

Oak Hill news

SEPT 2008

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NEWS FLASH

Help keep Oak Hill beautiful

Metro law prohibits posting signs on public property, including utility poles or lampposts, public trees, and rights-of-way :

"No person shall post or affix any notice, poster or other paper or device, calculated to attract the attention of the public, to any public lamppost, public utility pole or public shade tree, or upon any public structure or building. . . ." (\$10.24.020)

If you're having a garage sale, have lost a pet, or advertising services, please don't post signs illegally. Not only are they an eyesore, but they're also a safety hazard, particularly on utility poles.

Train to be a First Responder

Father Ryan and the City of Oak Hill are joining to help the Red Cross reach its goal to make Middle Tennessee the safest and most prepared region in the nation.

The Nashville Area Red Cross seeks to train a reserve corps of 10,000 volunteers now so that Middle Tennessee is prepared when disaster strikes. And Father Ryan and the City of Oak Hill believe that 300 of those volunteers are right here in Oak Hill.

So join us September 6 and start the

First Responder Training

- Saturday, September 6
- 10 a.m.–noon
- Father Ryan Fine Arts Center, 700 Norwood Drive

Go to NashvilleRedCross.org to sign up for free training.



process of being a First Responder. You'll find out about the whole program and begin training in one of the needed areas of this program.

This orientation is limited to Father Ryan students, staff, and parents and Oak Hill residents only. 🌿

Speed tables installed



Speed tables on two test streets have been enthusiastically received. See page 3.

City sends surveys on sound walls

Oak Hill residents whose property borders I-65 will be asked to complete a survey, the first step in a lengthy public approval process for the City to build a sound wall along that corridor to protect quality of life and property values.

Mayor Tommy Alsup said the city would have to acquire a small easement on these properties in order to build, landscape, and maintain the sound wall.

He said that if the results of the survey indicate general or overwhelming support for sound walls, the city will sponsor several opportunities to provide explanation of the land acquisition process as well as receive questions and input from the public.

Funds from a federal appropriation secured by U.S. Representative Marsha Blackburn are available for seed money to initiate the project, but the majority of the building expense will come from municipal bonds.

However, if survey results indicate overwhelming opposition by the landowners, the City likely will not proceed with the project, Mayor Alsup said. 🌿

City of Oak Hill

Mayor

Tommy Alsup
Oak Hill Office: 371-8291

Vice Mayor

Austin McMullen 298-1492

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

Tom Lawless, Chair

Lorelee Gawaluck

Steve Wasserman

City Attorney

Robert J. Notestine 297-1568

City Engineer

Chad Collier 331-1441

Interim 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!

Investment advisory committee a good idea

One of Oak Hill's great assets is more than \$6 million in reserve funds that have been saved over the course of many years. I am focused on preserving and maximizing these funds to benefit our citizens for years to come.

Oak Hill's reserve funds are invested through a professional investment firm in government and corporate debt and mutual funds. State law limits the categories of investments available to cities, but only an expert can understand these categories!

Although the types of investments available to cities are intended to have low risk, there is still risk. The risk of the investments available to us has been magnified by the current economic conditions. Over the last year, banks have come under pressure as part of an international credit crunch. Some banks have even been taken over by the FDIC. Experts suggest there may be more bank failures to come.

Reinvestment decisions

As the City's investments mature, difficult decisions often have to be made about reinvesting and diversifying those funds. Questions sometimes arise even before an investment matures.

For example, did you know that approximately half of the City's reserve funds are invested in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac bonds? These companies have been hit extremely hard over the past year, and experts are suggest-

ing that these companies will be taken over by the federal government. The Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac bonds held by the City do not mature for at least ten years. Deciding whether to continue with these types of investments is a difficult and complicated question.

In these troubled times, with the variety of complicated options available to us, it is wise for Oak Hill to seek the counsel of trained advisers who only have the City's best interest in mind. No member of the Board of Commissioners is an expert on these economic and investment issues, nor are any of the City's employees.

Over the years, the names and occupations of your elected officials change, as do the backgrounds of the City's employees and contractors. Ensuring the future of one of Oak Hill's most important assets ought not depend on the City Manager or Commissioners having investment expertise.

