

Oak Hill news

JULY 2007

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NEWS FLASH

Oak Hill expresses interest in Glen Leven

The Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to prepare a proposal to acquire the historic Glen Leven home and its surrounding 65 acres at 4400 Franklin Pike from the Land Trust for Tennessee.

The historic property, dating back to an 18th century 640-acre land grant provided by the Continental Congress, was bequeathed to the Land Trust by the late Susan M. West.

The property includes the home, originally built in the 1840's, smoke house, carriage house, spring house, and farm office as well as 65 acres of land.



David Briley



Bob Clement



Karl Dean



Buck Dozier



Ken Eaton



Howard Gentry



Cheryl Lynn Tisdale

Mayoral candidates to speak at July 16 forum

Oak Hill residents can see and hear the candidates for the office of mayor of Nashville at the Monday, July 16 forum in the City. The event begins at 7 p.m. at the Brentwood Hills Church of Christ, 5120 Franklin Pike.

The City of Oak Hill, in partnership with the five other independent cities of Davidson County—Belle Meade, Berry Hill, Forest Hills, Goodlettsville, and Lakewood—is sponsoring this forum to hear the candidates' views on the future of Metro, its current charter, and ways to improve communications and working relationships between all seven local governments.

All seven candidates have accepted invitations to attend, including David Briley, Bob Clement, Karl Dean, Buck Dozier, Ken Eaton, Howard Gentry, and Cheryl Lynn Tisdale.

Dr. Ann-Marie Rizzo, director of the Institute of Government at Tennessee State University, will serve as the forum's moderator.

Questioning the candidates initially will be Oak Hill Mayor Tommy Alsup II, Forest Hills Mayor Charles Evers, Belle Meade Mayor George Crook, Berry Hill

Mayor Harold Spray, Lakewood Mayor Jeff Thompson, and Vice Mayor John Finch of Goodlettsville. Members of the audience will be able to ask questions after the mayors.

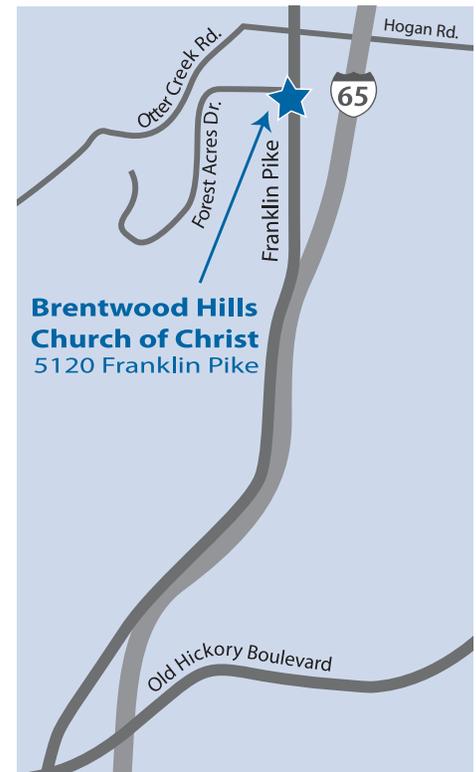
The overall theme of the candidates' forum is "A Vision for Our Area" with specific reference to such questions as:

- How can Metro Government take tangible steps to improve communications and working relationships with the six independent cities of Davidson County, including Oak Hill?

- What is the possibility that the 1963 charter creating the consolidation of the city of Nashville and Davidson County will be reviewed and possibly revised after being in existence nearly 45 years?

- Are there specific areas that Metro and the independent cities can explore that will provide added services to local residents, such as Oak Hill's being able to contract with Metro Police for added services—including neighborhood patrol and increased traffic enforcement—at a more "reasonable government rate of payment" than the existing \$67.00 per hour rate for one officer/one car?

With the Metro elections in early August, this will be an outstanding opportunity for Oak Hill residents to see and hear the candidates first-hand. 🌿



To attend the forum, please follow this map to Brentwood Hills Church of Christ.

