

Oak Hill news

JUNE 2008

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NEWS FLASH

Stay informed with our email network

The City of Oak Hill is developing a city-wide email network to communicate immediately with all residents.

To be continually apprised of "late-breaking" news, log onto the City of Oak Hill website at www.oakhilltn.us and click on the "Get Oak Hill updates by email" link.

Oak Hill will use this latest line of communication only for official City announcements.

Austin McMullen elected Oak Hill Commissioner

Austin McMullen defeated Vice Mayor Tommy Jacobs in the June 10 election for Oak Hill Board of Commissioners. McMullen received an unofficial 442 votes to Jacobs' 312.

"It's wonderful that 757 Oak Hill citizens exercised their right to vote, and I am grateful for the support of so many of my neighbors in this election," McMullen said. "Tommy Jacobs ran a strong campaign, and I appreciate his good wishes as I begin my service on the Board of Commissioners."

McMullen said he's eager to get to work. "Over the

past months I've had the privilege of hearing the hopes and dreams of our residents," he said. "I'm looking forward to serving this community that we treasure and working to preserve it as a special place for generations to come."

The new Commissioner will be sworn in at the Board of Commissioners meeting Thursday, June 19, at the Oak Hill City Hall offices. At that time, the Commissioners will elect the new Mayor and Vice Mayor.

Check the website at www.oakhilltn.us after 9 p.m. June 19 to see who your new Mayor is. 🌿



Austin McMullen

City takes major step toward long-awaited sound walls

After more than four years of working to secure the support of the Tennessee Department of Transportation to build sound barriers along the westerly side of I-65, generally between Woodmont Boulevard and Old Hickory Boulevard, the Oak Hill Board of Commissioners is moving ahead to have the long-sought sound walls built through local planning, bond funding, and subsequent construction.

Despite numerous communications generated by City Manager Bill Kraus and many meetings with TDOT attended by Mayor Tommy C. Alsup II, Vice Mayor Tommy Jacobs, Commissioner Raymond T. Throckmorton III, City Attorney Robert Notestine, and City Engineer Chad Collier, the state transportation staff continually

maintains that "... unless there are new improvements made on the I-65 corridor adjacent to Oak Hill involving free-way widening or overpass modifications, the Oak Hill sound barrier does not qualify under current TDOT criteria."

The position is further backed by TDOT's history of building sound walls only in significantly higher-density areas than within Oak Hill as well as the state's recent loss of over \$70 million in federal funds as a result of severe national government fiscal woes.

The City of Oak Hill is now pursuing the following option:

- Formally file with TDOT its local option plan, primarily in hopes of retaining \$680,000 for the project previously earmarked for Oak Hill by the federal government in 2006.

- Mail out a letter and questionnaire to property owners about the I-65 right-of-way, including the question, "Are you willing to dedicate a small strip in the rear of your property to allow for the construction of a ten-foot heavily landscaped berm, topped by a five-foot wall?"

- If there is significant positive response to the questionnaire, the City Engineer will initiate the development of plans and construction specifications.

Throughout the entire process there will be public hearings for ongoing updates and citizen input, as well as the creation of a Neighborhood Sound Barrier Advisory Committee.

An initial projected timetable for this project is to have construction commence in late 2008 or early 2009 with completion in 2009. 🌿

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 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

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.



Don't throw away this newsletter; recycle it!

From the desk of the city manager

Is our glass half-full or half-empty?

You have all heard the statement, "You can look at a glass as half-full or as half-empty." It is interesting to try to apply this to living here in this beautiful community called Oak Hill. Take a look at the following and see whether you look at things half-full or half-empty.

We love the spring storms that come to Middle Tennessee, including the sound of rain and the roar of thunder. Coming from southern California as I do, one very rarely hears thunder, and if you should hear a roar, it is very likely to be the beginning of an earthquake.

Yet as we thoroughly enjoy listening to the sounds of nature from the comfort of our sunroom, as the rains continues to provide a "symphony on the roof," I become mindful of the severity of storms in this part of the country, including what seems to be an ever-increasing number of highly destructive and deadly tornadoes.

We are also aware that because of the ruralness of Oak Hill, natural water runoff from nearby higher elevations, most notably Radnor Lake State Natural Area, causes ponding in some of our yards, especially if we have a cloudburst dumping several inches of water in a very short period of time. Thus, is rainfall to be looked upon as a pleasure or a problem?

