

# Brentwood City Update

Fall 2019

Your Official City of Brentwood, TN News Source



[www.brentwoodtn.gov](http://www.brentwoodtn.gov)



# CITY UPDATE

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The City Update is published semi-annually by the City of Brentwood. Comments and suggestions should be directed to Deanna Lambert, Community Relations Director, or by e-mail at [deanna.lambert@brentwoodtn.gov](mailto:deanna.lambert@brentwoodtn.gov).

# CITY CONNECTIONS

Don't forget - you can always keep up with city news on our website, social media, or local television stations.  
[www.brentwoodtn.gov](http://www.brentwoodtn.gov)



Comcast Channel 19  
AT&T U-Verse Channel 99  
United Communications Channel 204

# CITY CONTACTS

City Hall .....	615-371-0060
Planning/Codes.....	615-371-2204
Water Billing.....	615-661-7061
Water Maintenance.....	615-371-0080
Public Works.....	615-371-0080
Service Center .....	615-371-0080
Police .....	615-371-0160
Fire .....	615-371-0170
Wm.Co.Ambulance.....	615-794-2800
Library .....	615-371-0090
Parks .....	615-371-2208
Emergency .....	911

# Kirk's Corner

We all know that traffic is a concern in Brentwood and throughout most of Middle Tennessee. Where possible, the City of Brentwood strives to provide other options for residents to travel to and from locations around town. You have probably noticed the wide multi-use paths that are included with new roadways like Split Log Road, Concord Road, and eventually Franklin Road. Residents will also be able to enjoy a new greenway in the Maryland Farms area this fall.

Unfortunately, our ability to provide improved bike and pedestrian connectivity is not evenly distributed across the community. Our network east of I-65 is extensive. A resident in the Cromwell neighborhood on the far southeast side of town off Split Log Road can make the nearly six-mile ride to the John P. Holt Library without ever having to ride on a road with vehicles. West of I-65, most residents cannot go around the block on a bike without having to worry about cars, let alone walk or ride to school or the library easily.

The difference in the level of bike and pedestrian connectivity on the two sides of town is primarily due to timing. Most areas west of I-65 developed in the 1980's and 1990's when sidewalks and bike trails weren't considered important. Much of the east side of I-65 has developed more recently, when this type of infrastructure was a priority and it could be incorporated into the planning of neighborhoods, parks, and road projects.

Going forward, the City is looking at all options to improve connectivity, including connecting our bike and pedestrian networks across I-65. As you can imagine, that is not an easy or inexpensive proposition. The challenge we will always face in older neighborhoods is the fact that any attempt to retrofit bike and pedestrian facilities in these areas will inevitably mean having to cross someone's private property. We have found that most people favor expanded connectivity, but not if it impacts their own property. In the meantime, enjoy the facilities we do have today, and be safe!

By  
City Manager  
Kirk Bednar





# The People Behind the Pic

By Deanna Lambert, Community Relations Director

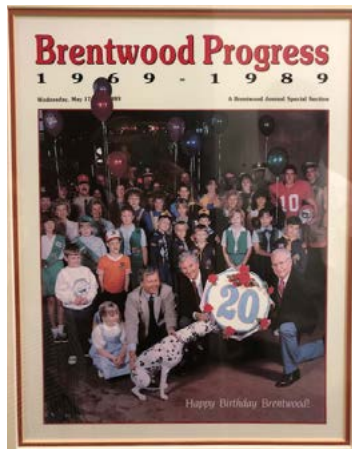
Isn't it neat to go back and look at old photos? The City of Brentwood has a tradition that began in 1989. Each decade, a photo is taken outside City Hall which then serves as the front of this publication for the milestone year.

