

### **Report suspicious vehicles**

Several recent burglaries in various Oak Hill neighborhoods are currently under investigation by the Metro Police.

It is likely the same suspect was involved in the incidents that occurred between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. during the week. The suspect, a light-skinned African American, mostly takes jewelry and electronics. He drives a 1990s model gray Cadillac with a Titans tag.

Call 911 if a crime is in progress and report suspicious vehicles to Vice Mayor Tommy Jacobs, Oak Hill's liaison with the police department, at 948-4024.

Go to **oakhilltn.us** for updated information.

## Two candidates vie for election to Board of Commissioners

Two candidates have successfully filed the required papers, including petitions signed by local voters, to the Davidson County Election Commission to qualify for the June 10 Oak Hill Board of Commissioners election.

Vice Mayor Tommy Jacobs, who is completing his first four-year term on the Board, is seeking re-election and will face attorney Austin McMullen. A detailed statement of qualifications and goals of both candidates will be

included in the May issue of Oak Hill News.

All voting on Tuesday, June 10, will be at the Brentwood Hills Church of Christ, 5120 Franklin Pike. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

For further information about the upcoming local election, please contact the Davidson County Election Commission at 862-8800.

Go to page 4 for more information about the candidates.

### **Key election dates**

- Last day to register to vote in person: Monday, May 12
- Last day to register to vote by mail: Monday, May 12
- Financial disclosure due: Tuesday, June 3
- Early voting, first day: Wednesday, May 21
- Early voting, last day: Thursday, June 5
- Voting day: Tuesday, June 10

### Commissioners authorize tornado warning systems

The Oak Hill Board of Commissioners at its March meeting approved a motion to acquire two tornado warning systems for installation in the central and

mayoral

breakfast

southern areas of the community.

Currently, northern Oak Hill neighborhoods are provided the "warning horn" from a system that is located at

Glendale School.

The motion to approve funding for the purchase of the systems, \$20,000 per emergency unit, was made by Vice Mayor Tommy Jacobs and seconded by Mayor Tommy Alsup.

Oak Hill is working closely with the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management of Metro-Nashville Davidson County, which will install, service, and operate the new units in addition to the existing 72 systems located throughout Davidson County.

The warning system is a series of horns, located generally on a pole that is connected by computer to the emergency management headquarters on 15th Avenue South. As potential tornados are being tracked on a minute-by-minute basis by the National Weather Service, the warning system will go into effect if it is felt that a "clear and present danger" is being experienced.

When the horns are sounded, all citizens are strongly urged to seek immediate shelter, and turn on a radio or television for up to the moment information.



Karl Dean to discuss common issues and continued cooperation. From left are Goodlettsville Mayor Jerry Garrett, Berry Hill Mayor Harold Spray, Forest Hills Mayor Charles Evers, and Tommy Alsup, Mayor of Oak Hill, which hosted the breakfast.

### City of Oak Hill

Mayor

Tommy Alsup Oak Hill Office: 371-8291 780-0037

Vice Mayor Tommy Jacobs 837-9863

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**

Greer Tidwell, Chair Tom Lawless Steve Wasserman

#### **City Attorney**

Robert J. Notestine 297-1568

Chad Collier 331-1441

#### **City Manager**

Dr. William (Bill) Kraus 371-8291 HOME 373-1608

Assistant City Manager M.C. Sparks 371-8291

Administrative Assistant Patrick Steiner 371-8291 Building Official Bill Burdette 371-8291

Office: 5548 Franklin Pike Suite 102

www.oakhilltn.us

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



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.

# From the desk of the city manager The blossoms of spring

Do you remember last month's *Oak Hill News* when I included within my column a picture of a huge Irish wolfhound named Mac, sitting next to his owners, Pony Maples and his late wife, Kaye? I recently received an e-mail from Anna Doherty, who had originally shared with us the

wolfhound photos. She said: "Unfortunately, Mac has passed away. He is probably with Kaye and all the other Irish wolfhounds the couple has had over the years, where none of them are feeling any more pain, because I do believe that dogs go to heaven too." Our sincerest condolences

go to Pony Maples.