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

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 Oak Hill . . . a little bit of heaven tucked here on earth

If you have been on-going readers of this column, you know that in these past four years my wife, Barbara, and I have been residents of Oak Hill. We have come to love and treasure this community, including the many, many wonderful people whom we have had the opportunity to get to know! In addition, the total beauty of this eight-square mile "gem" never ceases to amaze us, continually fueling our passion to preserve Oak Hill as an oasis of lovely, well-maintained homes on lots that let you breathe.

Just when I think I've seen it all, several Sunday afternoons ago, we saw right here in Oak Hill that "little bit of Heaven" tucked right here in Middle Tennessee.

We had the unique opportunity to take part in the eighth

annual Garden Tour put on by the Mid-South Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America, of which I serve as a member of the board of directors. Known as "Down the Garden Path," this yearly fund-raiser selects a number of Davidson County residences that open up their yards for visitors to view the creativity and beauty of home gardening and landscaping. Of the eight homes selected this year for the tour, three of the gardens were within Oak Hill, and the fourth was just outside our city limits.

Words cannot describe what all four Oak Hill area gardens and grounds looked like on that beautiful Sunday afternoon. We have traveled to see a number of institutional gardens in California, including the world-famous Huntington Library in

CITY



BY BILL KRAUS

CORNER

Pasadena, and in England, both in London and the countryside. I can well assure you that Oak Hill does not have to take second best to anywhere else.

Our first stop was the Glen Leven Drive home of Amy and Frank Garrison, whose 4.5-acre property was described in the tour's brochure as "sophisticated, including a growing sculpture collection and performance lawn for croquet and other games." To say that the Garrison home and grounds was a "showstopper" would not give it appropriate credit. If I were attempting to persuade long-time California friends who live in such communities



Sherre and Daniel Phillips of Tyne Boulevard are the owners of this exquisite garden. The ice house in the background was part of the original Lealand plantation. Before refrigeration was available, ice houses would help keep perishables fresh, well into the summer.

as Beverly Hills, South Pasadena, Newport Beach, or Palos Verdes Estates to take one look at this Oak Hill home, they would give serious thought to relocating east 2,000 miles.

Needless to say, visiting the rear yard of Margaret and Patrick Boyd at their gracious home on Granny White Pike is always a fantastic experience. Not only is the beauty an inspiration, but what was amazing to Barbara and me was how the Boyds maximized their entire 1.5 acres with well-planned formal and informal settings, indeed giving the impression that their property was somehow much larger in size.

Equally amazing was the fact that Margaret (with the very able assistance of Patrick) totally takes care of this garden herself. The landscaping includes “. . . an English parterre-style bed, a beautiful stream, a vegetable garden, and a conservatory greenhouse.” Margaret, for those of you who do not know, earned the title of “Master Gardener” some time ago.

Sherre and Daniel Phillips are in the process, and very successfully, I might add, of creating a gorgeous garden at their Tyne Boulevard home, which was once a part of the historic Lealand Plantation. The Phillipses have successfully integrated their outside with this French-style country estate, whose roots go back to the 1840s. This home and its history are one of those many “best-kept secrets” that can be found throughout Oak Hill.

Right outside Oak Hill was the last home we visited—the Sewanee Road residence of Margaret and John Siegrist. Their garden was described as “fine collection of English shrub roses sprinkled throughout a border and numerous vibur-

nums, native azaleas, and wildflowers.” My impression? “Very comfortable” and reflective of a homeowner’s dedication and commitment to pride of property ownership.

We have an on-going number of challenges and opportunities here in Oak Hill, including but not limited to:

- Striving to prevent a developer immediately adjacent to the southeastern corner of Oak Hill from constructing an office building on the old “fruit stand” property on Franklin Pike, just north of Old Hickory Boulevard.

- Determining the future role, direction, and preservation of the historical Glen Leven Estate on 65-plus acres at the northern area of Oak Hill. This Oak Hill treasure was willed last year by the late Susan West to the Land Trust for Tennessee.

- Ensuring that the City of Oak Hill receives its fair distribution of public funds from the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, as well as an equitable level of public services, includ-

ing police and fire.