On Monday, September 9, 2019, many from the community gathered just as in years past. There were city volunteers, police officers and firefighters, long time and short time city department directors, and current Mayor Rhea Little, Vice Mayor Ken Travis and current Brentwood City Commissioners Nelson Andrews, Anne Dunn, Mark Gorman, Susannah Macmillan and Regina Smithson. Since this was the 50th Birthday photo, there were also former city leaders like Jim Redd, who is the oldest living former city commissioner. Redd and his wife, Frances, still live in Brentwood today off Murray Lane. Redd served as the Grand

Marshal for "A Golden Gallop" parade in April this year. Others like former commissioners, Betsy Crossley, Jack Fletcher, Rod Freeman, Joe Reagan, Paul Webb and former Mayor Jill Burgin were also present. Just weeks away from retirement, Brentwood Police K-9 Lexie made the photo with fellow Officer Steve Holder.

On the front row, is the future of Brentwood. The children in the boy and girl scout uniforms, cheerleaders, band members, and athletes. In the very first photo back in 1989, Drew Doughty was one of the children wearing

a boy scout uniform. Drew was nine years old. His father Steve Doughty was a Brentwood planning commissioner for years.



In the 40th Birthday photo was Trot Gawrys, the grandson of Brentwood Commissioner Regina Smithson. He was 14-years-old back in 2009 and returned for the 2019 photo with his family and baby boy Alex, who all live in Brentwood now after a few years away at college. Gawrys said "at 14 you see things differently. Some things have changed, but at the same time it is still the Brentwood I know. It is nice to always see the place you call home, is still home."

Perhaps Brentwood High school football standout wide receiver Walker Merrill who is a first-time participant in the city's traditional photo will return for the photo in 2029. His future looks bright as he currently has offers to attend and play football at 14 colleges.

## AGE 5 = Library Card Time!

We invite your 5-year-old to come with their parent or guardian to get a library card at the John P. Holt Brentwood Library. The library offers amazing resources to help your child in and out of school, including Tumble Books, Novelist K-8, interactive Story Times, and more!

Come in person to enjoy our outdoor Storybook Walk and fun programs or enjoy the resources from home when you access them with their card.





# THE BUGLE

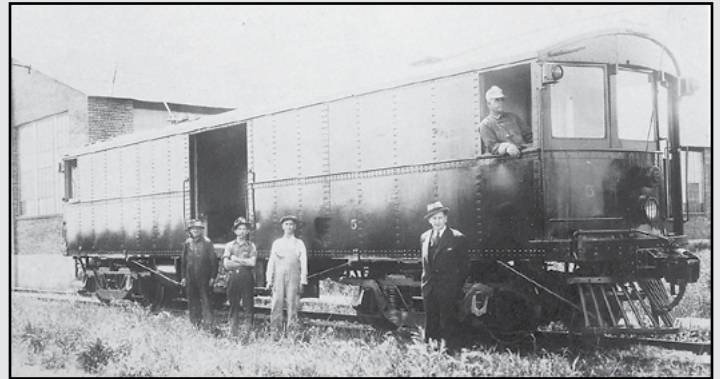
Volume 19, Issue 2

## The Brentwood I Remember

By Loyce Hooker, Brentwood Historic Commission

The Brentwood Historic Commission funded a special, limited number printing of *The Brentwood I Remember* by John M. Oden Sr. to celebrate Brentwood's 50th birthday throughout 2019. The book is available for purchase online and would make an excellent holiday gift. The 391-page book is beautifully bound and full of fascinating photos, maps, primary documents, and drawings of what the people and places of Brentwood looked like from 1850-1950. As Oden states in the preface, "This book is about the men, women, and children both black and white who lived, worked, shopped, and attended church in the area just north of Old Hickory Blvd, extending south along both sides of Franklin Road and Wilson Pike to just south of Murray Lane." In 1815, the Oden family first appeared on tax records in Williamson County in the Thompson's Station area. The family migrated to Brentwood a few years later and bought a large tract of land containing 404 acres. The Oden farm encompassed all of what is now known as Carondelet extending west over to Franklin Road. "The small family cemetery at the Carondelet entrance on Wilson Pike remains deeded to the family today," explains Oden.