#### New initiatives planned

Looking at the beautiful blossoming of trees throughout Oak Hill—the Bradford pears, the redbuds, and the dogwoods—we know that spring is now here and nature's life is beginning a new cycle. We feel that it is the time for new and fresh starts after the long, cloudy winter. This is also very true for us humans who have a renewed optimism, hopes, and aspirations in the months ahead (so long as we don't experience a freeze!).

I am really excited about the many initiatives that Oak Hill is currently undertaking, and we sincerely trust that you all will share my great enthusiasm for the near future. More specifically:

• The hope that the 65-acre Glen Leven property on Franklin Pike at the very north end of Oak Hill will eventually become the latest in land assets to be thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by current and future generations, similar to one of Oak Hill's other "crown jewels"—Radnor Lake State Natural Area. This is indeed a wonderful opportunity to preserve a site that was originally part of a 640-acre land grant provided to one of the earlier members of the Thompson family (of Thompson Lane fame) who served in the Revolutionary War in the late 18th century.

The pressing need to proceed with the building of long-awaited soundwalls along the westerly side of I-65, generally south of I-440 and north of Old Hickory Boulevard, primarily protecting our residential neighborhoods in that area. It is no secret that dealing over the years with the Tennessee Department of Transportation has been a frustrating experience. TDOT, when reviewing our requests for soundwalls, keeps referencing traffic studies of I-65 conducted 20 years ago as its criteria of measuring whether we "deserve" these walls. Do you agree that traffic has increased on I-65 since the mid-1980s? Compounding this is the recent announcement that \$66 million in Federal transportation monies will be cut from Tennessee. Thus our Board of Commissioners is now looking at viable alternatives, including bonding the project and building the walls ourselves, inside from the State property line. More on this later.

• Setting into motion an initiative to increase the overall police presence throughout our eight-square mile community, primarily for two key purposes:



BY BILL KRAUS

### Commissioners' meeting changed to April 24

The April meeting of the Board of Commissioners has been changed to Thursday, April 24, at 5 p.m. The meeting will be held in the City Hall office at 5548 Franklin Pike, Suite 102.

providing regularly scheduled night/early morning patrols to assist in increased protection of both life and property and serving as a successful deterrent to those who consider our residential streets to be part of the "Indianapolis Raceway." Naturally, there are no guarantees or assurances that added police service would automatically reduce either crime of traffic speeding... but it is an effort.

• In the next few months, you will all see the installation of new street signs at all of Oak Hill's 157 intersections. They give a quality character to our city streets, are much easier to read, and comply with recent changes in Federal standards governing street signs. I do think that you will like them, and will agree that they give added character to Oak Hill. *(See story on page 4.)* 

• I hope the two recently authorized tornado warning systems will be up and running by this summer. The City naturally hopes that we will never experience the ravages of areas caused by tornados, but this added insurance could, one day, protect the lives of all of our 4,800 residents as well as the 5,000-plus school children in our city on any given day, or the estimated 25,000-plus visitors we have in Oak Hill each week for church services and related activities. *(See story on page 1.)* 

Yet, we try never to lose focus on the day-to-day "housekeeping" responsibilities of your city government:

• We continue to work to ensure that our twice-per-week backdoor trash collection and monthly leaf and limb pickup continue to operate on an efficient, effective, and responsive level.

• When we do experience ice and snow in the winter months, we have crews quickly out on all 64 miles of Oak Hill streets to keep them passable.

• If we experience a downed tree in the public right-of-way during a storm condition, it is responded to immediately.

However, the single most important and highest priority we have is to serve you all with **friendly**, **responsive**, and **professional** service.

Related to that, would you believe that the City of Oak Hill:

• receives an estimated **12,000 telephone calls** per year, in a city of 1,800 homes?

mails out over 5,000 letters/notices annually?

