



BRENTWOOD

CITY UPDATE

Fall 2025



Unearthing Brentwood's Millennium Time Capsule

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Photo: Past Rotary President Teresa Beard addresses the crowd before opening the time capsule.

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CITY CONTACTS

City Hall	615-371-0060
Community Relations.....	615-371-2259
Fire	615-371-0170
Library.....	615-371-0090
Parks.....	615-371-2208
Planning & Codes	615-371-2204
Police.....	615-371-0160
Public Works	615-371-0080
Service Center	615-371-0080
Water Billing	615-661-7061
Water Maintenance	615-371-0080
Williamson County Ambulance	615-794-2800
Emergency.....	911

The City Update is published semi-annually by the City of Brentwood. Comments and suggestions should be directed to info@brentwoodtn.gov.



www.brentwoodtn.gov



FROM THE CITY MANAGER’S DESK

It is amazing how fast six months can fly by. I can say for a fact that it does not take six months to fall in love with Brentwood. What a wonderful community this is. I often describe my daily commute to work as being like a drive through the Tennessee countryside. Not everyone can say that, but we can!

The beauty and cool air of fall are embarking upon us. Your local government continues to strive to provide the highest quality of services in the most efficient manner. Please know that your governing body, volunteer boards, and staff are proud to serve you. We are excited to highlight updates to the John P. Holt Brentwood Library, efforts to honor our veterans, activities to preserve our local heritage and upcoming holiday events. In addition, a modern but preservation-focused design approach to Old Smyrna Road is on its way.

Your City Commission has once again chosen to keep the City’s portion of your total property tax level. At the same time, our conservative financial approach allows us to keep Brentwood’s infrastructure in top shape while also addressing some major local roadway projects including Ragsdale Road and future phases for both Split Log Road East and McEwen Drive.

You can also sleep soundly knowing that your highly trained police and fire personnel are ready in a minute’s notice to respond to your emergencies, anytime day or night. As we look forward into 2026, a major focus will be on updating the current Brentwood 2030 Comprehensive Plan. This plan is a guide to Brentwood’s future. As we start to look to 2040, we will be asking for your input, engagement, and support. Please keep a watchful eye out for opportunities to be a part of this exciting project.

Because of you, Brentwood is a community above all others. I am quite proud to now call Brentwood home, and it is my privilege to serve as your city manager. Thank you!

- Jason Gage



FRIENDS GATHERING ROOM GETS NEW LOOK

Last year, when Lee Boulie first arrived at the John P. Holt Brentwood Library as its new director, she was impressed by the cozy room off the main lobby. She'd spent nearly two decades working in public, academic, and private libraries, but she'd rarely come across places like the Friends of the Brentwood Library Gathering Room, with its fireplace and stylish, if a bit worn, furniture.

"I've always known how lucky Brentwood was to have such upscale, comfortable places in its library," she said. "One of the reasons I wanted this position was because of how special a space the Brentwood Library is."

A few days later, she learned something even more surprising – the library's staff, the city's Library Board, and the Friends of the Brentwood Library had spent the last several years dreaming of making the Friends Gather Room better. They planned to fund those dreams through a generous donation by the late O'Delle Holt.

In 2017, Holt left the city \$4.2 million with the request that the city name its library in honor of her late husband, John P. Holt. The city agreed, and they also established the Holt Fund, which allows for 25 percent of the donation to be used for enhancements to the facility.

Early on, everyone agreed to update the aging Friends of the Brentwood Library Gathering Room, but six years later, the momentum on the project had stalled.

"I started, and the Friends Gathering Room was a top priority," Boulie said.

She had a staff committee form a plan, and Brent Stidham, Brentwood's Facilities Maintenance Coordinator, said much of the work could be done in-house, saving the city money.

Work started earlier this year on the project, with crews replacing the stained carpet with laminate flooring, painting the walls, and building new display cases and cabinets. The Friends of the Brentwood Library donated \$50,000 for high-end furniture, including green fabric and brown leather chairs. The updated room reopened earlier this summer, and it has again become the centerpiece space for the facility.

