

Oak Hill news

FEB
2008

NEWS FLASH

Keep vehicles safe from burglars

If you park your car or truck outside at night, be aware of burglars who target vehicles late in the evening hours or early morning.

Park in a lighted area, either where flood lights are kept on all night or where you have installed a sensor light. Keep your vehicles locked at all times. Do not keep anything of value in your parked vehicles, including tools, gifts and electronics like computers or cell phones.

If you see any suspicious activity whatsoever, call 911 immediately.

Report all crimes to police

It is important that residents report all crimes, including burglaries and vehicle break-ins, as the number of crimes reported from Oak Hill affects responses by Metro police.

Call the West Sector Patrol at **862-7747**. The non-emergency number is **862-8600**.

Commissioners focus on traffic, police protection

The need for more traffic enforcement and other “traffic calming” measures to slow speeding cars through residential streets and increased neighborhood police patrols was discussed extensively at the January 17 meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

City Engineer Chad Collier reported on the results of a recently completed traffic study that primarily focused on residential streets within the area bordered by Granny White Pike, Tyne Boulevard, Franklin Pike, and Battery Lane.

Collier is preparing written copies of the data that showed that excessive speed was recorded for 5% to 30% of the total volume of traffic measured.



All citizens who have communicated with the City of Oak Hill in recent months about traffic issues will be contacted to set up individual or neighborhood meetings to review the individual street data and discuss viable alternatives to resolve the problems, said City Manager Bill Kraus.

If you are interested in scheduling an individual appointment or neighborhood meeting, call Kraus at 371-8291.

He emphasized that no significant solutions will be instituted until affected

neighbors are notified and hearings scheduled to allow for citizen input.

See page 3 for possible solutions. Visit oakhilltn.us/comcom.html to see what your neighbors are saying about traffic problems.

More police presence needed

Related to the traffic issue was the need for additional police presence throughout the community, both for traffic enforcement and regular neighborhood patrol.

The Board of Commissioners

requested City Attorney Robert Note-tine to review a recent communication from the Metropolitan Nashville Davidson County Police concerning the possibility of contracting for a “dedicated patrol car” in Oak Hill at certain hours to provide these services.

The city attorney’s study will include the legal structure for implementing this type of contract and the city’s liability insurance coverage. He is expected to have his report completed by the February 21 meeting of the Board of Commissioners. 🌿

City can’t stop Conservation Hall construction

The City of Oak Hill consulted extensively with numerous attorneys and other experts on its legal standing to halt construction of Conservation Hall at the Governor’s Residence.

All of our advisors reached the same conclusion: There is no way for the City to stop the project without action from state legislators, said Mayor Tommy Alsup. “We could file suit for a temporary halt, but our experts say even that would delay the project for only a few days.”

Given the Governor’s determination to go ahead with the construction—even in the face of overwhelming public opposition from Oak Hill

residents and other Tennessee taxpayers—and the belief that the State has the ultimate authority to override a City government, the Board of Commissioners determined not to take legal action at this time.

“We will, of course, reserve the right to take actions in the future as the project unfolds, and we continue to look at every angle,” Mayor Alsup said.

The City of Oak Hill will supervise the project and take every action in its power to protect the safety and rights of residents with regard to excavation, property damage, and infrastructure deterioration. 🌿

City of Oak Hill

Mayor

Tommy Alsop
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 Engineer

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

Time for a little 'lightness' during winter's darkness

It goes without saying that the past several months have been a little frustrating, to put it mildly. Dealing with the very controversial proposal to expand the Governor's Residence by more than double to allow for the construction of a 14,000-square-foot Conservation Hall had its "peak days" and "low days" for all of us involved in this issue. Many felt that truth, wisdom, and just plain good old-fashioned common sense by the state's decision-makers would indeed ultimately prevail. Alas, at the end of the day, the state architect's plan appears to be going forward.

We sincerely thought that the major concerns about building this multi-million dollar meeting facility in the middle of a very quiet and peaceful residential neighborhood, expressed by literally thousands of citizens throughout Tennessee, would have some impact on both the executive and legislative branches of state government. Attending hearings on the land-use and financial feasibility of this purely commercial usage of the Governor's Residence at both the State Building Commission and the joint Fiscal Review Committee of the State Senate and General Assembly were futile.

The lighter side

Please allow me to be a little "lighter" than normal as spring time is getting closer with new buds of life and longer days for us all.

It was Sunday when the brain surgeon discovered a huge leak in his basement. He rushed upstairs and called the plumber. "AAA Plumbing? This is an emergency. Get over here."

"Okay, but I charge extra for Sunday emergency service," replied the plumber.

"Anything. Just come and stop the leak," said the panicked surgeon.

The plumber arrived, took a tiny wrench from his bag, and lightly tapped the pipe. The leak stopped and he handed the relieved surgeon a bill for \$500.

"What," screamed the surgeon. "This is unbelievable! Why, I'm a brain surgeon and I don't make \$500 for two minutes' work."

"I know," agreed the plumber. "Neither did I when I was a brain surgeon!"

From the files

Signs of our current times...

