

From the Mayor's Desk

Dale Grimes—Mayor

Greetings Oak Hill Neighbors and Friends! As Summer turns to Autumn, it is my pleasure once again to report to you about some of the highlights of the activities of the Oak Hill Board of Commissioners (BOC) and City government over the last quarter.



City Finances. The City ended the 2022-23 fiscal year on a positive note and adopted a budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year designed to do the same. Based on unaudited and possibly still incomplete numbers (due to timing issues) it appears that as of June 30 the City completed its last fiscal year with revenues of something under \$3.8 million and expenditures of approximately \$3.4 million for a positive net income in the neighborhood

of \$350,000. The City achieved this favorable outcome while fully funding City operations including the investment of well over a half million dollars toward the maintenance of our road infrastructure. For the current fiscal year, the BOC adopted a balanced budget that projects revenues of \$3,223,659 and expenditures of \$3,081,864, producing a small positive net revenue. Due to State of Tennessee rules, beginning this fiscal year the City must move garbage revenues and expenses to a separate budget to assure that fees collected from residents are spent for their intended purpose. That budget is projected to have revenues of \$555,000 and expenses of \$528,170.

Road Paving. After a number of years in which our roads did not receive sufficient attention, the City has placed a high priority on paving and maintaining them. Repaving occurred during late spring and summer on Norfleet, Brookhaven, Elysian Fields, Prescott, Dustin, and the intersection of Lealand and Tyne. In addition, the east end of Otter Creek Road, which had been in need of work for some time, has been repaved at a cost of around \$177,000. This did not rebuild and re-engineer the road as some have advocated, the cost of which could fall in the range of \$6-9 million. Even with the possibility of State support for such a project, Oak Hill would likely have still been on the hook for a 20% match. Moreover, our City Manager learned from State officials that obtaining State funding for Otter Creek is a several year process at best. As a result, the BOC decided to proceed with paving the road now before it suffered any further deterioration. In August, the BOC considered a "Pavement Management Program" recommended by the road study commissioned by the BOC in 2021. We expect future paving work to follow that program's recommendations.

Communications with City Staff. The City has invested in making it easier for citizens to use the City website to communicate with the staff about complaints, suggestions, and concerns. We believe this is the most effective way to make your concerns known. Look for the "Contact Us" tab on the website.

Other Business. The BOC is still working on potential revisions to the City Code, including the Zoning Ordinance, which we expect to begin rolling out later this Fall. Notice of these changes will be sent by mail to all citizens and a public hearing will be held during the formal review process. The Stormwater Study commissioned by the BOC has moved forward, although

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City of Oak Hill Yard Waste Collection Program



Regular yard waste collection is one the great advantages of living in the City of Oak Hill. Disposing of yard waste may seem simple, but it's important to know the rules of how the City operates this service.

Guidelines for Yard Waste:

- Place leaves, small clippings, and grass in paper bags.
- Bags cannot exceed 50 pounds.
- Do not place bagged leaves in roadways, ditches, or other drainage structures. Right-of-way typically extends 10 to 12 feet beyond the pavement and leaves will be collected anywhere within this area.
- Do not put dirt, rocks, or garbage (including flowerpots, papers, or animal feces) in leaf bags.
- Make sure there are no foreign objects or construction debris (metal, plastic, glass, etc.) in the material.
- Stack limbs and twigs with cut ends toward the street.
- Limbs should be stacked in a straight and orderly fashion.
- Limbs larger than 4 inches in diameter will not be collected.
- Do not leave materials with roots or dirtballs attached.
- The City will not collect materials prepared by outside contractors.
- Limbs larger than 4 inches in diameter will not be collected by the City and should be disposed of by

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October Community Day at The Land Trust's Glen Leven Farm

October 14th, 2023 • 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. CT

Free registration: <https://bit.ly/OctCD23>

It's fall, y'all! Bring a picnic and join us for a day of fun on the farm! We'll have tables, picnic blankets and lawn games. Take a walk on our 1.5-mile trail around the property, then cool off with complimentary Walker Brothers Kombucha. And of course, don't miss the chance to meet and greet our adorable miniature donkeys. This is a great chance to kick back and enjoy the beauty of the farm as we welcome the arrival of fall!

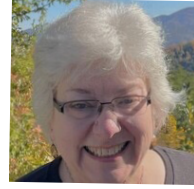
November Community Day at The Land Trust's Glen Leven Farm

November 4th, 2023 • 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. CT

Free registration: <https://bit.ly/NovCD23>

Join us for our last Community Day of the year! We're excited to welcome Nashville Tree Foundation as our special guests for a Saturday to appreciate all the beautiful fall colors on the farm! Go on a tour of our arboretum and meet our previous winners of the Big Old Tree Contest. Don't miss out on this opportunity to bask in the fall splendor! 🍂

Long time Oak Hill residents may remember the friendly voice answering the phones at the Oak Hill City Hall: "This is M.C." – aka Mary Clyde Sparks.



Sadly, Mary Clyde Sparks died August 12 at Alive Hospice in Murfreesboro after an extended illness.