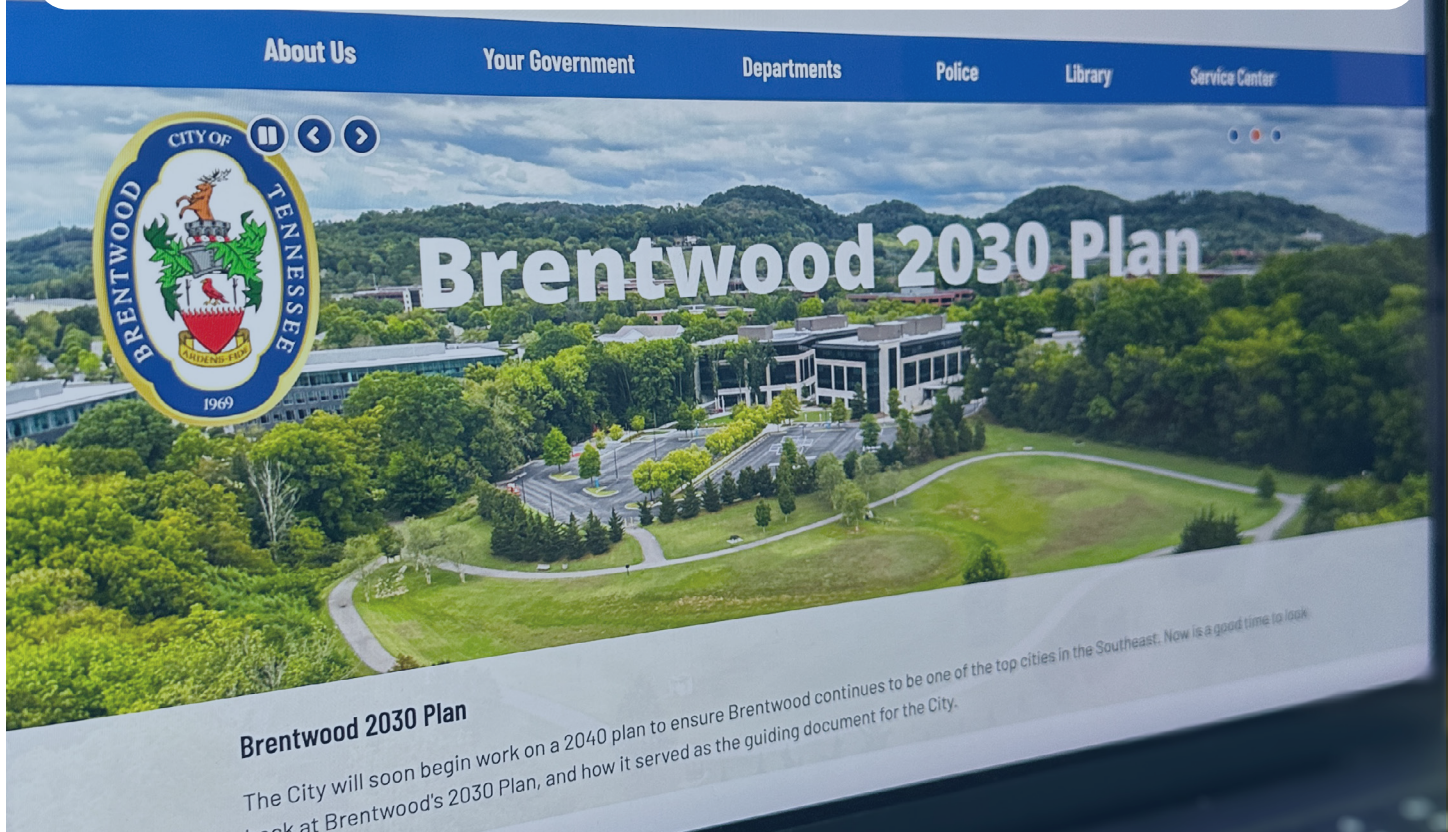
"We've heard only positive feedback from the citizens of Brentwood," Boulie said. "This was a group effort, and design by such an invested, large group isn't easy, but I think it's safe to say the space is beautiful and elevated."

The Friends Gathering Room is open to all library patrons. For more information on the John P. Holt Brentwood Library, visit library.brentwoodtn.gov/Home.

BRENTWOOD UNVEILS REFRESHED WEBSITE FOR USER-FRIENDLY EXPERIENCE

If you haven't used the Brentwood website in a few months, you might notice something a little different on your next visit. That's because the city's online presence has a slightly new look and feel following a months-long web refresh project by Brentwood's Information Technology Department and its Community Relations Department.

