

Oak Hill news

DEC 2010

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Recycle your Christmas tree for Radnor

Residents can again this year leave their Christmas trees at curbside after the holidays for collection by Jackaroo, the City's chipper service contractor.

The trees will be chipped into mulch and delivered to Radnor Lake State Natural Area, which is located within the City. The mulch is spread on the six miles of walking trails at the park.

Remove any metal (including tinsel and nails) from the tree before putting it out. Place the tree along the right-of-way.

Stay safe during this holiday season

By Mayor Austin McMullen

Visiting with family and friends makes this time of year so special. Oak Hill is particularly beautiful with so many neighbors decorating for Christmas. As you enjoy the holidays, please use common sense and be alert for crimes that may occur.

With the coming of the holiday season, some criminals become more active. For example, several home break-ins have occurred over the past couple of months. Oak Hill rarely has violent crimes that grab the headlines. Home and car break-ins, however, are serious crimes. Victims deal with loss and damage as well as the feeling of their personal space being violated. These crimes also impact our community's sense of safety and have the potential to diminish property values. Oak Hill cannot be complacent as these events occur.

Metro Nashville has responsibility for police protection in the City of Oak Hill. In fact, Metro's position is the Charter does not allow Oak Hill to have its own police force. Even though Oak Hill has no police officers of its own, we are fortunate that crimes are relatively infrequent here. The result of this low level of crime, however, is that Metro focuses police resources in other areas of the county with higher crime rates.

Despite the limitations we face, the City of Oak Hill is working to prevent crime. We have worked with Metro Nashville so that Oak Hill now hires off-duty Metro police officers to supplement Metro's police presence here. The City of Oak Hill spends approximately \$50,000 per year hiring off-duty Metro officers. City officials also communicate crime and patrol information through a central point of contact with the Metro Police.



Merry Christmas from the staff!

As Oak Hill residents, we should all be vigilant in guarding against crime. If a crime is in progress, please immediately call 911. If a crime has already occurred, please call Metro Police at 862-8600. By reporting crimes to Metro, the police presence in Oak Hill should increase. After informing Metro of a crime, please contact the City office at 371-8291 so that we can coordinate with Metro Police to further reduce crime in our area.

I hope everyone in Oak Hill experiences a wonderful and safe holiday season. Merry Christmas to all, and best wishes for a healthy, happy and prosperous 2011!

Expanded office opens

The Board of Zoning Appeals held the first meeting in Oak Hill's expanded office space. See story on page 4.



City of Oak Hill

Mayor

Austin McMullen 579-6593

Vice Mayor

Jennifer Claxton 504-6163

Commissioner

Kyle Felts 760-5406

Planning Commission

Art McWilliams, Chair

Joe Hodgson, Vice Chair

John Gillespie, Secretary

Michael Baron

Vice Mayor Jennifer Claxton

Judy Hoover

Wade Hill

Mayor Austin McMullen

Annelle Rucker

Julia Wesley

Board of Zoning Appeals

Tom Lawless, Chair

Craig Buffkin

Tonya P. Matthews

City Attorney

Robert J. Notestine 297-1568

City Engineer

Kimley-Horn & Assoc. 564-2701

City Manager

Kevin Helms 557-7672

Assistant City Manager

M.C. Sparks 509-4812

Administrative Assistant

Patrick Steiner 371-8291

Building Official

Bill Burdette 371-8291

City Hall

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

Board of Commissioners Meeting

Oak Hill City Office

5548 Franklin Pike Suite 102, 5 p.m.

Fourth Tuesday

Planning Commission Meeting

Oak Hill City Office

5548 Franklin Pike Suite 102, 5 p.m.

Tuesday before Commissioners' Meeting

Board of Zoning Appeals

Oak Hill City Office

5548 Franklin Pike Suite 102, 5 p.m.

 Don't throw away this newsletter; recycle it!