• receives at our city offices approximately **3,000 visitors** yearly?

• gets more than **1,800** visitors to the website each month?

But we are not satisfied with providing a good job—we are committed to quality and excellence! Tomorrow shall be even better than today or yesterday. That is our pledge to you all.

# High Tree Party honors tree contest winners

The 21st annual High Tree Party celebrating Davidson County's biggest trees will be April 25 at 4 p.m. in Oak Hill at historic Glen Leven, 4000 Franklin Pike just south of Thompson Lane in Nashville.

The Glen Leven home was built in 1857 and remained in the Thompson family until 2006 when it was given to the Land Trust for Tennessee.

"The property has a number of very large trees, including one of the largest yellowwoods in the state," said arborist Dick Page, who surveyed the trees on the 65-acre estate for the Land Trust.

"Contest judges Shawn and Robin Bible will describe the winning trees in each category before awarding certificates to the nominators and owners," Foundation President Betty Brown said.

The winner of the Victor Johnson Award for contributions to Nashville's urban forest also will be announced. The award is named for the deceased president and chief executive officer of Aladdin Industries and a longtime resident of Oak Hill. The award commemorates the impact he had on Nashville's landscape by setting the standard for tree-friendly developers.

Everyone is invited to this unique event on National Arbor Day.

The Big Old Tree Contest is held every spring to create an inventory of the biggest trees in Davidson County. See more at nashvilletreefoundation.org.

### Garden Tour planned June 7

Three gardens in Oak Hill have been selected for the 2008 Seeds of Hope Garden Tour on June 7.

On this years tour are:

• The Tyne Boulevard

garden of Carol and Will Vance Amy and Frank Garrison's garden on Glen Leven Drive.

 The garden of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Lindley on Curtiswood Lane.

The annual tour benefits at-risk youths, ages 16–24, who reside at the non-profit Monroe Harding Campus at 1120 Glendale Lane in Oak Hill.

Advance tickets for the 10 a.m.-5 p.m. tour may be purchased online for \$12 by visiting **monroeharding.org** and clicking on events or by contacting Brandon Tisdale at Monroe Harding at 298-5573, ext. 115.

Other gardens included are:

• The Foxwood Road garden of Judith and James Humphreys.

• The garden of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Williams on Cantrell Avenue.

• The Princeton Avenue garden of Tracy and Greg Barton.

Other gardens may be added at a later date.

The residential programs at Monroe Harding help create independence for at-risk youths who have been removed from their homes because of abuse, neglect or minor behavioral problems.

#### 2008 CALENDAR

#### April 25 Spring Sam

Spring Sampler More than 25 demonstrators will bring the 19th century to life. Sponsored in part through a grant from the Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission. Travellers Rest Plantation and Museum 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Adults \$10, youth 4–16 \$5, children 3 and under free 636 Farrell Parkway, 832-8197

#### April 25

High Tree Party Celebrating winners of Nashville Tree Foundation Big Tree Contest 4 p.m. Historic Glen Leven 4000 Franklin Pike Free

#### June 1

Travellers Rest Music Festival Picnic on the lawn and enjoy music from Celtic to bluegrass to New Age. Travellers Rest Plantation and Museum 4–7 p.m. Adults \$12, youth 6–12 \$5, children 5 and under free 636 Farrell Parkway, 832-8197

#### June 7

Seeds of Hope Garden Tour Six gardens in Oak Hill, Belle Meade, Green Hills spotlighted 10 a.m.–5 p.m. \$12 in advance, \$15 day of tour Online at www.monroeharding.org/ events 298-5573 ext. 115—Brandon Tisdale

#### • June 10

**Oak Hill Election** Elect one commissioner for a four-year term 7 a.m.–7 p.m. Brentwood Hills Church of Christ 5120 Franklin Pike, 862-8800



### Meet the candidates for Board of Commissioners

### City awards contract for street sign replacements

All 157 street intersections throughout Oak Hill will have new street signs installed within the next three months, following the approval of a proposal for new signs by the City's Board of Commissioners.