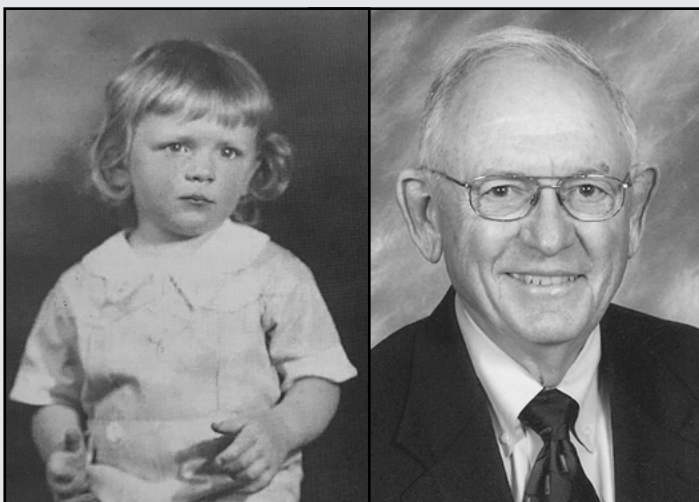
Mr. Oden was born in 1932 and spent most of his childhood on his grandparents' farm, a world of wheat and hay, hog killings, drinking water from a well, and powering the lights with a Delco battery. In *The*



*Brentwood I Remember* he revisits Franklin Road when it was 30 feet wide and covered in crushed stone, the old railroad depot and many other early railroad sites, the one room post office, and the two room Lipscomb schoolhouse where Mr. Oden entered the fourth grade in 1941. "Heated with a wood stove and without running water, the school was little changed since its earliest years," writes Oden. In 1929 his father, Marion Oden and Albert Noble both of whom were pharmacists opened Noble's Drug Store at the corner of Old Hickory and Franklin Road. Today, that same site is where Walgreens is located. Oden worked as a "soda jerk" and recalls, "In those days, the drug store was much more than a place to fill prescriptions: it was the center of the community."

Other chapters cover the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Sections Yards, Pewitt Service Station and Feed Mill, the WSM Radio Antenna, early neighborhoods, Brentwood United Methodist Church, Brentwood Academy, Owen Chapel Church, baseball teams, the Boulevard Night Club and others, Maryland Farms, Huff Grocery, and Boy Scout Troup #1. Oden's reminiscence of his scouting experience during his teenage years is especially poignant. "My Scoutmaster, Billy Jim Vaughn, was one of the most influential persons in my life. Each Saturday night, Billy Jim would pick up four or five Brentwood boys at Noble's Drug Store. When he arrived in his Studebaker, there were already a bunch of boys in the car. The overflow rode on the rear bumper or on the fenders. Just getting to the scout meeting was an adventure, though Billy Jim drove slowly, and we were always safe," Oden recalls.

The second half of the book is a compilation of short pieces about the various families living in Brentwood from 1850 until 1952. Oden writes that there were



Author John Massenburg Oden, Sr.

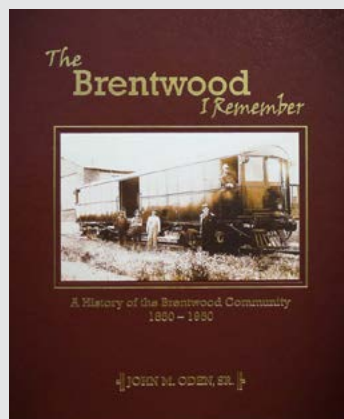
62 white families and 91 African-American families. The larger African-American demographic was not surprising for the time, considering the 1860 U.S. Census indicated that 52% of the Williamson County population was enslaved. It is amazing that as a teenager, Oden knew so many of the families and recounts in detail the daily events of a small town. Although most of the white families purchased their properties in the 1920s and 1930s, some had lived in Brentwood since before the Civil War. Oden writes, "During my boyhood, Midway Mansion and Farm, which is now The Brentwood Country Club, was the home of McGavock Hayes, the grandson of Lysander McGavock, who built Midway in 1846." Other pre-civil war settlers still living in Brentwood in the 20th century was the Moore family at Mooreland and the Odens. One of the earliest African-American families to purchase property in Brentwood in 1873 was Matthew and Jane McGavock, who were both born into slavery. Oden writes that they "purchased the property which is now occupied by the Exxon on Franklin Road." Most of the other properties in the Hardscuffle Road community were purchased by African-American families from 1900 through the 1930s. The area called Hardscuffle, is located on Church Street East today, and was "appropriately named since it consisted mostly of flat bedrock and gravel," Oden writes.