City has many capital projects underway

In addition to the capital projects undertaken by the City to address flood damages, many other projects and planning efforts are underway in various stages from planning to construction. Most of the current year's paving budget has been used in areas where flood repairs were conducted. The funds were used to extend the paving beyond the immediate area of damage, which is all the Federal Emergency Management Agency will cover in its reimbursement formula, or to upgrade the infrastructure to compensate for future events. The upgrading of infrastructure in the area, but not directly impacted by the floods, is not covered by FEMA funds.

These funds were also used in conjunction with the Metro Water Project on Lakeview Drive, Overton Lea Road, and Granny White Pike. The Metro project called for paving only the lane of traffic that was impacted by the project. The city worked with Metro and its paving contractor to obtain bid rates to pave all of the impacted streets within Oak Hill, where practical. Essentially, the City of Oak Hill paid for the lanes within the scope of Metro's project to be paved even if they were not directly impacted by the Metro contractor.

Beyond the limits of this project, the City also reworked a portion of Lakeview Drive where old sewer line trenches were collapsing and creating holes in the pavement. Once this project was completed, the remainder of Lakeview Drive

was paved.

Similar

projects on a

smaller scale

have been,

or will soon

begin, on

Blevins Drive

and Morris-

wood Drive.

FROM THE CITY MANAGER

Kevin Helms

khoakhill@bellsouth.net



Separate from the FEMA-approved project on Tyne Boulevard, the city currently has a drainage project ongoing on Tyne Boulevard near the entrance to First Presbyterian Church. This project is designed to improve drainage of surface water along the shoulder of the road in an effort to prevent water from running off adjoining properties and onto the roadway. Last year some recent changes to adjoining properties created an increased flow of water onto the roadway, which froze during the winter and caused several accidents. Once the project is complete, this should no longer be an issue. However, portions of the project are difficult to construct due to a lack of right-of-way off the edge of the pavement in which we are allowed to work. The City must conduct all activities within the right-of-way, or acquire additional right-of-way. Individual property owners are responsible for issues that occur outside of the right-of-way on their own property.

Commissioners authorize engineering projects

The Board of Commissioners recently authorized three projects to be undertaken by the City's engineering firm.

They include development of a standardized neighborhood traffic plan for the City, a pavement analysis system, and a sign inventory system. The neighborhood traffic plan will provide a standard process to analyze citizen requests for various traffic controls within their neighborhoods. This project begins immediately.

The other two projects will not begin until summer 2011. The sign inventory system is needed to bring the City in compliance with a new federal requirement that requires all cities to have an inventory of its traffic signs, including the sign's reflectivity level. This requirement must be met by 2012, and all signs that do not meet the required level of reflectivity must be replaced by 2015.

The pavement analysis system will help the City schedule future paving and is an update of a system that was in place until about five years ago. You will find out more about these projects as they get closer to implementation.

Drainage study due soon

The City anticipates receiving a draft copy of a report from its engineers in December that addresses the findings of the city-wide drainage study that has been ongoing for several months.

This report will be made available to the public once it has been received and a public hearing will be scheduled so that citizens may come and ask questions about the results. This should be especially helpful for those who attended the kick-off public hearing at which citizens reported trouble spots within the City.

Over half of homes sign up for CodeRed alerts by telephone

More than half of Oak Hill households are signed up for the CodeRed telephone information system.

The program has two parts. Standard CodeRed calls are initiated by a staff member or the Mayor, and most residents were automatically signed up to receive.

The pre-loaded telephone listings used for the CodeRed standard calls captured about two-thirds of the households in Oak Hill. That means that 33% of homes are not receiving this free service. If you are not receiving calls but wish to, visit www.oakhilltn.us and click the CodeRed logo or call the City office at 371-8291.

These calls are used to update citizens on City events that affect them, such as major projects that might create road closings. Beginning in January the City plans to call all citizens within a quarter-mile radius of a site that is scheduled to be before the Planning Commission or Board of



Zoning Appeals to be sure that affected residents have an opportunity to voice their opinion about the project. These cases often involve subdivisions or setback encroachments.