Most of us in Oak Hill love and truly appreciate the wonderful natural beauty and serene setting of the community, tremendously enhanced by large, low-density, single-

family residential lots with significant foliage. It's the ideal location to live in, whether you are a newcomer raising a young family or a long-time resident who cherishes the memories of your Oak Hill home. Indeed, the glass remains half-full.

Yet the flip side is that because of our spaciousness, enhanced by many beautiful trees and plantings, we can become more "attractive" for house and car break-ins and

CITY



BY BILL KRAUS

CORNER

burglaries. It wasn't that many years ago that people would leave their homes unlocked and doors open when they went away! How times have indeed changed. Who would have thought not that long ago that the need to enhance police patrols in our neighborhoods would become a local priority?

How many of you can

We get letters . . .

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
REAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHITECT
WILLIAM R. SNODGRASS TENNESSEE TOWER, SUITE 2100
312 EIGHTH AVENUE NORTH
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0300
(615) 741-2388
FAX (615) 741-6189

DAVE GOETZ
COMMISSIONER

MICHAEL A. FITTS, FAIA
STATE ARCHITECT

May 27, 2008

Dr. William H. Kraus
City Manager
City of Oak Hill
5548 Franklin Road, Suite 102
Nashville, TN 37220

Dear Dr. Kraus:

I received your letter dated May 15, 2008 and want to thank you for contacting me regarding construction traffic concerns along South Curtiswood Lane. We continue to strive to make this project's impacts on the surrounding roadways as safe as possible.

We have had earlier conversations with the project's contractor to establish routes along these roads so that congestion by construction vehicles is not experienced by motorists or pedestrians. The solution that has been agreed to is to have incoming construction trucks enter South Curtiswood Lane off Franklin Road, and those that are leaving the site will exit down Glen Leven to Franklin Road. We have also strived to coordinate construction traffic so it has the least impact during school bus routes by delaying truck deliveries during these times. The drivers for construction vehicles have been told to keep their speeds below the posted speed limits.

The majority of the construction trucks, to date, have been dump trucks with only a few concrete truck deliveries. However, in the near future, there will be more concrete truck deliveries to the site as site excavation nears an end.

We will continue to monitor this issue during construction. I want to thank you again for your concerns.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Fitts, FAIA
State Architect

MAF/gm

remember when many young people started out in life going door-to-door selling Bibles? Or I am not sure how many of you can remember the Fuller Brush Man or the vacuum cleaner salesman going from house to house with his sales pitch.

How unfortunate it is today that, when we have door-to-door solicitation, it is immediately perceived by many of us to be a prelude to a subsequent crime, so our reaction is to initiate new local government policies to significantly limit this type of activity.

Most of our Oak Hill streets were originally laid out as quiet “neighborhood lanes,” designed to primarily serve local residents and their guests. Today we are attempting to battle the increasing problem of the utilization of these narrow roads for through traffic by non-Oak Hill drivers seeking short-cuts or “fast-cuts” from outside the community.

Today we communicate more efficiently through e-mail and cell phones. Yesterday we would talk more effectively directly, neighbor to neighbor, friend to friend.

Despite the opportunities to see the downside of things rather than their positives, I have always strived to look at the good of events and the good in people, and overall I am very optimistic about life, the future of the human race, and the state of Oak Hill in general.

However, looking at the price of gas as I roll up to the pump, I will now consider my tank half-empty (waiting to be filled at \$4.00 a gallon), rather than half-full. It is a sad commentary. 🌿

New street signs going up

Installation of new street signs at all 157 Oak Hill Intersections is underway. The project is anticipated to be completed by the end of July.

The new signs comply with recent federal changes in required standards for street signs. They replace Oak Hill’s existing signs, many of which are 20 to 50 years old, that are not easily readable, and are not of uniform style and quality from street to street.

Murrco Fabrication of Franklin is manufacturing the signs. We sincerely hope that you will concur that the new street signs are very decorative, fit into the overall quality of Oak Hill, and are easy to read.

The total cost of this project, including producing and installing the signs, is \$175,840, which is included in the 2007–2008 annual budget.

In the next fiscal year, Oak Hill will be looking at the possibility of new entry signs located at key entrances into the city. 🌿



Mayor Tommy Alsup checks one of Oak Hill’s new street signs.

City Engineer to report on traffic problems

Following a series of neighborhood surveys regarding current traffic problems, City Engineer Chan Collier will report on his findings and recommendations to the Board of Commissioners at the June 19 meeting.

Residents who live on Oak Valley Lane, Pleasant Valley Road, Curtiswood Lane, and Lakemont/Hillview were asked their opinions on possible “traffic calming” solutions.