- Dealing with the complexities of the bureaucracy of the Tennessee Department of Transportation as we go step by step (sometimes it seems inch by inch) to successfully ensure the building of a long-awaited sound barrier along the west side of I-65, giving necessary relief to the hundreds of our fellow residents who live between Franklin Pike and the Interstate.

- Dealing with the ever-present pressures of outside developers who would get great pleasure in turning Oak Hill into another Green Hills “planner’s nightmare.”

But as I turn my mind and thoughts away from these current issues to what we have right here in Oak Hill as clearly evidenced by our recent journey to “a little bit of heaven,” I am so very confident that this city will indeed prevail in all of its efforts to protect its environment, its fiscal integrity, its marvelous beauty, its community safety, and most importantly, its reason for being! 🌿

Kraus gains two leadership roles

City Manager Bill Kraus was recently selected to serve in two leadership roles with area professional organizations.

Dr. Kraus was named president-elect of the Tennessee Political Science Association, which comprises educators and public managers from throughout the state. He will be responsible primarily for developing and managing the TPSA’s annual seminar slated to be held at Fall Creek Falls State Park in April 2008.

He was also chosen to serve as President-elect of the Tennessee Chapter of the American Society of Public Administrators, which represents the academic and professional management community statewide in educational programs.

Dr. Kraus was among others inducted into the National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration, Pi Alpha Alpha, at recent ceremonies at the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel. 🌿

Early voting information

Friday, July 13, through Tuesday, July 17

Early voting only at the Davidson County Election Commission
800 2nd Avenue South
8 a.m.-6 p.m. except on Saturday, 8 a.m.-noon.
Closed on Sunday

Wednesday, July 18, through Saturday, July 28

Early voting at all locations
Monday-Friday: 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday, July 21: 8 a.m.-noon
Saturday, July 28: 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

- Belle Meade City Hall, 4705 Harding Road
- Bellevue Mall, 7620 Highway 70 South, Suite 194
- Bordeaux Library, 4000 Clarksville Pike
- Election Commission, 800 2nd Ave. South
- Edmondson Pike Library, 5501 Edmondson Pike
- Green Hills Library, 3801 Benham Ave
- Hermitage Library, 3700 James Kay Lane
- Hickory Hollow Mall, 5252 Hickory Hollow Parkway, Suite 2071
- Madison Library, 610 Gallatin Pike South
- Rivergate Mall Area, A-7, 2066 Gallatin Pike

Historic Homes OF Oak Hill

Share your stories

We are compiling articles about the history of Oak Hill, and we need your help. If you have memories, clippings, or old photos of Oak Hill, please share them. Send your information to Joan Armour at joan@armour-armour.com or call 373-2349.



2007 CALENDAR

- **July 13-28**
Metropolitan General Election
Early voting (see page 3)
- **August 2**
Metropolitan General Election
7 a.m.–7 p.m.
- **August 5**
Purity Miss Martha's Ice Cream Crankin'
Old-fashioned Sunday Social with all the homemade ice cream you can eat plus entertainment
4–6 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church grounds
4815 Franklin Pike
\$8 per person, children under 2 free
- **August 23**
Spotlight on Local History: Glen Leven
Free program highlights the fascinating past and future plans for one of Nashville's most interesting cultural resources and a major Civil War site.
6:30–8 p.m.
Travellers Rest Plantation
636 Farrell Parkway
Free
832-8197



Wild phlox planted by Elizabeth Thompson Kennon shortly after the house at 780 Norwood Drive was built in 1940 still bloom every year as in this photo taken this past spring.

Norwood Drive: The street, the name, the history

Carol Kennon Dick

There is a small street in Oak Hill named Norwood Drive. It's just off Franklin Pike about three miles south of downtown Nashville. It began in the 1930s and was considered "out in the country." *Country* it was, with open pastures and large old trees and a site to build beautiful stately homes. Most people never really noticed it or knew it existed and many times drove down it only to find it led them nowhere. Its later history would change all that, and it would become a street of controversy in Oak Hill. Let's forget all that and go back in time to its beginning and how it got its name.