Murrco Fabrication of Franklin was awarded a contract for the new signs, which are "decorative and unique" in style,

easy to read, and comply with recently changed Federal standards relating to street signage.

Many of the current street signs are over twenty years old, difficult to read, and significantly vary from street to street.

Four proposals were received by the Commissioners with the successful contractor providing "the most unique signage at the lowest overall price." Total cost for citywide improvements is \$175, 840, or \$10,000 lower than the 2007–2008 annual budget allocations.

It is hoped that the next step will be to develop entry signs at key intersections near Oak Hill's City limits.

Some of Oak Hill's street signs date from the 1950s.

#### THOMAS N. "TOMMY" JACOBS

JR., is running for reelection to the Oak Hill Board of Commissioners.

He has lived in Oak Hill since 2002. Jacobs lives at 4340 Prescott Road with his wife Rebecca Stone Jacobs.

They have three grown Thomas N. "Tommy" Jacobs children and four grandchildren.

Jacobs cites the special quality of the City of Oak Hill. "My platform is to serve the citizens of Oak Hill to the best of my ability and continue in my personal goal of keeping Oak Hill . . . Oak Hill," he said. "It must be the duty of each of the city's elected officials to continue to do everything in their power to see that the City of Oak Hill remains true to the principles upon which it was originally founded."

Jacobs retired from the Metro Police Department with 30 years of service. He now works as a consultant and special investigations coordinator for his son's private investigation company, The Jacobs Group.

Jacobs says his experience is an asset. "I have four years of experience as a Commissioner for the City of Oak Hill and thirty years of experience in public service as a peace officer—and a lifetime of personal experiences that, I believe, have combined to prepare me for the challenges of the office to which I seek re-election."

Jacobs has a degree in criminal justice from Aquinas College and a degree in human resource management from Trevecca University.

He's a lifelong member of Forest Hills United Methodist Church. As a police officer he was involved in the department's Christmas Basket Program and the Fraternal Order of Police's many worthwhile charities. He's a long-time supporter of the Salvation Army, a charity with which his family has long been associated.

"I am usually a man of few words and plain beliefs," Jacobs said. "I do not believe in talking a subject to death and I firmly believe that common sense and reason lead to both the right and best solution," he said.

Contact Jacobs at 837-9863 or email tommyjacobs@comcast.net. \*\*

Attorney **AUSTIN MCMULLEN** is running for the Oak Hill Board of Commissioners.

An Oak Hill resident for eight years, McMullen lives at 955 Greerland Drive with his wife Kelly and son Reagan, 2.

As a commissioner, McMullen says he would focus on quality of life in



Austin McMullen

Oak Hill. "I'm seeking the office of Commissioner because I want to work to preserve our quality of life in Oak Hill while also using a common sense approach to take advantage of opportunities for improving our community," he said. "Oak Hill is a special place for all of us, but as a father with a young family I want Oak Hill to be that same special place for our children and grandchildren.

McMullen is an attorney with Boult Cummings, with a practice that focuses on litigation and regulatory matters that often involve commercial finance or bankruptcy issues.

He earned his law degree from Vanderbilt University after taking undergraduate degrees in business administration and economics from Millsaps College.

"With my background in law and business, I will bring a critical eye to Oak Hill city contracts and budgetary issues," McMullen said. "Additionally, my practice is about bringing good judgment to bear on real world problems, and this skill is directly related to successfully serving our community as Commissioner."

McMullen serves as a deacon and Sunday school teacher at First Presbyterian Church. He's also involved in a number of other volunteer activities, including Habitat for Humanity, Room in the Inn, and Men of Valor.

"I'd like to use the office of Commissioner to work with my neighbors, bring common sense solutions to public problems and help build an even greater Oak Hill for the future," McMullen said. "I will preserve the residential character of our City, which was one of the very reasons Oak Hill was founded. I also want to enhance Oak Hill's distinctive characteristics and improve the visibility of Oak Hill in the community," he said.