Advisory committee

For that reason, I have proposed the creation of an Investment Advisory Committee. This Committee would maximize the use of another of Oak Hill's great assets—its people.

The Investment Advisory Committee would have three volunteer members whose only interest is the well-being of the City of Oak Hill. Each Committee member would be an Oak Hill resident with

**FROM THE
VICE
MAYOR**



**Austin
McMullen**

significant knowledge and training in how to deal with the very sort of questions that arise in this economic climate. The members of this Committee would help our community by offering suggestions to the City Manager and Board of Commissioners concerning the City's investments.

The advice of the Investment Advisory Committee, combined with suggestions from the City's investment firm, will help to ensure that Oak Hill maximizes its return on investment while minimizing the risk of loss. The members of this Committee would also help to time the maturity of the City's investments to correspond with the City's cash flow needs.

At its August 21 meeting, the Board of Commissioners voted to approve the creation of this Investment Advisory Committee. The ordinance will be considered on second reading at the Board's September 18 meeting.

If you are interested in serving on the Investment Advisory Committee, please contact Interim City Manager M.C. Sparks or a member of the Board of Commissioners. Using the expertise of our neighbors, we can help to ensure that the City's reserve funds are available to enhance the quality of life in Oak Hill long into the future. 🌱

From the Interim City Manager

Traffic problems get scrutiny, solutions

We hope the start of schools has been smooth, and as the summer winds down we hope that everyone is doing well.

And since schools have started, that brings to mind a concern in Oak Hill traffic. As Metro Nashville grows, the traffic also grows, and more people are looking for easier, less congested streets to get from Point A to Point B.

Oak Hill also has numerous schools and churches that generate traffic. Unfortunately, when residential streets are used as cut-throughs, often drivers forget the residential nature of those streets, which include walkers, children playing, and pets.

Residents like speed tables

For the past few months, there have been an increasing number of calls and contacts regarding the concerns over speeding on Oak Hill roads. At the June Board of Commissioners meeting, a motion was passed to install speed tables on Glendale and Oak Valley lanes. This action came after the monitoring of the increasing complaints, the conducting of traffic studies, and (based on certain areas targeted in the studies) the survey of some neighborhoods for input. The speed tables were indicated as the

best alternative for reducing speed.

Unlike more traditional speed bumps, speed tables cause much less impact on vehicles. A speed table has less rise or height and is much wider. This not only protects any private cars, vans, and trucks, but also prevents damage or other problems with any emergency vehicles entering our neighborhoods. Two initial tables were expertly installed by our public works contractor, Jackaroo, and two more were approved to be ordered at the August Commissioners meetings.

So far the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Matt Weir, the owner of Jackaroo, said that as he is out in those areas, he can tell the difference in speeds. One of our residents asked when they were due to be installed on her street.

Apparently this project has caught the eye of various people—both Channel 17 and Channel 5 have done reports on the new speed tables. And these reports have prompted calls to both the city office and our engineering firm, Collier Engineering, inquiring about the work done. It seems that several local cities are interested in how Oak Hill decided to install the speed tables, costs, and how effective we find them. These other cities are looking very

hard at now using some in their own city limits. As I mentioned, two more tables will soon be ordered for installation, and then after another traffic study is done to check the effectiveness of these tables, other streets may be targeted for installation. The City's concern is continued safety for our residents and for those passing through. So be safe and have a great fall! 🌿



BY M.C. SPARKS

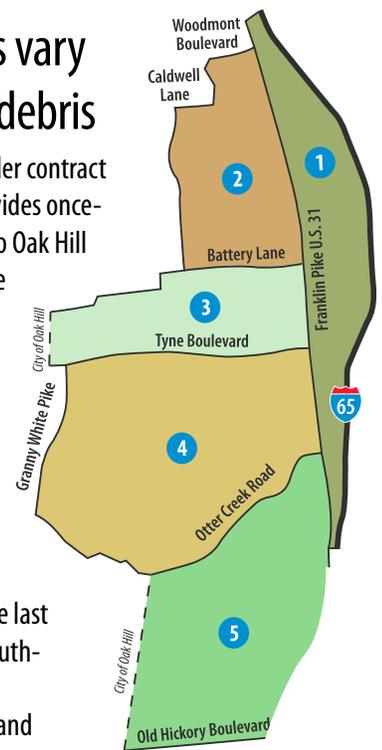
Pick-up schedules vary for curbside yard debris

The City of Oak Hill is under contract with Jackaroo Inc., who provides once-a-month service at no cost to Oak Hill residents. Its services include chipping, and removal of bagged leaves and limbs from curbside.