"The city's website was outdated, creating growing challenges for our staff and community," Sarah VanWormer, Brentwood Technology Director, said. "We've moved to a more efficient platform that minimizes the number of clicks it takes a user to find the information they're looking for."



The refreshed website now allows visitors to quickly and easily find information. A user no longer needs to know the name of a department to find a specific service.

The new site also allows city employees to update online content faster, ensuring residents have immediate access to the information they need.

As part of the project, the Brentwood Police Department and the John P. Holt Brentwood Library also received updated websites tailored to their specific needs. Previously, those two departments were restricted by the limitations of the city's main website.

"It is an industry-standard – and Best Practice – for many police departments and libraries to have their own sites," VanWormer said. "The refreshed subsites allows for their specific functionality while retaining the look and feel of the larger city site. The library and police have very different website needs from the rest of the city."

The city contracted Granicus, its existing website provider, for the refresh project. The company provides website services to more than 6,000 local governments.

TREE TALKS LECTURE SERIES

Earlier this fall, the city's Tree Board launched its new Tree Talks Lecture Series to engage and educate Brentwood residents on different tree-related topics.

The first talk featured local Arborist Blue Curry leading a tour through the Brentwood Library Arboretum. In September, Alexander Bremner, with the State Urban and Community Forestry program, and Katherine Kilbourne, State Forest Health Program Specialist, discussed "How to Deal with Invasives."

Visit the city's website and social media accounts for news on upcoming Tree Talks.

ASK BRENTWOOD

The city's social media team recently launched a new monthly series called #AskBrentwood, where they're asking residents to share their favorite Brentwood memories.

Over the last few months, the city's Facebook and Instagram pages have published photos of the 1988 Summer Social, the 1980s Pearfest at the Mooreland Mansion, and the fountain that once graced City Hall.

If you're feeling nostalgic, follow the city's social media accounts and share your favorite memories of Brentwood past.

TECH TIP

An estimated 83% of personal email addresses used to create online accounts have appeared in data breaches. To check yours, visit haveibeenpwned.com and enter your email address; you'll see any sites where your credentials were exposed. Brentwood's technology team encourages all residents to be wary about giving out their personal email address.

FINANCE KUDOS

The Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada (GFOA) presented a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to the City of Brentwood, Tennessee for the 33rd consecutive year for its fiscal year 2024-2025 annual budget document.

The City also received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial reporting by GFOA for the 38th consecutive year for its fiscal year 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). This certificate is a form of recognition for excellence in state and local government financial reporting.

WINDY HILL PARK OPENING

Save the date: the grand opening for Windy Hill Park is scheduled for Saturday, December 13, 2025.

Stay tuned to our social media and website for updates closer to the event.

SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES

2026 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES



AT CROCKETT PARK

**BE PART OF THE EXCITEMENT,
AND GET YOUR COMPANY IN FRONT OF THOUSANDS!**



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SPONSORSHIP LEVELS**

UNEARTHING BRENTWOOD'S MILLENNIUM TIME CAPSULE

On a pleasant Sunday afternoon, members of the Brentwood Morning Rotary Club grabbed shovels and began digging in front of the John P. Holt Brentwood Library. It only took them a few minutes to locate a metal box, which had been buried near the parking lot 25 years earlier.

Brentwood Mayor Nelson Andrews dropped his shovel and pulled the box onto the grass. The Millennium Time Capsule had sat silently underground for more than two decades, and now a crowd gathered while a Brentwood Public Works employee pried open the rusty box.

"When we buried this, the year 2025 seemed a lifetime away," Teresa Beard, a past president of the Brentwood Morning Rotary, said. "The year 2000 brought much excitement, some fear of the unknown and much anticipation. Our club wanted to mark the moment, not only for ourselves but for the City of Brentwood and many of our partner organizations. That's how the time capsule idea was formed."

The box, opened for the first time in 25 years, released a musty odor. Beard held her breath and removed the contents, setting them on folding tables. The time capsule contained photo albums, a Brentwood 2020 Plan, police and fire patches, a coffee mug, stuffed animals, and documents from different organizations. A wrinkled copy of TV Guide, which stopped publishing in 2008, was found next to a People Magazine featuring the movie star couple Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman.