Contact McMullen at 298-1492 or email austinmcmullen@comcast.net.



# An excellent insight into our current traffic issues

As you know, there has been significant discussion by many of our Oak Hill residents about current traffic issues, resulting in a number of meetings city-wide over the past several months.

We want to share portions of a letter recently received from Judy and Jay Orr, who have lived on Pleasant Valley Road for nearly 16 years. You can see the full text of their letter at oakhilltn.us/comcom\_orrletter.html

### On closing the Woodmont/Pleasant Valley intersection

"We want to emphatically state that we do NOT want the intersection of Woodmont and Pleasant Valley to be closed. We have lived here  $15\frac{1}{2}$  years now, and though we are familiar with the conditions you mention in your memo, we do not believe they warrant the closing of either end of Pleasant Valley. We use both ends equally, or perhaps the Woodmont end more so. In any case we believe it would be a significant inconvenience to have to exit our street by way of Crestridge every time. As long-time residents, we have never heard any neighbor describe a desire to close either end of our street. We do not know who on our street would be advocating this. We have not observed speeding to be a big problem, or seen excessive traffic on the street."

#### On traffic calming

"We would prefer that if traffic-calming methods are to be considered in Oak Hill, that the first priority be Caldwell Lane not Pleasant Valley. We could use some slowdown bumps, or other devices there. We hate to admit it, but Judy received a speeding ticket a year ago near General Bate Drive, doing 42 in a 30. It is just too easy to get your speed up too high along there."

#### TRAFFIC COUNT AND SPEED RANGES

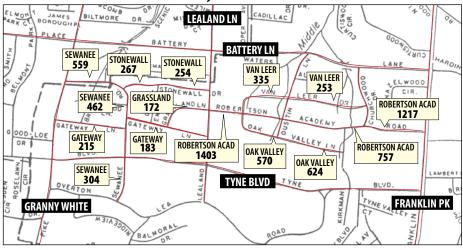
### Study examines speeding, traffic count in Oak Hill

The City of Oak Hill has completed a study of traffic patterns and vehicle speed on seven streets. The survey looked at Gateway, Grassland, Oak Valley, Robertson Academy, Sewanee, Stonewall, and Van Leer. Daily traffic on these streets ranged from more than 1,400 vehicles on one section of Robertson Academy to 172 on Grassland. Traffic was surveyed in November and December of 2007 during weekday periods. Surprisingly, speed was not an issue.

"There is not a widespread speeding problem on the streets where data were collected," said City Engineer Chad Collier. "Nearly two-thirds of vehicles were going between 21 and 35 miles per hour. One street, however, did see significant speed."

Collier said Oak Valley Lane is the only street where there was any measurable traffic going in excess of 40 miles per hour. Analysis of the hourly traffic data shows that this speeding is happening only during the peak hours in the morning from 7–8 a.m. and in the afternoon from 3–4 p.m. The traffic was counted in one-hour increments; that information is available from City Hall. The map below shows the streets surveyed and their traffic counts. The chart below has a breakout of speed ranges. "The City of Oak Hill would like to encourage all of us to do our part to try and curb speeding on every street," said City Manager Bill Kraus. 就