Responses were quite varied and included:

- Speed dips
- Additional signage
- Landscaped “mini” traffic islands
- Added traffic patrol
- Cul-de-sac of certain streets 🌿

Commissioners give green light for Historical Heritage Commission

The Oak Hill Board of Commissioners passed an ordinance that will create a Historical Heritage Commission.

The proposed five-member commission will develop plans, programs, and prospects for the primary purpose of preserving the “historical beauty and traditions” of Oak Hill, including:

- Assisting in the creation of an

Oak Hill history publication, anticipated to be completed in 2010

● Advising the Board of Commissioners on such historical sites as Kirkman Lane and the Glen Leven property.

It is anticipated that commission members will be sought in July after the second and final reading of the ordinance creating this commission. 🌿

Historical Commission approves marker

The Metropolitan Historical Commission has approved the installation of a marker chronicling the historical significance of dry-stack stone walls, many of which are located in Oak Hill.

The marker will be placed by the stone wall bordering the front yard of the residence of Margaret and Patrick Boyd at 4708 Granny White Pike.

Margaret Boyd, who researched the history of stone walls and requested the marker, said, "We are so thrilled that the Historical Commission and the City of Oak Hill are highlighting the importance of our stone walls with the historic marker that will be installed later this summer." 🌿

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.

First tornado warning system to go online this summer

The first of two new city-wide tornado warning systems recently authorized by the Oak Hill Board of Commissioners is expected to be operational in the near future.

The commissioners authorized the acquisition of two new towers, primarily to serve the central and southern areas of Oak Hill. The northern neighborhoods are already served by a system located at Glendale School. Once the first warning tower is installed on the grounds of John Overton High School, it will be tested to determine actual coverage areas. This will

help establish a location for the second warning system slated for the southern section of Oak Hill.

The total cost for the two warning systems is \$40,000. Stansell Electric Company is handling the installation. The City of Oak Hill is coordinating this project with the Nashville-Davidson County Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, which will tie in the Oak Hill warning systems with the other existing towers located throughout Davidson County.

The actual tornado warning system is installed on a

pole that is connected through a computer to the Emergency Management headquarters on 15th Avenue South. The system comprises a series of horns, and if potential tornadoes are identified by the National Weather Service, the warning system will immediately become operational in order to alert the public that a "clear and present danger" is in effect.

If you should ever hear the horns of the tornado warning system, please seek immediate shelter and then turn on a local radio or television station for updated news. 🌿

Door-to-door solicitation on the rise

Door-to-door solicitation seems to be on the rise in Oak Hill, possibly as a result of the current economic slowdown.

At present, any person who knocks on your door trying to sell you a product or service is required to have a Solicitation Permit issued by the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County.

The applicant for a permit of this nature is required to complete an extensive background review. The City of Oak Hill is currently considering assuming this service locally because of the recent increased activity.

If you should experience a door-to-door solicitation, it is recommended that:

- If possible, avoid opening the door or having any contact with them.
- If you should have con-

tact, ask to see a 2008 Solicitation Permit, issued by the Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Government. Be sure it is not a State of Tennessee Sales Tax Permit.

If solicitors refuse or are unable to show proof of licensing, call the Oak Hill City Hall immediately at 371-8291 during the office hours. During non-office hours, please call Oak Hill City Manager Bill Kraus at home: 373-1608.

Recently, Dr. Kraus and chief building official Bill Burdette responded to several calls from residents regarding illegal solicitation and were able to terminate the activity, aided on one occasion by two Metro Police units.

Solicitation regulation exempts religious-based door-to-door activity, which is protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. 🌿

Watch out for trouble from above!

In addition to protecting your family pets from vehicles and coyotes, there's a new danger to be aware of: Hawks.

The City of Oak Hill office has received a report of a hawk carrying off a resident's cat. Keep an eye on your small animals when they're outdoors. 🌿

City of Oak Hill 2008–2009 Budget

Revenues

	Actual Budget 2006–2007	Current Budget 2007–2008	Projected 2007–2008	Proposed 2008–2009
Fees	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$250,000	\$100,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Interest - LGIP	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Interest - SunTrust	\$245,000	\$255,000	\$285,000	\$240,000
Beer Tax Allocation	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Hall Income Tax	\$240,000	\$325,000	\$540,791	\$400,000
Sales Tax	\$260,800	\$260,800	\$290,000	\$260,000
Local Option	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$30,000
State Gas-Motor Fuel	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$140,000	\$125,000
Metro Road Funds	\$88,000	\$88,000	\$88,000	\$176,000
Total	\$1,115,800	\$1,210,800	\$1,637,791	\$1,350,000