An April 13, 2000, edition of the Brentwood Journal reported on "more than \$3.35 million worth of intersection improvements" being planned for "Franklin Road at Concord Road and Moores and Murray lanes."





Past Rotary President Larry Boyd, Brentwood Mayor Nelson Andrews, and current Rotary President Rob Avernheimer.

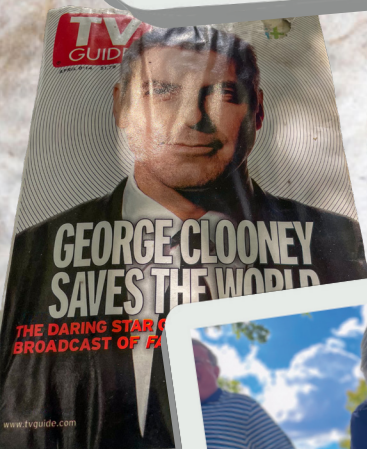
Several local schools also contributed to the time capsule, including an essay by Woodland Middle School student Dylan Williams, describing a day-in-the-life at the school.

"I hang out in the halls for a while and talk to my friends," Williams wrote. "When the one-minute bell rings that sounds like a phone, I go to my class. A minute later, the late bell rings and we watch Channel 1. Channel 1 is just like the news."

Preston Bain, vice chair of the Brentwood Planning Commission, was at the library 25 years ago when the time capsule was originally buried. He spoke briefly during the Oct. 5 ceremony about all that has changed above ground over the years.

"We were still using floppy disks," he said. "The advent of the smart phone was still several years away, and the population of the City of Brentwood was 26,000 in the year 2000, and it's just over 46,000 today. We've seen significant growth in the city."

While the time capsule remained underground, several floods – including the historic 2010 flood – covered the area. Most of the items inside were damp, adding to the musty smell. After visitors to the ceremony viewed what was recovered, Rotary members collected the contents to dry them out. They hope to display these Brentwood 2000 artifacts in the coming weeks.



The Brentwood Historic Commission presents

THE BUGLE



Volume 25, Issue 2

Historic Commission Members: Commissioner Anne Dunn, Chairman Ashley McNulty, Preston Bain, Amy Brothers, Joe Crockett, Joe Grosson, Loyce Hooker, Nicole Smith, Alison Stabile, Susan Tabor, Tara Volpintesta, Tracy Zimmerman, and Charles Booth, City of Brentwood Director of Community Relations

REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS AT REST IN BRENTWOOD

On July 4, 2026, the United States will celebrate its 250th anniversary. Leading up to the event, the Brentwood Historic Commission will commemorate the Revolutionary War veterans who are buried within the city limits.

The late Brentwood Historian Vance Little wrote, "Middle Tennessee did not see action during the Revolutionary War, but many Veterans of that conflict came to Tennessee to take up North Carolina Revolutionary War grants or to get a new start in life. Some settled in what is now Brentwood. They lived out their lives here, and nine are buried here."

The following are Revolutionary War soldiers who are at rest in Brentwood. (The information below is a compilation of works by Little, Louise Lynch, Kathie Greaves, and Charles Cox.)

Andrew Crockett was one of three Crockett brothers who owned several hundred acres in Brentwood. They came from Wythe County, Virginia. Andrew was the only one of the Crockett brothers who moved his permanent residence here. He owned 640 acres that included what is now Crockett Park, Forge Seat and most of the Brenthaven subdivision. He served as a lieutenant in the Virginia State Militia.

Green Hill came to Williamson County in 1799 from Louisburg, North Carolina. Before coming to Tennessee, he held many influential political positions in North Carolina. He represented North Carolina in four Continental Congresses. He was elected Treasurer of the Halifax District of North Carolina during the Revolutionary War. He is credited with saving the treasury and records of the district before the advance of Cornwallis's army. He was commissioned as a major in the North Carolina Militia. He was instrumental in the spread of Methodism on the Tennessee frontier. He founded the historic Liberty United Methodist Church in Brentwood.

Benjamin Humphrey was born in Virginia in 1758. He lived in Surry County, North Carolina and Virginia during the Revolutionary War. He served in the 4th, 8th and 12th Virginia regiment of the Continental Lines. He was later promoted to lieutenant in the North Carolina Militia from Surry County. He married Jane Lawrence in North Carolina. He came to Williamson County in 1805 and bought 153 acres of land on Mill Creek. He lived at what is now the intersection of Concord Road and Waller Road in Brentwood.