Oak Hill is divided into five zones for service, beginning with the area east of Franklin Pike, then proceeding north to south, and concluding on the last week of the month in the southern part of Oak Hill.

Leaves must be bagged, and limbs must be no larger than four inches in diameter.

If you have a professional tree service contracted to trim or remove a tree, the company is required to remove all debris, rather than leave it on curbside. 🌿





Unofficial summary

Board of Zoning Appeals

August 19, 2008

- **Approved** request from First Church Unity, 5125 Franklin Pike, for new classrooms and seating in the unfinished and unused balcony with a condition that the church's garbage bin be moved to the western side of the church building.

- **Granted** request by Trudy Carpenter, 4005 Newman Place, to tear out and replace the pool and pool house with condition that a secondary fence surround the pool area.

- **Approved** request of Krissi Watkins, 920 Van Leer Drive, for construction of a new bedroom, extension of family room and new upstairs bedroom.

- **Granted** request of Melissa Floyd, 4408 Soper Avenue, for construction of a second storage shed.

- **Continued** to September meeting the review of the conditional use permit for Woodmont Hills Church of Christ, 3710 Franklin Pike.

Unofficial summary

Planning Commission

August 21, 2008

- **Accepted** update to drainage critical lot analysis for 917 Overton Lea Road, which falls within the steep slope classification with minor changes subject to approval of the City Engineer and concurrence

by the engineer of neighbor Tippy Christenberry.

- **Approved** updated site plan for First Church Unity, 5125 Franklin Pike, for new classroom and seating in the unfinished and unused balcony, subject to survey of one property line to be submitted to Oak Hill City Engineer and Building Official.

Unofficial summary

Board of Commissioners

August 21, 2008

- **Deferred** approval of minutes for July 17 pending compilation of transcript from recording of meeting.

- **Received** update from City Engineer that a survey will be mailed in September to residents whose properties are adjacent to I-65 within Oak Hill for their opinion on building a sound wall on the rear portion of their private property.

- **Passed** on second reading the establishment of a Historical Heritage Commission to make recommendations regarding various types of historical properties to Board of Commissioners but does not have zoning authority. Commission will be comprised of five members to be appointed and approved by majority vote of Board of Commissioners. Three members of the first Commission will serve a four-year term and two for three year terms. Subsequent appointments will be for four-year terms.

- **Learned** that two speed tables installed on Glendale and Oak Valley lanes have received rave reviews. Commissioners approved the installation of two other speed tables on the same streets at a total cost of about \$26,000 for four tables and voted to reduce the speed limit from 25 to 15 miles per hour.

- **Deferred** Resolution 08-3 authorizing establishment of a safety

program until it is cleared with the Tennessee Municipal League. The appointment of former Vice Mayor Tommy Jacobs as director of safety was deferred until the completion of an application and background check.

- **Voted** to determine current ownership of wooded property on Noel Avenue before discussing parking problems on General Bate Drive caused by parents of Glendale School students whose children walk through the wooded area on Noel Lane to the school to avoid the new drop-off policy.

- **Asked** City Attorney, Interim City Manager, City Engineer, and City Building Official to examine all facets of parking and suggest changes if needed to update current parking ordinance.

- **Approved** Resolution 08-4 banning firearms from City Hall.

- **Deferred** Resolution 08-5 concerning copying charges for materials requested for Freedom of Information and other requests and Resolution 08-6 concerning selling mailing labels of residents' addresses.