The second part is CodeRed weather warning calls that are initiated when the National Weather Service issues a warning for the Oak Hill area. Approximately 50% of households have signed up for the CodeRed weather warning service. This is a free service, but you have to sign up by going to www.oakhilltn.us or calling the office at 371-8291.

You can use a landline or a cellular telephone and may opt to receive text or email alerts. The service is also set up to serve those who are hearing impaired and utilize TDD equipment.

In the event that you are receiving calls and do not wish to continue receiving them, you can contact the office to receive a form to fill out to be removed from the service. Due to legal reasons, we must have your request in writing to remove you from the service.

CodeRed tips

Next time you receive a CodeRed call, add the number to your contact list. This will allow Caller ID to notify you of the source of the call. Often the call shows up as Emergency Communications Network.

Once the call has ended you will be given an option to press a button to take one of several actions, including the option to repeat the message. So if you did not get all of the information the first time the message was played, press the appropriate button and listen again.

Remind contractors of construction hours

The City of Oak Hill limits construction on buildings to certain hours. The approved hours are:

Weekdays: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturdays: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sundays, Holidays: Not allowed

Penalties apply when the hours are not observed. We encourage you to help us be sure that your chosen contractor, and their sub-contractors, adhere to this policy. Violations of the policy may result in stop-work orders, which not only cost the contractor money, but also the homeowner time in completing the project.



City seeks services proposals

Oak Hill is accepting proposals from vendors for the delivery of three primary services: sanitation, chipper and leaf collection, and public works. Each proposal will be evaluated by a different panel, which will make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. The Board will enter into a new contract with a company to provide these services to city residents beginning on March 1, 2011.



Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters.

When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local waterbodies.

For more tips visit www.epa.gov/weatherchannel/stormwater.html#solution

This stormwater management tip is provided as part of Oak Hill's education requirement under its state permit.

Hear audio of meetings on website

The Granicus system to record the audio and format the minutes of City meetings is working.

The City did experience some difficulties with this system while meetings were offsite. As a result, the audio of some of the meetings was lost. This issue should now be corrected, and there will be no significant problems in the future because of some maintenance to the system and the fact that the City is back in its permanent meeting space.

The December meetings of boards will begin streaming live over the internet once again. The ability to do this is contingent upon being in our regular meeting room.

Once the audio is streamed live, it is no longer available to the public until staff does maintenance on the recording. This maintenance should be completed within a week of the meeting date, at which time the meeting will be available to the public on the City's website for one year.

FEMA reimburses City for some flood repairs

The City has received a contract from FEMA that calls for a reimbursement of approximately \$200,000 for repairs to storm-damaged public infrastructure and the disposal of storm debris. The projects range from small ditch cleaning and stabilization projects to major road repairs.

Several projects have been completed and work is wrapping up on Robertson Academy Road near Franklin Pike and Forest Acres Drive. Work is beginning on Tyne Boulevard and will soon begin on Lakemont Drive.

The completion of these projects will end most of the larger projects that were needed. However, smaller projects will continue for several months. Some of these will have to wait until the winter weather passes before they can begin because the materials needed to do the work are dependent upon proper weather conditions. Wet conditions and cold weather make it difficult to clean ditches or get grass to grow in an effort to stabilize the repaired areas.

One special category with historical significance falls within the scope of the FEMA work. This includes the restoration of several sections of historic stone walls located throughout Oak Hill. Several portions of the walls were damaged

by floodwaters, and as long as these sections are within the right-of-way of City streets, they are eligible for both FEMA and City funding.

We identified and reported to FEMA areas of damage located on Granny White Pike, Tyne Boulevard, and South Curtiswood Lane. If there are damaged sections of wall located in the right-of-way along your property, contact the office to be sure that the damaged section has been included in the scope of work. Do not undertake any of the repairs yourself, but wait and allow Oak Hill to include it in one large project to be contracted for repairs. Repairs conducted by a homeowner are not eligible for reimbursement under this source of FEMA funding.