David Johnston served in the Revolutionary War as a private in the Mecklenburg, North Carolina militia. He lost his left arm in the Battle of Tiger River, South Carolina, in 1780. Because of his disability, he was given a pension in 1789 while a resident of Ashe County, North Carolina. His grandson, James Johnston, built the historic Isola Bella mansion on the corner of Concord and Franklin Road.

John Johnston was born in Tyrone County, Ireland and lived in Bucks County, Pennsylvania before moving to Tennessee. He served as a major in the Revolutionary War. His son, Matthew Johnston, founded the Johnson Chapel, United Methodist Church.

Moses Lindsey was born in 1762 in Quaker Colony in Frederick County, Virginia. He followed the Quaker migration to Newberry County, South Carolina, and settled on the Bush River. While living there, he enlisted in Captain Garrett's South Carolina company in the Revolutionary War. He fought in the battles of Musgrove's Mill, Fish Dam Ford, Blackstocks, and Cowpens. He was in the Siege of Ninety-Six and the Siege of Augusta. While there, he fought in the battles of Fort Grierson and Eutaw Springs. He lived in Newberry County until he moved to Williamson County in 1810.

James Moore was born in 1764 in Mecklenburg, North Carolina and married Eleanor Irwin, the daughter of General Robert Irwin. Eleanor Irwin Moore was born in 1771. James and Eleanor emigrated to Williamson County quite early, and Eleanor died of typhoid fever in 1809, leaving a family of small children. James Moore married Sarah Alfred in 1810.

According to his obituary, James Moore was "a short time in the Revolutionary War, though but a boy" posted in The Western Weekly Review, Franklin, Tennessee, 27 July 1838.

Thomas Cox was born on June 7, 1761, in Baltimore County, Maryland, to John Cox and Elizabeth Sympton. Around 1774, he moved with his family to what is now Sullivan County, Tennessee. In spring 1779, settlers established a permanent settlement on the Cumberland at Fort Nashborough (now Nashville) and created the "Articles of Agreement or Compact of Government," which Thomas Cox signed on May 1, 1780. He received two land grants for his service as a guard for land commissioners and later settled near Otter Creek in Davidson County.



Thomas Bradley fought at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse at the age of 15. He is listed on a North Carolina payroll and later as a Tennessee pensioner. He married Margaret Norton in 1791, and moved to Tennessee in the 1790s, having six children. In 1802, he acquired 640 acres on the Little Harpeth River, expanding to 1120 acres by 1821 where the John P. Holt Brentwood Library now stands. He served in many County Commissions and as a captain in the TN Militia. Thomas and Margaret were buried near their home, but markers disappeared by the 1990s, and the cemetery is now a natural area behind the Brentwood Library.



Above: Members of the community gathered on Saturday, October 25, 2025 for Brentwood's first America 250 event, the grave marking ceremony for Thomas Bradley. The event was sponsored by the Historic Commission and the Sons of the American Revolution.

COOL SPRINGS HOUSE

BRENTWOOD, TENN.
EST. 1830

Located in Crockett Park, this historic home is available to rent year-round for events, including weddings, business gatherings, graduation and holiday parties, bridal and baby showers, and more.



coolspringshouse.com

Ravenswood MANSION

EST. 1825 | BRENTWOOD, TENN.

This 200 year old historic home is located in the heart of Brentwood at Marcella Vivrette Smith Park.

It's available to rent year-round for events, including weddings, business gatherings, graduation and holiday parties, bridal and baby showers, and more.



ravenswoodmansion.com



Learn More About Brentwood History:

- » [City of Brentwood Historic Commission](#) on Facebook
- » www.brentwoodtn.gov/About-Us/History