Elizabeth Thompson was the youngest daughter of Mary and John Thompson and was born at Glen Leven, the Thompson ancestral home on Franklin Pike, in 1892. She recalled her days growing up there and would often tell the story of running down the hill from the house to Franklin Pike because the most exciting thing to happen was when a horse-drawn buggy would be making its way up the dirt pike going south and another going north. The two buggies would meet and one would have to pull off the road to let the other by. It's hard to imagine that today!

Elizabeth grew up and married Dr. William Kennon. They lived in downtown Nashville on 23rd Avenue but later, around 1939, decided to build a home on land that she inherited from her parents. This land was part of Glen Leven, which was originally given to her great-grandfather, Thomas Thompson,

for his services as a soldier in the American Revolution. She had grown up on this land, and it meant a great deal to her. She and her husband built a beautiful Federal Style home on the little street they named Norwood Drive.

The house was built by Warfield and Keeble, one of the best architectural firms in Nashville. They used handmade brick that was salvaged from old buildings that were being torn down around the Court House in downtown Nashville. Elizabeth attended to every detail. Her greatest love was gardening, and with her friend and fellow gardener, Mrs. Harry Howe, whose garden now resides at Cheekwood, they shared plants, flowers, and gardening ideas. She created a formal perennial garden and a wooded wildflower garden that still flourish today on Norwood Drive.

Elizabeth decided to subdivide her property and from 1940 to the early '50s eight beautiful homes were built on Norwood.

Seventy years have passed, and the street has undergone some changes, although driving down it today you may not notice. It has retained its "out in the countryside" feel. The large landscaped lawns and wooded areas make it that way. Oh, the street is wider now, and no longer gravel. There is a traffic light at the end on Franklin Pike. The buggies are long gone. The controversy that had a lot of people in Oak Hill up in arms, the building of Father Ryan High School 15 years ago at the end of Norwood, has passed. What a lovely campus they have, and how pleased



The Board of Zoning Appeals

- Approved a request from Bill McCarty, 848 Battery Lane, to allow construction of a new residence, which would violate the side setback by approximately five feet.
- Continued request from First Presbyterian Church, 4815 Franklin Pike to allow addition of wireless service in the existing church steeple.
- Approved request from Mr. and Mrs. John Dorris, 933 Robertson Academy Road to allow construction of a new patio.
- Approved request from Joe Thompson, 850 Glendale Lane, to allow construction of a new carport.
- Denied request from Woodmont Hills Church of Christ, 3710 Franklin Pike, to allow updating of the conditional use permit to include the purchase of new property for church uses.
- Continued a request from Mr. and Mrs. Ray Watt, 4010 Newman Place, to allow construction of a second story.
- Continued a request from John Overton High School, 4820 Franklin Pike, to allow updating of conditional use permit for construction of and changes to parking and driving pavement areas.

The Planning Commission

- Approved request by Graham Baker, 1175 Travelers Ridge Drive, to review the request to construct a new residence in a designated steep slope area.
- Approved request by Greg Sassman, 1179 Travelers Ridge Drive, to construct a new residence on a steep slope lot.
- Approved preliminary subdivision plan requested by Linda Van Becelaere, 5212 Granny White Pike, to review the request for a new subdivision.
- Continued discussion on revised sign ordinance governing schools and churches.
- Continued study of area west of Franklin Pike, north of Old Hickory Boulevard, east of Hillview Drive, and south of Redwood Drive for residential preservation.
- Approved a request by Carlton Tarkington, 132 Woodward Hills Place, to combine two pieces of property, one being a small parcel of approximately .17 acres being sold to the homeowner at the rear of the property.

The Board of Commissioners

- Approved 2007/2008 annual budget as presented on second reading.
- Approved Civic Bank and Trust, 1798 West End Avenue, to provide financial services to the City of Oak Hill for one year beginning June 1, and approved resolution authorizing signatures on the financial accounts of the City of Oak Hill.
- Deferred consideration of bids to develop a turn lane at Tyne Boulevard and Franklin Pike until construction nears completion at First Presbyterian Church and Judson Baptist Church.