Expenditures: General Administration

	Actual 06–07	Current 07–08	Projected 07–08	Proposed 08–09
City Manager	\$63,000	\$72,500	\$72,500	\$72,500
City Attorney	\$28,000	\$29,400	\$29,400	\$31,000
Auto Allowance	\$25,000	\$27,000	\$40,000	\$42,000
Office Supplies	\$5,500	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,300
Legal Notices	\$500	\$500	\$1,400	\$1,000
Election Expense	\$8,500	\$0	\$0	\$4,500
Audit Expense	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
Chief Building Official	\$63,000	\$66,100	\$66,100	\$67,300
Miscellaneous Expense	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$15,000
Commission Expenses	\$10,800	\$10,800	\$10,800	\$16,200
Attorneys Fees	\$15,000	\$20,000	\$46,000	\$15,000
Public Safety				\$35,000
Asst. City Manager	\$42,000	\$44,100	\$44,100	\$46,400
Administrative Assistant	\$29,400	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$36,750
Clerical	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$1,000	\$5,000
Condo-Utility Expense	\$26,500	\$27,500	\$27,500	\$28,500
Computer	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$2,000	\$2,000
Soc. Sec./Dir. Insurance	\$37,542	\$39,300	\$15,000	\$24,000
City Coverages Insurance	\$12,000	\$15,000	\$15,200	\$13,500
Contingencies	\$0	\$0	\$25,300	\$0
City Newsletter	\$24,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$41,000
Community Outreach				\$35,000
General Administration Subtotal	\$422,742	\$445,200	\$491,300	\$541,950

Expenditures: Public Works	Actual 06–07	Current 07–08	Projected 07–08	Proposed 08–09
Engineering	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$45,000	\$15,000
City Engineer				\$31,000
Emergency	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$10,000
Chipper & Tree Service	\$120,000	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$130,000
ROW Mow & Misc.	\$15,000	\$18,000	\$24,000	\$20,000
Signs-Street Lights	\$30,000	\$185,000	\$190,000	\$32,000
Street Markings	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$900	\$1,000
Paving (Annual Contract)	\$135,000	\$0	\$72,690	\$150,000
Snow Removal	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$16,000	\$10,000
Public Works & Misc.	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
Garbage Disposal	\$290,000	\$290,000	\$240,000	\$240,000
Public Works Subtotal	\$681,500	\$729,500	\$778,590	\$679,000

Total Income	\$1,115,800	\$1,210,800	\$1,637,791	\$1,350,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,104,242	\$1,174,700	\$1,269,890	\$1,220,950
Income over expenditures	\$11,588	\$36,100	\$367,901	\$129,050

This is Oak Hill budget for 2008–2009 that will be considered for approval on second and final reading at the June 19 meeting of the Board of Commissioners

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

- Continued until its July 15 meeting a hearing for a conditional use permit filed by Our Savior Lutheran Church and Our Savior Lutheran Academy, 5110 Franklin Pike, regarding two non-conforming signs, in order to allow the church to prepare and submit new plans.

- Approved a request from Joanne Mayfield of 5044 Evansdale Drive to build a new family room and screened porch that encroaches onto the front setback because of land usage hardship.

- Interpreted that a permit to be filed for 4105 Crestridge Drive should be filed as a two-story residence.

Planning Commission

There was no May meeting since there were no agenda items for consideration.

Board of Commissioners

- Passed first of two readings of Ordinance 8-4 approving the 2008–2009 City of Oak Hill annual budget, which included an amendment to create a separate category for public safety with a budget amount of \$35,000. The revised annual budget is included in this issue of the *Oak Hill News*.

- Authorized City Engineer Chad Collier and City Manager Bill Kraus to develop a survey for all residents whose properties are immediately adjacent to I-65 within Oak Hill to determine opinions regarding the building of sound barriers—primarily a combination of extensive landscaped beams, topped by a sound wall, on the rear portion of private property.

- Approved the establishment of an Oak Hill Historical Heritage Commission to assist in the preservation of many historical sites within the community including Kirkman Lane, which is listed on the National Register of Historical Places.

- Directed the City Engineer to explore further the use of the existing state grant to build bicycle parks.

- Approved first reading of Ordinances 08-2 and 08-3 developing guidelines and firm cost estimates for the establishment of a municipal court within the City of Oak Hill. 🌿

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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Suite 102
Nashville TN 37220

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