VETERANS MONUMENT COMING TO BRENTWOOD

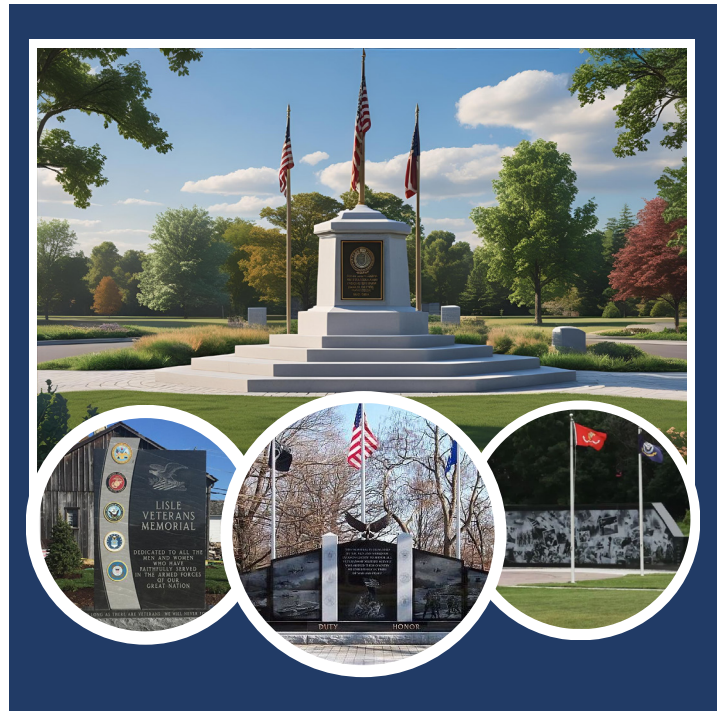
The City of Brentwood is moving forward with the creation of an official veterans monument on city property, and city officials hope to have the project completed by July 4, 2026 – the 250th anniversary of the United States.

The monument will be erected at 910 Heritage Way, next to the Brentwood Police Headquarters, and a special Ad Hoc Committee was developed to spearhead this ambitious project. The committee, chaired by Vice Mayor Rhea Little, is now working with Hodgson Douglas Landscape Architects on a concept. Once a design is selected, the committee will launch a fundraising campaign to pay for the monument.

In addition to Little, the committee includes Charles Hawkins, Thomas Carr, Jr., Jeff Gwaltney, Lenora Kochanowski, Melissa Linkinhoker, and James Lundquist. Ashley McAnulty also serves on the committee as a representative from the Brentwood Historic Commission.



Please consider honoring our veterans by donating to the design and creation of the monument. Scan the QR code to view the project's page on our website, and donate.



The images above are examples of Veterans monuments. No design has been approved yet for the project.

The Veterans Monument will be located in the field next to the Brentwood Police Headquarters, which is shown below.



SAFETY AND PRESERVATION TOP PRIORITIES FOR OLD SMYRNA ROAD

Old Smyrna Road, one of the oldest streets in Brentwood, is an iconic part of this community, with its canopy of trees and historic stone walls. Early settlers once traveled down this slender path to get flour and animal feed from a local grist mill, and more than 200 years later, the narrow road has become an idyllic route for Sunday drives.

But during busier days, hundreds of vehicles – including large construction trucks – use Old Smyrna Road as a convenient way to get from Wilson Pike to Edmondson Pike. The charm remains, but the growing traffic has become a safety concern for residents and city officials. Brentwood is now actively working on a plan to preserve Old Smyrna Road's rich history while also making it safe for 21st century drivers.

The most pressing issue is a short stretch of road that is only 15 feet wide. The city's Engineering Department has conducted numerous improvement and safety studies over the years, and on Aug. 18, they presented three design concepts to Brentwood residents for input. The community's overwhelming response was for Option A, which turns that small portion of Old Smyrna Road into a pedestrian trail and adds a new two-lane road on the other side of the stone wall and trees.

"We're going to be able to take the original roadbed for the first mile or so of Old Smyrna Road, with the rock walls and trees, and preserve it as a greenway trail that can still be enjoyed by people, the same way they can still enjoy Ravenswood Mansion and the Cool Springs House," Brentwood Mayor Nelson Andrews said at a Williamson Inc. Policy Talk. "And then we can build an actual safe, modern road through right-of-way we've acquired just to the north of that."

Attendees at the Aug. 18 meeting voted in favor of this plan, with 86% saying they preferred Option A. Among the people who live on Old Smyrna Road, 82% approved of the design, and 90% of the people living in the area also picked that option.