The City also continues to work with FEMA to determine if funding will be available for homeowners affected by significant flooding. Buyouts are still a possibility for those who received flooding that caused damages to exceed 50% of the structure's appraised value. Repetitive flood damage to the structure is also a plus for being approved, and all locations must be in a designated floodplain. Homeowners who meet these three criteria and are interested in a buyout should contact the City office as soon as possible.



Office reopens after expansion

The newly expanded City offices have reopened at Suite 102 after relocating for renovations.

The new office layout presents a professional appearance to all who visit. The facilities have nearly doubled in size, providing offices for each staff member, expanded room for storage, and handicap-accessible restrooms.

In addition, a larger meeting room will comfortably accommodate many more citizens and other visitors for city meetings.

Upgrades to the meeting room continue in an effort to better serve those who visit our meetings and will allow them to follow the discussions more closely with audio and video components to keep them informed.



New leaf, brush policies now in effect

New policies for leaf and brush collection and a new collection schedule went into effect on November 1.

The City contracts for free monthly pickup of typical yard wastes such as tree limbs, shrubbery pruning (no roots or dirt), and bagged leaves or trimmings done by Oak Hill residents.

Collecting materials outside existing guidelines costs the City roughly \$50,000 extra per year. Adhering to these guidelines is necessary to maintain this free service for all residents of Oak Hill.

Bags of loose leaves and brush must be placed beside the road, not in ditches or in the road. The total weight of bags cannot exceed 50 pounds. Positively no dirt, rocks, or trash (including flower pots, papers or animal feces) should be placed with the leaves.

You must use either paper bags or degradable plastic bags that are clearly marked as degradable. Even if the box says the bags are degradable, you cannot use them unless the bag itself is marked as degradable.

Residents may now choose to rake their leaves to the side of the road to be



Correct placement of leaves, brush

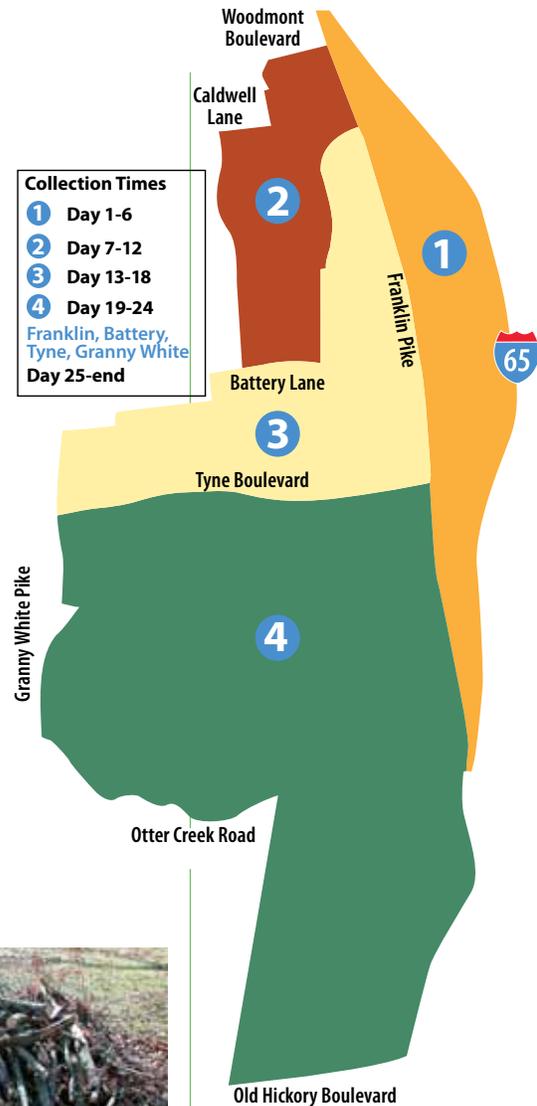


collected by a vacuum truck. The piles of leaves should be placed in or very near the right-of-way. Do not place the leaves in the ditch, on top of open drainage structures, or in the roadway. If a ditch is adjacent to the roadway, place the leaves behind the ditch.