- You have a list of 15 numbers to reach your family of three.
- You e-mail your buddy who works at the desk next to you.
- You try to enter your password on the microwave.
- You chat several times a day with a stranger from South America, but haven't spoken to your next-door neighbor in years.
- You've sat at the same desk for five years and worked for three different companies.

Did you know...

In one day, the average adult:

- Speaks 48,000 words
- Exercises 7,000,000 brain cells
- Takes 23,000 breaths
- Laughs 15 times
- Has 104,000 heart beats

We refuse to be complacent

If you have been reading this column over time, you are no doubt aware that Oak Hill preservation and citizen service is our mantra, our focus, and our passion. Unfortunately, we don't always succeed in these areas as so clearly evidenced by the expansion of the Governor's Residence. But, we never can stop working toward these two vital goals. If ever there was an issue for which complacency could be our worst enemy, the recent events we experienced could be it. When it comes to citizen service, we refuse to be complacent—citizen satisfaction through a smile, a thank you, and, when necessary, a heartfelt "I'm sorry."

Finally a special thank you to one of our residents who lives on Ragland Drive, who shared the following during the recent days of the "stormy winter":

"You only get flak when you're over the target."

'Til later
Bill Kraus

CITY



BY BILL KRAUS

CORNER

Write in 1907 on your income tax return

Be sure your state income tax return contains "City of Oak Hill" and **1907**, the four-digit location code.

This is necessary for the city to receive its due portion of various local and state taxes including Hall Income Tax. These annual reimbursements fund the city's operating budget, which includes services for garbage pickup, leaf and limb removal, and street maintenance. 🌿



Traffic islands are one solution to speeding problems.

Citizens offer solutions to traffic concerns

Several solutions have been suggested to alleviate traffic concerns raised by residents in recent months.

"I am increasingly worried about the speed at which people drive," wrote one resident.

Suggestions range from the installation of signage to more drastic corrections including narrowing streets by creating landscaped islands in the middle, "roundabouts," and cul-de-sacs.

Residents have also requested:

- Lower speed limits
- Increased police visibility
- Speed bumps or speed dips
- Reducing access to local schools on residential streets
- "Bump dots"
- Landscaped roundabouts or traffic islands 🌿

Please don't dump in drainage areas

Unfortunately, Oak Hill residents sometimes will dump leaves, limbs, and other debris in natural drainage areas.

When such dumping occurs, it makes it very difficult for rain water to flow, thus impacting the appropriate run-off in

Oak Hill neighborhoods.

If you have landscaping/yard maintenance contractors taking care of your property, the company is required to remove all debris rather than leaving it curbside. 🌿

City supports placement of two historic markers

The City of Oak Hill is supporting the installation of two historic markers to be placed on Granny White Pike.

The City filed letters of financial support to the Metro Historical Commission as part of the application process submitted by Sherre Phillips, current president of the Lealand Plantation Garden Club, and Jim Kay, president of the Battle of Nashville Preservation Society.

The marker for Lealand Plantation will be placed at the original entrance to the plantation on Gateway Lane at Granny White Pike.

The marker providing historic designation for the pre-Civil War stone wall running along Granny White Pike will be installed in front of Margaret and Patrick Boyd's home at 4708 Granny White Pike. 🌿



This stone wall on Granny White Pike dates to before the Civil War.

Oak Hill to replace street signs

The Oak Hill Board of Commissioners will be calling in February for design proposals to replace all of the City's street signs at Oak Hill's 157 intersections.

Many of the existing signs throughout the community are "showing their wear,"

and the new "state of the art" signs will be much easier to read, both by emergency vehicles and visitors.

Proposals for "Welcome the Oak Hill" signs will also be considered for placement at seven entrances to the City. 🌿

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 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 Zoning Appeals

● **Approved** a request by Carl Soderquist, 5628 South Hillview Drive, to build a swimming pool, deck, and cabana addition

● **Approved** construction of a new residence at 950 Van Leer Drive, submitted by John Young, with condition that three sheds at back of property be removed.

Planning Commission

● **Confirmed** the front yard setback of 75 feet on a lot owned by Ray Harris on Green Valley Drive, replacing a 200-foot sewer easement placed on the vacant site many years ago prior to the installation of sewers in this neighborhood.

Board of Commissioners

● **Directed** City Engineer to provide written report on data collected from recent traffic study of streets in area bordered by Granny White Pike, Tyne Boulevard, Franklin Pike, and Battery Lane. Meetings then will then be scheduled for individuals and neighborhoods to discuss possible solutions.

● **Learned** there was no news on the status of the bid for the Glen Leven property.

● **Passed** on second and final reading Ordinance 07-03 designating using banks chartered in Davidson County.

● **Heard** that the latest communication from Tennessee Department of Transportation said that “under existing policy the proposed sound wall along I-65 in Oak Hill would qualify.” Other options are also being explored.

● **Asked** City Attorney to review proposal from the Metropolitan Nashville Davidson County Police concerning the possibility of contracting for a “dedicated patrol car” in Oak Hill at certain hours for police services. 🌿

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

Official Publication

City of Oak Hill

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