The last chapter covers some of the many cemeteries saved by local families, developers working with City of Brentwood officials and the Brentwood Historic Commission during Brentwood's growth. As you drive around our beautiful community, look for what remains from our fascinating past. If you are not familiar with our history, The Brentwood I Remember would make an excellent introduction.

## THE BUGLE ARCHIVES

You can read more interesting Brentwood history researched and produced by the Brentwood Historic Commission. Seventeen years of archived Bugle newsletters can be found online.

[www.brentwoodtn.gov/about-us/history/the-bugle-newsletters](http://www.brentwoodtn.gov/about-us/history/the-bugle-newsletters)



Oden's book and other Brentwood's 50th memorabilia can be purchased online: [www.brentwoodtn50.org/store](http://www.brentwoodtn50.org/store)

## The Brentwood Historic Commission

[www.brentwoodtn.gov/about-us/history](http://www.brentwoodtn.gov/about-us/history)

Anne Laine Goad, Chair  
Ashley McAnulty, Vice-Chair  
Anne Dunn, City Commissioner  
Linda Lynch, ex officio member  
Sherry Hammond, Secretary  
Gini Dawson Moonshower  
Jodi Rall

Kim Coggin  
Carole Crigger  
Hollie Cummings  
Inetta Gaines  
Kathie Greaves  
Loyce Hooker

Deanna Lambert, Community Relations

The goal of the Historic Commission is to preserve Brentwood history and educate others about the past. We invite you to help us accomplish our goal with a donation to the Brentwood Historic Commission.

Detach this form and send with your check payable to:

Brentwood Historic Commission

City of Brentwood

Attention: Deanna Lambert

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual           | \$15   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family               | \$25   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing         | \$50   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate/Benefactor | \$100+ |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_





# Doorbells That Help Solve Crime and What Else in Brentwood 2069

By Deanna Lambert, Community Relations Director

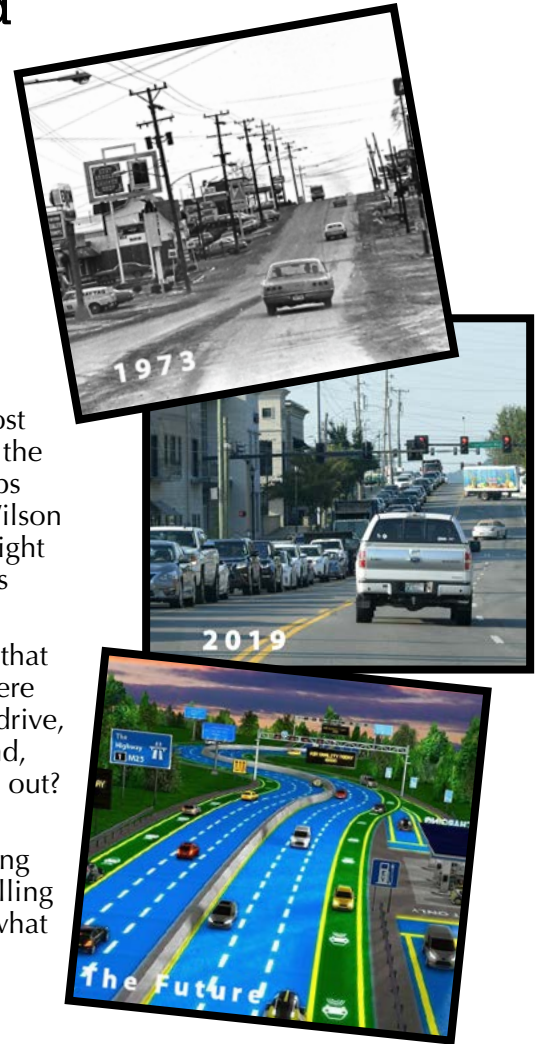
Did you ever think we would be sitting here in 2019 reading about how your doorbell can help Brentwood Police officers find criminals? Or how we are using power outlets to charge our vehicles? I know it sounds unbelievable, but we probably didn't think back in 1969 about how many cars and people there would be in Brentwood fifty years later.

