior Lutheran School, 5110 Franklin Pike, to allow construction of a new sign which would replace the southern-most sign on Franklin Pike.
- Advised representative of Woodmont Hills Church of Christ that a review of the Conditional Use Permit shows that the church is in compliance in all aspects previously discussed.
- Affirmed on 2-1 vote the issuance of a permit by the City of Oak Hill for constructing an access easement and installation of utilities on the 3-lot subdivision at 5208 Granny White Pike. The subdivision was approved by the Planning Commission March 2005 and the Board of Zoning Appeals is not empowered to overrule the approval of the plat signed by all required parties including Chair of the Planning Commission, Oak Hill City Manager, and City Engineer. Mrs. Sharon Monroe, 1101 Stonewall Jackson Court, had appealed the decision of the City to issue the permit.
- **Approved** request by Nashville Korean Methodist Church, 916 Old Hickory Boulevard, to update the Conditional Use Permit allowing removal of 45 parking spaces. The remaining spaces meet the number required by International Building Code and Oak Hill ordinances.
- Approved request by Rivers Rutherford, 1142 Brookwood Lane,

to allow construction of new chim-

- Approved request by Bruce Sullivan, 1001 Overton Lea Road, to remove two fence posts and allow construction of one new post.
- Approved request by Mike Hutton, 4415 Prescott Road, to allow construction of a new master bedroom suite and a bedroom addition.
- Requested that First Presbyterian Church, as a sign of good will, expeditiously close the rear entrance to the property and inform vendors that the rear entrance is closed pending further communications. Placed this issue on the December agenda for the Board of Zoning Appeals as a hearing to review for possible amendment or modification of the Conditional Use Permit for First Presbyterian Church.

**Unofficial summary** 

#### **Board of Commissioners**

September, October, November 2008

- Received update from City Engineer on sound walls: 50 surveys sent to owners of property abutting I-65. Of the 28 responses, 20 favor allowing the city to acquire a small easement on their property to build, landscape, and maintain the sound wall, while 5 need more information and 3 oppose the easement. City Attorney will draft Request For Proposal for construction and present it at the October meeting.
- Passed on second reading establishment of Investment Advisory Committee. Modified language to require establishment "as soon as possible," to allow sufficient time to build the committee.
- Passed Resolution 08-6 concerning selling mailing labels of residents' addresses.
  - Deferred Resolution 08-5 con-

cerning copying/duplication charges for materials requested for Freedom of Information and other requests, pending decision from State on appropriate fees.

- Amended Resolution 08-7 for budget Line Item #304, reflecting that one payment on street signs and lights was made during the 2007-08 budget year, and moving the remainder of the Line Item into 2008-09 budget.
- Received update from City Engineer on speed table installations on Oak Valley and Glendale. He will report in October on the comparison of speeds before any barriers were installed, when only one set was installed, and after two sets have been installed.
- Deferred Resolution 08-3 establishing a Safety Commission pending Tennessee Municipal League's opinion on liability issues and coordination with Metro. Former Vice Mayor Tommy Jacobs has completed an application for director of the commission.
- Learned that Noel Avenue was abandoned in 1957. There are safety concerns about Glendale School students walking through the abandoned lot after their parents drop them off on General Bate Drive.
- Heard report on drainage problems on Lakeview causing cave-in, and requested City Engineer to get bids for the repairs.
- Announced cancellation of First Responder training in September because Red Cross sent volunteers to hurricane relief. Training tentatively rescheduled for February.
- Heard report on dedication of marker from Metropolitan Historical Commission honoring dry-stacked stone walls on Granny White Pike October 2.
- Referred to the Planning Commission a petition from affected home owners to close Overton Street.

- Passed motion to dismiss pending litigation on Marshall property.
- Accepted recommendation from Vice Mayor to establish a Financial Advisory Committee, which is authorized to evaluate the City's potentially risky investments and move quickly to secure the funds in safer vehicles.
- **Heard** that a Request for Proposal to design and build the sound wall along the I-65 corridor will be available for review at the November 20 meeting and that surveys returned from property owners affected are overwhelmingly positive.
- Learned that another speed table will be installed on both Glendale Lane and Oak Valley Drive and that a quantitative analysis of their effectiveness in calming traffic will be made before fulfilling requests for speed tables on other streets in Oak Hill.
- Learned that the safety resolution enabling the city to establish a safety coordinator and hire off-duty Metro police to patrol streets has been delayed to clarify legal issues and will be on the agenda for November.
- Adopted the recommendation from the Office of Open Records Counsel to charge 15 cents per page for black and white copies and 50 cents per page for color copies of requests for public records with the first hour of employee's time free.
- Adopted Resolution 08-8 to update budget amount for line item #305B "Street Aid & Construction— Public Works and Miscellaneous"
- Authorized \$5,000 to temporarily patch problems on Lakeview Drive.
- Heard from City Engineer Chad Collier that a revised Request for Proposal to design and build the sound wall along the I-65 corridor will be issued in December with evaluations and interviews to be held later.
- Learned Metropolitan Government is receptive to the City of Oak Hill hiring off duty Metro police