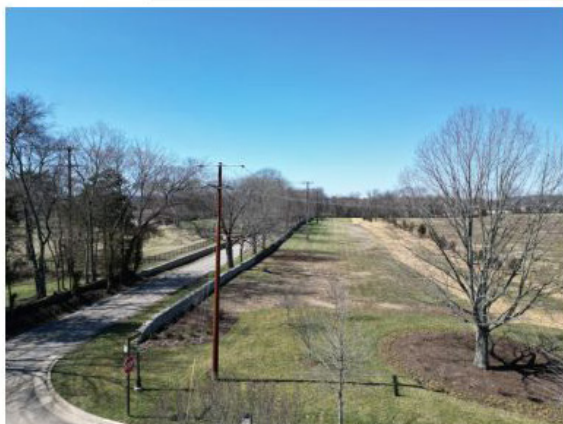
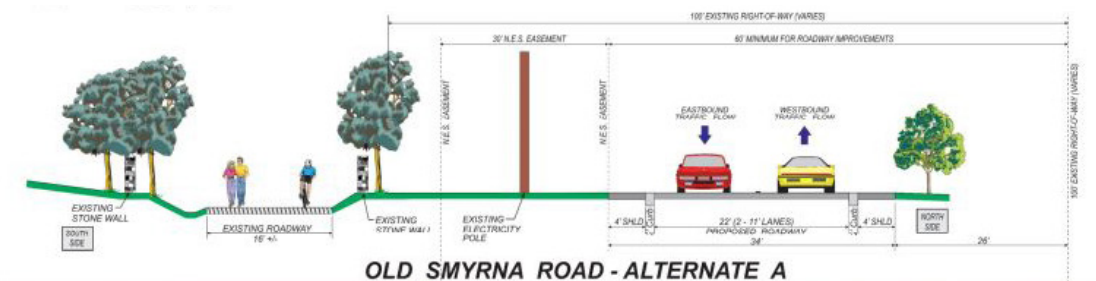
"The consensus was pretty clear for Option A," Dickie Sullivan, president of Sullivan Engineering, said. His firm was hired by the city to develop initial concepts for the road.

During a September meeting with the City Commission, Sullivan presented the survey results and addressed concerns he'd heard from residents. Some individuals worried the project would remove too many trees and destroy the old walls, disrupting Old Smyrna Road's historic nature. Option A, Sullivan said, would have the smallest impact on the road's aesthetics.

"We were really surprised when we looked at it that we are not impacting any of the historic wall with this alternative," he said. The project will require a few small portions of the newer wall on Old Smyrna Road to be removed for driveway access. "We're also cutting down very few trees. We've got five trees that we're removing."

Among those five trees, three – an ash tree and two hackberry trees – are in bad health and need to be removed.

The project is expected to cost about \$8.7 million. The city will host another meeting with affected homeowners to make sure they understand the proposed improvement. The next step, which will officially begin the project, will be for the city to sign a contract with a firm to design the new road and multi-use trail.



2025 HOLIDAY EVENTS

Morning with Santa and Magic Show

Saturday, December 6

- See Santa Claus: 9 am to 11 am
- Magic Shows: 9:30 am, 10:30 am and 11:30 am

Come see Santa Claus at the John. P Holt Brentwood Library and enjoy a festive start to your holiday season! Magician Scott Humston will amaze and delight the crowd with his fascinating magic and hilarious showmanship. Admission is free, but free tickets are required for the magic show. Tickets will be available in the Children's Department beginning November 9th at 2 pm.

In addition to the magic shows and visiting Santa, enjoy delicious treats, prize drawings, and other fun-filled activities. Children can also write letters to Santa and make fun crafts.

Tree Lighting

Monday, December 1, at 5:30 pm

As the start of the holiday season approaches, the Brentwood City Commission looks forward to inviting you to the annual tree lighting ceremony. The event is held on the lawn of the John P. Holt Brentwood Library on Concord Road. Please stay tuned to the city's website and social media channels for program updates.

Neighborhood Luminaries

Saturday, December 13, from 6 pm to 9 pm

From dusk to 9 pm, neighborhoods are encouraged to display luminaries. The city sets the date, but each Homeowner Association plans the details. For safety, please consider using glow sticks or flameless candles. In the event of rain or inclement weather, the luminary date will be Sunday, December 14th. Each neighborhood, usually through its Homeowners Association, makes the final decision on luminary postponement.

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