#### TRAFFIC HOTSPOTS: Weekday traffic count



				Speea Kanges (WPP)																
ROAD NAME	LOCATION	Traffic Count	0-	15	16-20		21-25		26-30		31-35		36-40		41-45		46-50		51-55+	
GATEWAY	WEST OF LEALAND DR	183	32	17.5%	18	9.8%	45	24.6%	57	31.1%	27	14.8%	4	2.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
GATEWAY LN. 2	EAST OF BROOKWOOD LN	215	21	9.8%	13	6.0%	48	22.3%	73	34.0%	51	23.7%	8	3.7%	0	0.0%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%
GRASSLAND DR	WEST OF LEALAND DR	172	17	9.9%	25	14.5%	73	42.4%	48	27.9%	9	5.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
OAK VALLEY LN	WEST OF DUSTIN LN	570	10	1.8%	36	6.3%	62	10.9%	178	31.2%	208	36.5%	70	12.3%	5	0.9%	0	0.0%	1	0.2%
OAK VALLEY LN 2	WEST OF CHURCHWOOD DR	624	5	0.8%	8	1.3%	25	4.0%	114	18.3%	234	37.5%	187	30.0%	44	7.1%	5	0.8%	2	0.4%
ROBERTSON ACADEMY RD	EAST OF CHURCHWOOD	1217	34	2.8%	23	1.9%	163	13.4%	526	43.2%	385	31.6%	75	6.2%	11	0.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
ROBERTSON ACADEMY RD 2	EAST OF DUSTIN LN	757	68	9.0%	44	5.8%	139	18.4%	331	43.7%	166	21.9%	7	0.9%	1	0.1%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%
ROBERTSON ACADEMY RD	WEST OF VAN LEER DR	1403	17	1.2%	34	2.4%	370	26.4%	760	54.2%	209	14.9%	13	0.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
SEWANEE RD	SOUTH OF GATEWAY	304	20	6.6%	53	17.4%	105	34.5%	85	28.0%	36	11.8%	4	1.3%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
SEWANEE RD	SOUTH OF STONEWALL	462	111	24.0%	101	21.9%	121	26.2%	105	22.7%	23	5.0%	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
SEWANEE RD	WEST OF KIRKMAN	559	62	11.1%	29	5.2%	111	19.9%	158	28.3%	159	28.4%	38	6.8%	1	0.2%	1	0.2%	0	0.0%
STONEWALL DR	WEST OF CLENDENIN ROAD	267	30	11.2%	42	15.7%	89	33.3%	87	32.6%	18	6.7%	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
STONEWALL DR	WEST OF LEALAND DR	254	15	5.9%	8	3.1%	28	11.0%	100	39.4%	85	33.5%	15	5.9%	3	1.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
VAN LEER DR.	WEST OF DUSTIN LN	335	53	15.8%	38	11.3%	103	30.7%	104	31.0%	36	10.7%	1	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
VAN LEER DR.2	WEST OF CHURCHWOOD DR	253	24	9.5%	44	17.4%	75	29.6%	71	28.1%	33	13.0%	6	2.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

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## CITY OF OAK HILL

5548 Franklin Pike #102 371-8291 fax 373-6886 After hours: 373-1608 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-Emergency Fire 327-1300 Non-Emergency Police 862-8600 West Sector Patrol 862-7747



#### **Board of Commissioners**

• **Approved** Resolution 08-1 and directed that application be made to the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance for the creation of a Proprietary Service Organization (PSO) allowing the City of Oak Hill to contract for police services.

• **Continued** Resolution 08-2 which would establish a Municipal Court for consideration at the April meeting.

• Awarded contract for \$175,840 for replacement of all street signs at 157 intersections in the city of Oak Hill to Murrco Fabrication of Franklin, Tennessee, one of four firms submitting proposals. The signs will have a design unique to Oak Hill, be easy to read, and give a uniform look to the City. The replacement signs will meet all new federal standards.

## • **Continued** to the April meeting Resolution 08-3 to establish fees for inspection of public works projects on non-public rights of way.

• **Continued** to the April meeting the consideration of the establishment of a historical district and Heritage Commission for the City of Oak Hill.

• **Approved** the acquisition of two tornado warning systems at a total cost of \$40,000 to add to Davidson County's 72 warning systems and to be placed in the central and southern areas of Oak Hill. The northern section is served by the warning system at Glendale School. The new warning systems will be installed, serviced, and operated by the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management.

• **Approved** Ordinance 08-1 on second reading authorizing the election of one commissioner June 10.

The Davidson County Election Commission advised that two candidates had qualified for commissioner: Vice Mayor Tommy Jacobs and attorney Austin McMullen.

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

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Commissioner election is June 10. See candidates' profiles on page 4.