- officers to supplement patrols. An amended Metro ordinance is necessary to allow satellite cities to hire off duty police officers. The Metropolitan Council must adopt the proposed ordinance on three readings. A job description and budget for the safety coordinator position is being created as well as determining responsibility for liability insurance for the employee.
- Adopted on second reading by title only an Ordinance to amend Ordinance 84-6 adopted December 20, 1984, to show both west and east easements of Overton Street, an undeveloped road between Franklin Pike and Morriswood Drive, were closed.
- **Deferred** until December meeting discussion of bonds for officers In order to obtain information from comparable cities and costs from bonding companies.
- Authorized C&C Lawrence, which provides snow and ice management services, to buy salt as projected and to prepare budget if more is needed since the cost of salt has escalated from \$69 to \$157 per ton.
- Reported by City Engineer that another speed table has been installed on both Glendale Lane and Oak Valley Drive and that a traffic study of their effectiveness will be completed by the next meeting.
- Voted to contribute \$250 to the special education scholarship fund established for the two young children of Ben Northcutt, 44, whose company provided public works services for the City of Oak Hill from 2001 to 2007. He died November 2 in an office fire in Livingston, Louisiana. 🧩

You can find agendas and unofficial summaries of Oak Hill board and commission meetings at www.oakhilltn.us

#### 2008-2009 CALENDAR

- Through December 31 **Holidays at Travellers Rest** Come see all the decorations for the entire month as we relive an 1830's holiday at **Travellers Rest** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Saturday 1-4 p.m. Sunday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. December 24 and 31 Closed December 25, January 1 **Travellers Rest Plantation** and Museum 636 Farrell Parkway
- December 24-26
  Oak Hill office closed

615/832-8197 for admission fee

- December 31-January 1Oak Hill office closed
- March 14, 2009
  Be an active participant in our fastest growing event as leading Civil War historians explore the Western theater.
  All-day event includes lunch at Travellers Rest.
  Travellers Rest Plantation and Museum
  636 Farrell Parkway

615/832-8197

for admission fee



#### Three Mayors

Belle Meade Mayor George Crook, Forest Hills Mayor Charles Evers, and Oak Hill Mayor Tommy enjoy the celebration of Forest Hills' 50th anniversary and the dedication of the new gateway entrance at Old Hickory Blvd. and Hillsboro Pike. Mayor Evers was honored for his long service to the City of Forest Hills.

## Glendale students nominated for Young Scholars Program

Five students from Glendale Spanish Immersion Elementary School have been nominated for the National Young Scholars program.

Helen Caldwell, Christopher Husin, Cameron Wade, Trenise White, and Adrian Zenerino will attend the six-day program at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., in June 2009.

The students were recognized for their exceptional maturity, scholastic merit, and leadership ability. The program is sponsored by the National Center for Early Academic Excellence, an independent educational organization dedicated to the early identification, motivation, and inspiration of the nation's most promising elementary school students.

Each nominee will participate in a Leadership Strand and Discovery Strand choice of forensics, architecture, or medical, said Dr. Paula Pendergrass, their teacher at Glendale.

#### Northcutt dies in Louisiana fire

Ben Northcutt, 44, whose company IED provided public works services for the City of Oak Hill from 2001 to 2007, died November 2 in an office fire in Livingston, Louisiana.

"Ben was a joy to work with,"

said Interim City Manager M.C. Sparks. "He was always smiling and very conscientious."

The City contributed \$250 to an education scholarship fund benefiting his two young sons.

## Yard Sale for the Cure a success

The annual Yard Sale for the Cure in Oak Hill October 25 was a success, raising about \$1,000.

Cindy Baxter Smith will be accepting donations beginning in the spring for the eighth annual sale in October 2009, which is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Call 414-0011 (mobile) or e-mail cbsmith@
realtracs.com for information on making donations or having a sale with a portion of the proceeds donated to a breast cancer organization.