A Nashville native, 61, M.C. was a graduate of Franklin Road Academy and University of the South in Sewanee, TN.

She served as Assistant City Manager of Oak Hill for 17 years.

Like many of us who needed a quick answer, we got it when we spoke with M.C. She knew all the restrictions, requirements, and every twist and turn of Oak Hill.

Mary Clyde was an active member of The Episcopal Church of the Advent -- across Franklin Road from the Oak Hill City Hall Office. Her funeral was held there on August 19.

The family suggested donations to Church of The Advent, Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem or the American Cancer Society. Condolences may be made online at Dock-Howell Funeral Home in Shelbyville, TN.

— Patty Outlaw 🍷

Root Nashville Tree Giveaway

Responding to the Cumberland River Compact's Root Nashville tree giveaway program, citizens of Oak Hill signed up to receive a total of 600 trees—10 times the City's original allocation. They will be planted next January. Many thanks to Jen Liepis, our Oak Hill local organizer.

How the Prothonotary Warbler Saved Radnor Lake

David DeMarco – Oak Hill Commissioner

The title of this article is perhaps a bit of hyperbole, but neither is it untrue. This article is based on the recollections of Keith Robinson who was the project manager for construction projects in the park for the State of Tennessee Department of Conservation in the 1970s.

Shortly after Radnor Lake was acquired in 1973 by the State of Tennessee, its earthen dam was inspected. The trees that had been allowed to grow on the downside of the dam had roots that, seeking water, created pathways through the dam which allowed some lake water to follow to the surface, resulting in multiple leaks. This effect is called "piping", and is why no one intentionally plants trees on an earthen dam. Radnor had decades of tree growth resulting from neglect of maintenance, and the whole "dry" side was perforated and wet from piping outflows, and the base of the dry side was a swampy bog.

Discovery of the dam's condition came not only from direct interest by the State of Tennessee in newly acquired property, but was also part of a larger statewide survey of small dams under the auspices of the Tennessee Safe Dams Act, which happened to coincide with the state's acquisition of the property.

The State's engineers felt that the lake should be drained and the dam removed. In addition to the fact that the dam was failing, the State's initial position was that the lake was a man-made project and not a natural part of what would be the State's first natural area. Draining the lake and removing the earthen dam would

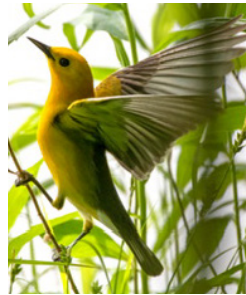


Photo: Nathan Collie
From his book *Moments with Birds*—Available at the Radnor Lake gift shop.

return the new park to its natural state.

This plan was met with much opposition, as you might expect. Several groups opposed the proposal. Finally, a local ornithological society reported that some of the trees on the dam were the only place in the area where the prothonotary warbler nested. This yellow and blue-gray bird inhabits wetland areas, and some nested in a large tree that stood on the downslope side of the dam at the intersection of the dam and Otter Creek

Road. This tree became known to some as the "Prothonotary Tree".

Ultimately, those opposing the removal of the dam won out over the State's engineers. So, in the late 1970s, the State decided to temporarily drain the lake to a level below the dam, reinforce the downside of the dam with additional soil, reinforce the lake side of the dam with many tons of clay, build a concrete retaining wall to prevent the lake from over-topping the dam in a flood, and to build a new spill way.

It's impossible to imagine the park without the lake. Hopefully, we will never have to.

* *Special thanks to Keith Robinson for the content of this article.*

From the Mayor's Desk

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not as quickly as hoped. Soon we expect an updated report and some specific recommendations from our consultant, Barge Design Services. The BOC intends to review and approve some new policies for the City, including a personnel policy and an investment management policy. The need to review and consider formal adoption of a traffic calming policy also came to the fore recently.

New Appointments. The BOC recently voted to reappoint Erik Milam to the Investment Advisory Committee until June 30, 2026. On the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA), Zach Baldwin completed his term and Matt Harris was appointed for a term ending June 30, 2026. At the Planning Commission (PC), Greer Tidwell and Flynn Doyle completed their terms. Deb Woolley and Hedy Morrison were appointed to terms ending August 31, 2026. Our deep gratitude to those who have completed their service and our new appointees. The City could not operate without willing and devoted volunteers who serve on our BZA, PC, and Investment Committee. Many thanks!

In Closing. Further details about the BOC's activities can be found in minutes as well as videos of our meetings on the City website at www.oakhilltn.us. Agendas for upcoming meetings are posted on the website in advance. We always welcome your questions, concerns, and suggestions, so please feel free to seek out any member of the BOC to discuss. Best wishes for a pleasant and enjoyable Autumn season. 🍁

Gardening for Monarch Butterflies

Every child who's had an environmental science class has learned about the life cycle of the Monarch Butterfly which includes caterpillars that eat milkweed plants, a mind-blowing metamorphosis from caterpillar to adult butterfly by way of a beautiful green chrysalis stage, and an outrageous journey that can be up to 3,000 miles long for some individual butterflies!