- **Passed** on first reading Ordinance 08-7 establishing an Investment Advisory Committee to monitor and advise quarterly on the investment of the City's \$6 million in reserve funds as recommended by the city's professional investment advisor. The voluntary three-member board would be appointed and approved by a majority vote of the Board of Commissioners. 🌿

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



Oak Hill has a long-standing ordinance against street parking.

City studies several parking issues

After receiving several complaints and some discussion at the August Board of Commissioners meeting, the City is taking a look at all areas related to parking in Oak Hill, especially parking on the street or in the yard.

Street parking

Oak Hill has a long-standing ordinance against parking on the streets. The City's main concern is the safety of both those parking and those driving. A growing issue is on-street parking of commercial landscaping vehicles. Many more people use landscaping/mowing companies these days; most of these groups have large commercial vehicles and trucks that when parked on the street, take up all of one lane. Preliminary discussion included the option of requiring such parked vehicles to have warning cones and lights.

Parking in the yards

With the average household having more cars per person today than in former years, it becomes harder for all those cars to be parked in driveways. So the City has more cars parked on the roadside and also in all areas of residents' yards. Metro Nashville has an ordinance prohibiting the parking of vehicles anywhere but "true" parking and driving areas that are paved or graveled. The City

has been receiving an increasing number of calls requesting some legislation regarding parking in grassy areas of the yards.

Questions arise

City officials are trying to answer such questions as, Do we create a similar parking ordinance? How do we make sure that all residents are aware of the ordinances? How do we enforce the rules?

These topics are still in the early stages of discussion, and if any resident has comments or thoughts on this, contact the office by phone or email. 🌿

Drop-off policy creates traffic problems

Glendale School parents trying to skirt a new drop-off policy are causing problems in the neighborhood, according to a discussion at the August Commissioners' meeting.

Parents are parking on General Bate Drive and in residents' yards to drop off and pickup their children, a resident commented.

Students walk through the woods to reach the school. This raises concerns about children's safety and about liability of the property owner.

At one time the property on Noel Avenue was deeded to the Board of Education. The City is trying to determine the current ownership. 🌿

2008 CALENDAR

- **September 5-7**
Nashville Greek Festival
Holy Trinity Church,
4905 Franklin Pike
10 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday
and Saturday
11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday
- **September 6**
First Responder Training
Father Ryan Fine Arts Center,
700 Norwood Drive
10 a.m.-noon
Visit RedCrossNashville.org
to register
Free
- **September 16**
Oak Hill Board
of Zoning Appeals
City offices
5 p.m.
- **September 18**
Oak Hill Planning Commission
City offices
5 p.m.
- **September 18**
Oak Hill Board of
Commissioners
City offices
Immediately after Planning
Commission
- **October 25**
Yard Sale for the Cure
Garage sales throughout Oak
Hill raise money for breast
cancer research

**QUICK
CALL
LIST**



CITY OF OAK HILL

5548 Franklin Pike #102
371-8291 FAX 373-6886
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

Oak Hill CRIME STATS



Three residential and two auto burglaries and two larcenies were committed in Oak Hill between July 23 and August 19.

7/24: Otter Creek Road, 1100 block: larceny

7/31: Glendale Lane, 900 block: residential burglary

8/1: Franklin Pike, 3700 block: auto burglary

8/3: Stonewall Drive, 1000 block: residential burglary

8/4: Cherrywood Drive, 5500 block: residential burglary

8/13: Franklin Pike, 4800 block: larceny

8/15: Norwood Drive, 700 block: auto burglary

Please remember to lock your doors and vehicles at all times. 🌿

Save the date!

Yard Sale for the Cure October 25

Homes throughout Oak Hill will be marked with pink balloons as garage sales raise money for breast cancer research. Watch for more information in the next issue. Contact Cindy B. Smith at 414-0011 (mobile), or cbsmith@realtracs.com for more information. 🌿

Plan to attend the 21st annual Nashville Greek Festival

Come join all the festivities and fun at the next Greek Festival September 5–7, at Oak Hill's Holy Trinity Church located at 4905 Franklin Pike.

There will be plenty of entertainment, baked goods, shopping, dancing, and fun for the kids, no matter what their age!

Bring the whole family! Hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, with Sunday's hours from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. 🌿



Official Publication City of Oak Hill

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