For brush collection, limbs or twigs must be limited in size to no bigger than 4" in diameter. Put your limbs in a generally straight, stacked pile on the right-of-way, with the cut ends toward the street for accessible pickup. Make sure there are no foreign objects (metal, plastic, or glass) in the pile.

NOTE: If you hire professionals to do your tree and shrubbery trimming, be sure to inform them that it is their responsibility to dispose of the waste. The City will not clean up after contractors.

Oak Hill is now divided into four zones with collection during a six-day timespan of each month.



Planning Commission sees draft of zoning changes

The Planning Commission recently considered a draft copy of changes to the Zoning Ordinance.

Several proposals were agreed on, but a few items within the draft needed some more detail. Staff and the City engineers intend to present another draft to the Planning Commission early in 2011. The changes will be adopted by the Board of Commissioners in spring 2011 along with the updated Subdivision Regulations.

Public hearings on the proposed changes will give citizens an opportunity for their input. Many of the changes are derived from comments from residents at the public hearing that kicked off this project.

The two-year process of codifying the City ordinances should be complete by summer 2011. This project is technically called an update of the Municipal Code, but since the last update was

done in 1991, the process has been much more like a first-time codification of a city's ordinances. As a result, the time needed to do the project was much longer than an update would usually need.

Once this process is complete, the City plans to update ordinances every two to three years depending on the number of changes made.

The service is provided by the Municipal Technical Advisory Service at the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service. In addition to simply codifying the ordinances, its attorneys review the ordinances to ensure that they do not conflict with state or federal laws, which would override local ordinances, or with recent court cases regarding what a city can and cannot institute as local law. The attorneys also suggest standard language for the Municipal Code that covers common topics among all Tennessee cities.

Planning officers

Officers for the Oak Hill Planning Commission are Chair Art McWilliams, Vice Chair Joe Hodgson, and Secretary John Gillespie.

Carswell joins Investment Committee

Benjamin Carswell is a new member of the Investment Advisory Committee. Other members are Scott Schumann and Gary Waddey. The committee reviews short- and long-term investment options for the City.



Glen Leven Fall Harvest Festival

October 17

Photos by Ashley McDonough



Harvest Festival Committee

Jennifer Claxton,
Liz McLaurin, co-chairs
Kristen Tompkins
Gloria Bond
Trayte Peters
Kelly McMullen
Wendall Lowe
Ann Loffi
Barbara Fletcher
Catherine Teasley

City supports historic Glen Leven Farm

Oak Hill residents and the Land Trust for Tennessee put together a Fall Harvest Festival October 17 in support of Glen Leven Mansion on Franklin Pike.

Hundreds of visitors turned out for hayrides, pony rides, music, children's crafts, garden demonstrations, and tours of the mansion and property. The Chestnut Group conducted painting demonstrations and an art sale.

Mindy Orman sponsored the pony rides. Bryan Bolton and Ned Henry provided music for the event as an in-kind donation. Kubota of Franklin provided tractor/hay rides in-kind. Students from JT Moore Middle School volunteered in the children's craft area.

The event raised over \$13,800 to support Glen

Leven. The City of Oak Hill is matching up to \$25,000 of gifts and pledges made before December 31. Visit www.oakhilltn.us/community.html to make a donation.

A preserve of the Land Trust for Tennessee, the 65-acre property is one of the largest urban farmsteads in Tennessee and offers a preserved window into Middle Tennessee's past.

The state is supporting Glen Leven as well. A \$482,636 transportation enhancement grant will fund a program to create a cooperative education project that preserves and interprets the property.

And in a unique collaboration, executive chef Tyler Brown has been granted an acre of it to grow vegetables for The Hermitage Hotel's Capitol Grille.



Yard sale for the Cure raises \$1,500 for cancer research

The annual Yard Sale for the Cure in Oak Hill raised more than \$1,500 to support breast cancer research. The event has raised more than \$15,000 in the past nine years.