- Approved on second reading rezoning properties in the Curtiswood Lane area.
- Continued indefinitely review of information regarding Architectural Design Review.
- Heard report that a valuation of building permits is expected to set all time high record by the conclusion of the fiscal year June 30.
- Approved on second reading Ordinance 07-3 updating list of financial institutions that may be utilized by City of Oak Hill.
- Continued proposal from Armour&Armour for an historical publication on the theme "Oak Hill: Proud of Our Past, Confident of Our Future."
- Established a matching fund for Right-of-Way Beautification of up to \$1000 per year for each homeowners association or neighborhood/community groups in existence for at least five years.
- Approved publishing a legal notice in newspapers of general circulation concerning the possibility of a moratorium on development of properties within the current Steep Slope and Radnor Lake Impact Zone Ordinances.
- Authorized city attorney to institute possible litigation on several cases including:
 - Mark Marshall's proposal to build a two-story office building on Franklin Pike immediately outside the City of Oak Hill
 - State of Tennessee relating to construction of sound walls along I-65
 - Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County to secure sales tax monies credited by the state to the city of Oak Hill, for clarification on whose responsibility it is to deliver certain public services, and to collect the \$88,000 due in distribution of road funds for 2006-2007 fiscal year. ❄️

Norwood Drive continued from previous page

Elizabeth Thompson Kennon would have been to know how well her land has served Nashville and Oak Hill.

I promised to tell you how Norwood Drive was named. Elizabeth's husband William, whom she loved dearly, came from an old home in Virginia. The 200-year-old home named "Norwood" still stands right outside of Richmond on the James River. Together, Elizabeth and William created Norwood Drive, a place full of happy memories for many families and students. It's a

wonderful little street in our great Oak Hill Community. 🌿

Editor's Note: Carol Kennon Dick, the granddaughter of Elizabeth Thompson Kennon, has lived on Norwood Drive all her life, first at 765 Norwood with her parents Carolyn and Bill Kennon. She and her family have lived in the house her grandmother built at 780 Norwood Drive for the past 26 years. The house is now for sale as she and her husband "downsize," a move she says is "hard to do."

QUICK CALL LIST



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 Lawn care
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

Be sure you have a permit to work on your house

A well-known Middle Tennessee roofing contractor began a roof replacement on an Oak Hill home recently without first securing a building permit that resulted in a Stop-Work Notice being placed on the job.

Before proceeding with a significant improvement on your home, be sure to first determine whether a permit is required.

The primary reason for a building permit is to protect you, the resident of this community. This allows the inspection of the job underway in order to insure that the work is being done properly, professionally, and safely.

Without a permit, it is very possible that work on your home can:

- Create potentially dangerous, and possibly even fatal, consequences for you and your loved ones, i.e., faulty electrical installations;

- Cause future serious problems if roofs are not installed properly, resulting in having to remove the entire roof and wasting thousands of your dollars.

Whenever you are deciding to improve or repair your house, check first with City Hall at 371-8291 to determine whether a permit is required. Bill Burdette, chief building official, is available to provide friendly and helpful suggestions..

Remember, ALL building permits within the city limits of Oak Hill are issued only by the City of Oak Hill, not Metro codes. 🌿

Official Publication City of Oak Hill

5548 Franklin Pike
Suite 102
Nashville TN 37220



Ask landscapers not to park in the street right-of-way

An urgent request for all Oak Hill residents!

If you utilize a landscape/yard maintenance contractor, we would be most grateful if you would advise them not to park their trucks in traffic lanes on local streets.

As is typical at this time of year, we are currently experiencing lawn maintenance trucks and trailers/flatbeds parked literally in one of the two travel lanes of our streets while the contractor works at the property. Recently we have nearly had traffic accidents as cars attempted to go beyond the parked truck, only to almost experience a head-on collision with a vehicle coming in the other direction.

Please advise your maintenance contractor that the travel lanes of ALL Oak Hill streets are to remain open at all times, and not serve as parking areas. 🌿

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