## Be prepared by following these safety tips

Former Vice Mayor Tommy Jacobs, retired veteran of the Metropolitan Police Department, offers the following safety tips.

- Keep all doors (even storm doors) and vehicles locked.
- Keep as many lights on inside and outside the home as is practical. Criminals hate light.
- If someone knocks and you don't know for sure who it is, don't just open the door without asking. If it is strangers, it is a good idea not to open the door especially at night. Many criminals will say they have just hit a pet in the street or they are out of gas. You might think it rude, but it is better to send them away or just tell them you are calling the police to assist them. It is better to offend the true person in need than to suffer at the hands of a criminal.
- Try not to keep cash, jewelry or other valuables in the home—banks have lock boxes for that. Recently a family was assaulted and threatened and forced to open the home safe,

# Do's and don'ts when police officers are in the area during an on-going emergency situation

- Do be aware there is a police investigation underway.
- Do keep moving.
- Do be patient.
- Do be courteous.
- Do use common sense.
- Do not stop and block traffic lanes.
- Do not continue to ask questions that the police may not have time to answer because they are busy doing their job.
- Do not hesitate to call the City of Oak Hill at 371-8291 for more information or if you have additional questions.

and the bad guys got away with \$70,000.

• If you have a large dog with a threatening bark it is a good deterrent if anyone rings the door bell.

If you are comfortable with firearms, keep a gun in the

home. Loaded shotguns are best—believe me you will not have time to get the gun and load it too.

If you do answer the door after dark have your phone in your hand ready to dial 911 in case of emergency.



## Don't let dogs run loose

Dog owners are reminded that Oak Hill residents fall under the leash law that prohibits pets running loose.

The Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County law specifically states that "... all dogs, when not in their fenced yards, are to be maintained either on a leash or in close, controlled proximity to the dog's owner."

Owners out for a walk in the neighborhood are asked to make sure their dogs do not harass residents or pets in their own yards.

All dog owners who walk their pets are also urged to carry a plastic bag to clean up any "calling cards" left on a neighboring lawn.



## Recycle Christmas tree

Your Christmas tree can go from your house to the trails at Radnor Lake.

Just remove all metal—including tinsel and nails—and place the tree on the right-of-way of your street.

Jackaroo, the city's chipper contractor, will pick it up, turn it into evergreen mulch, and deliver to Radnor Lake for spreading on the walking trails.



#### CITY OF OAK HILL

5548 Franklin Pike #102 371-8291 FAX 373-6886 www.oakhilltn.us

#### **SOLID WASTE SERVICES**

#### Chipper Service

Jackaroo 371-8291

#### **Garbage Pickup**

Clean Earth Sanitation 371-8291

#### Snow and Ice Management Service

C&C Lawncare 371-8291

#### Public Street Repairs, Street Signage, and Drainage Maintenance

City Office 371-8291

#### **Dead Animal Removal**

City Office 371-8291 After Hours 862-8971

#### **Emergency**

911 Non

Non-Emergency Fire 327-1300

Non-Emergency Police 862-8600

**West Sector Patrol** 

862-7747

## Glen Leven nominated for National Register

Glen Leven has moved one step closer to being added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Tennessee Historical Commission's State Review Board approved the nomination of the home built in 1856 that stands on 66 acres at 4000 Franklin Pike in Oak Hill. That clears the way for Glen Leven to be considered by the National Register office.

Glen Leven's rich history embodies the criteria for being listed:

- Associated with significant persons. Thomas Thompson, a signer of the Cumberland Compact at Fort Nashborough, received the property where Glen Leven stands as a land grant at the end of the Revolutionary War. The estate stayed in the Thompson family until his great-great-granddaughter died in 2006 and willed the property to the Land Trust for Tennessee.
- Associated with significant events. Glen Leven stood squarely in the middle of fighting during the Battle of Nashville during the Civil War. Troops used the house as a field

hospital, and soldiers stopped to get a drink of water at the cistern behind the house. The brick walls still show chips from bullets fired during fighting.

● Embodies distinctive characteristics of a period. The home was built from handmade bricks, without the benefit of an architect, by Thomas Thompson's son John. One of the few remaining historic farmsteads in Davidson County, Glen Leven continued to be used as a working farm until 2006.



Glen Leven, built in 1856, has been nominated for the National Register of Historic Places..

MAYORYS

Franklin Road Academy
4700 Franklin Pike at 10 a.m.

Mashville, TM Permit #391

**QIA9** 

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