“I want to thank each and every one of you who participated this year and during past years,” said organizer Cindy Baxter Smith.

The 2011 event will be even bigger, she said. Breast cancer survivor Pat Skow is planning advertisements, maps, street markers, and a donation trailer for next year, set for October 15. To get your sale on the map, call 615-969-6188 or email pat@patskow.com.

2010 participants

Mary Addison Hackett
 Amie Simmons
 Heidi Wendling
 Wendell McGuirk
 Mike Rochelle
 Shannon Alexander
 Melody Sandrell
 Lynn Durham
 Cindy Smith
 Betty Baskette

Glendale rain garden site of Impact Nashville launch

Glendale Elementary School was the kick-off site for Impact Nashville, a new initiative that's part of Cities of Service.

Nashville is one of 10 cities participating in the nationwide program. Chief Service Officer Laurel Creech is developing and implementing a strategic service plan that focuses on educational volunteerism and environmental projects applied toward flood recovery and prevention.

Cumberland River Compact helped parents and volunteers create a rain garden for the school. On September 30 Mayor Karl Dean, schools director Jesse Register, state senators and local dignitaries visited Glendale to help first graders put 50 new native plants in the new rain garden.

Glendale sustained water damage from the heavy rains that caused the May flood. The rain garden will help absorb and divert water during future rainfalls.



Oak Hill Vice Mayor Jennifer Claxton and Glendale School first graders help Nashville Mayor Karl Dean plant a raingarden.

What's a rain garden?

Rain gardens are a natural and beautiful way to reduce and clean storm water. These shallow, depressed gardens are designed to collect rain water and allow it time to filter into the ground. This results in cleaner water, less water entering the storm systems and more water refilling the underground water table that keeps small streams flowing during the dry summer months.

Outer Drive Halloween parade and block party



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

Mid Tennessee Erosion Control:
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

Take extra precautions during the holidays

As you move through the hectic days leading up to and after the holidays, be extra careful to protect yourself and your belongings. Otherwise, you might fall prey to a criminal who takes advantage of distracted victims.

Shopping during the holidays presents special dangers.

- Don't carry large amounts of cash or wear expensive jewelry. You're setting yourself up as a target.
- Put valuables in the trunk or out of sight in the car. Leaving packages in sight is too tempting.
- Don't overload yourself with packages. That makes it too easy for someone to grab and run.
- If you shop with children, teach them to find a store employee and ask for help if they are separated from you.
- Beware of anyone who approaches you. Con artists may be working in pairs: one to distract you and another to rob you.
- If you are uneasy about returning to your car, ask a security person from the store or mall to accompany you.
- Avoid shopping alone. There's safety in

numbers, especially after dark.

Use extra care around the house to protect yourself from those who take advantage of the unsuspecting generosity of others.

- Be cautious of anyone you don't know who comes to your door. Don't let anyone in or give donations to any "organization" without seeing proper credentials.
- Don't pile or display gifts where they can be seen from outside.
- Always lock your doors, even if you're only going to be away from home for a few minutes.
- Don't announce your new acquisitions by putting product boxes outside. Flatten them and put them inside trash bags or cans.
- Leave lights on if you'll be returning home after dark. If you're going out of town, buy a timer to turn different lights on and off at various times.
- Cancel newspaper delivery and have a neighbor collect your mail while you are gone.
- Arrange to have packages delivered to a neighbor if you work during the day or are traveling.

Go green with e-news!

The City offers two email updates. Visit www.oakhilltn.us and click *Get news updates by email* at the top of the page. You can receive either City News or CrimeWatch or both. You can unsubscribe at any time. Your email address will not be shared with anyone unless you approve. And you can choose to opt out of the printed newsletter to save paper and production expenses.

CrimeWatch

Get updated mail alerts on crimes in your neighborhood



City News



Email summary with links to complete print newsletter contents on the City's website

Official Publication City of Oak Hill

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Suite 102
Nashville TN 37220

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