In late August and September migrating Monarch Butterflies travel south to the Sierra Madre mountains of Mexico to escape the cold weather of North America. In the spring Monarch butterflies rest and stop along their journey to lay eggs which then become several generations of butterflies that travel north for the summer months. That is when the variety of milkweed plants becomes so very important in the aforementioned life cycle. Different varieties of milkweed start growing at different times of the season thus offering fresh new leaves for egg-laying throughout the spring.

Milkweed (Asclepias) gets its name from the sap of some varieties that contains a milky white substance called latex which makes eating a milkweed a very tricky and sticky business. Monarch caterpillars are particularly adept at chewing through the major vein of these leaves to cut off the flow of sap, and this allows them to enjoy as much of a leaf as they can eat. These caterpillars have also evolved to digest the toxins found in their milkweed host plants. And while the adult Monarch Butterfly can drink nectar from many different kinds of flowers, the Monarch caterpillar can't

Yard Waste

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your contractor in a timely manner.

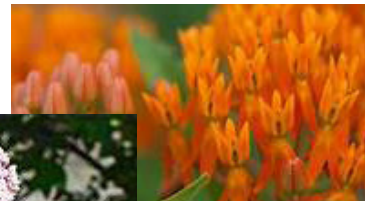
- Since this service is intended for routine yard maintenance, the maximum quantity that will be collected in one month is approximately 15 feet long, 6 feet wide, and 5 feet high.
- Service is provided once per month with the date dependent upon the zone collection schedule.
- We provide monthly service for chipper pickup. For your neighborhood collection schedule, visit: oakhilltn.us.



Let's all help Keep Oak Hill Beautiful! 🍁



eat anything but a milkweed plant!
In other words:
No Milkweeds; No Monarchs!



For those interested in helping the Monarch Butterflies as they journey through our yards, milkweed come in many varieties – some tall and rangy and others shorter and perhaps more suitable for a Nashville flower border. The smaller kinds include Whorled Milkweed and Butterfly Weed. For the more adventurous gardener, the Rose Milkweed and Common Milkweed are taller, more exuberant plants that mix well with grasses like Little Bluestem and Switchgrass. An added attribute of Common Milkweed is its delightful fragrance that attracts butterflies and people equally well!

Be sure to check your favorite local nursery for milkweed plants this fall.

Happy Gardening! Marian Tidwell 🍁

Visit us at: oakhilltn.us

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Our goal is to eventually make the *Oak Hill News* available only in electronic form. If you wish to subscribe to this publication and receive additional important updates on Official City Business, please scan the QR code below or visit our website —*Thank you.*



Do we need to update your mailing information? If so, please email any corrections to cityadmin@oakhilltn.us.

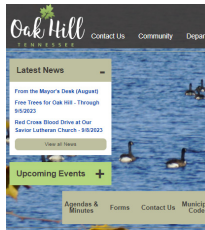
How to contact the City of Oak Hill

For any urgent emergency situation, call 911 immediately.

If you can't find what you are looking for on the City website (oakhilltn.us) via the search bar or through the tabs, don't hesitate to contact us!

At the top and bottom on the Home page of the website, there is an icon on the menu bars that reads **CONTACT US**. Click this icon and it will take you to the *Submit a Request* form that you can complete and send to the City, when you click the *Submit* button.

For a directory of City contacts and Public Services, select **Directory**. Here you can find all manner of assistance and contacts throughout the City and Metro.



City of Oak Hill Staff
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Victoria Talbott, Office Manager/City Court Clerk
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Desiree Lohr, Administrative Assistant
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Tommy Campsey, Safety Coordinator
safetycoordinator@oakhilltn.us

City of Oak Hill Boards and Commissions

Board of Commissioners

Regular Meetings—6:00 pm the 4th Tuesday of every month at the Oak Hill City Office

Members	Commission Term:
Dale Grimes , Mayor	2022-2026
Winston Evans , Vice Mayor	2020-2024
David DeMarco , Commissioner	2020-2024
Joy O'Dell , Commissioner	2022-2026
Scott Price , Commissioner	2022-2026

Board of Zoning Appeals

Regular Meetings—6:00 pm the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Oak Hill City Office

Members	Term Expires:
Chris Taylor , Chair	June 30, 2025
Kathryn Booth	June 30, 2025
Mary Catherine Bradshaw	June 30, 2024
Chris Goetz	June 30, 2024
Matt Harris	June 30, 2026

Planning Commission

Regular Meetings—6:00 pm the 1st Tuesday of every month at the Oak Hill City Office

Members	Term Expires:
Wade Hill , Chair	August 31, 2025
Robert Diehl , Vice Chair/Secretary	August 31, 2024
Mitch Barnett	August 31, 2025
Michael Barry	August 31, 2024
Winston Evans	August 31, 2024
Dale Grimes	August 31, 2024
Hedy Morrison	August 31, 2026
Shali Scott	August 31, 2024
Deb Woolley	August 31, 2026