What will 2069 look like in Brentwood? (Disclaimer, these are not endorsements, but rather ideas just in my head.) Will we have glow in the dark features on the road to help reduce the financial and environmental cost of regular lighting? Such markings are already being used on some roads in the Netherlands and even on street lights here in Williamson County. Or perhaps the idea of interactive lights could be used on the less-traveled roads like Wilson Pike. This would mean when a vehicle approaches, motion sensors would light up that section of the road. The lights would grow brighter as one car comes closer and then dim as it passes.

Could the roadways be "smart" meaning specific lanes for electric vehicles that could charge vehicles if they are in the electric priority lane? Or perhaps there will be solar roadways, which would be made of solar panels that you can drive, park or walk on. Enough about roads.... Will NASA search, and possibly find, life on other planets? Will humans be able to live on the moon? Will oil run out? Will cancer be cured?

The future sounds frightening and cool at the same time, doesn't it? One thing is for sure, Brentwood will remain the awesome City it is known for with rolling hills, top rated schools, and a safe community to live and work, no matter what else is happening in 2069.

*Brentwood's past and present photos provided by Shelley Mays of the Tennessean.*



## Brentwood Police Department

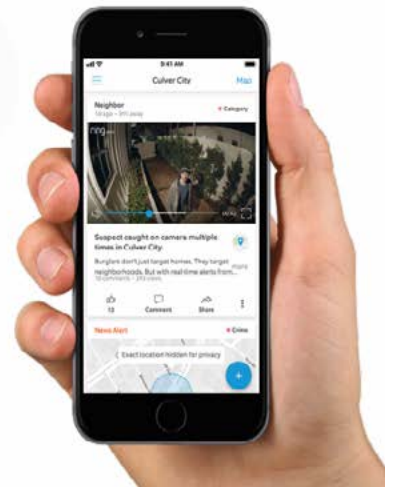
has joined Neighbors by Ring!



Neighbors by Ring

**Neighbors by Ring** is the Neighborhood Watch App that sends real-time crime and safety notifications directly to your phone.

Join the **Brentwood Police Department** on the Neighbors App by texting **brentwoodtn** to **555888** or visit **[download.ring.com/brentwood](https://download.ring.com/brentwood)** today.





*Brentwood is beautiful. The topography and the citizens make it beautiful. It is such a blessing to be allowed to live and serve here.*

Mayor Rhea E. Little, III  
rhea.little@brentwoodtn.gov  
9703 Onyx Lane  
615-371-2200, ext. 2780



*Brentwood is suburban living, with open spaces, friendly neighbors, parks, and rolling hills.*

Vice Mayor Ken Travis  
ken.travis@brentwoodtn.gov  
7086 Willowick Drive  
615-981-9572 (cell) / 615-371-2200, ext. 2490



*Brentwood is the best place to live, work, and raise a family because of our friendly community, strong institutions, and commitment to traditional values.*

Commissioner Nelson Andrews  
nelson.andrews@brentwoodtn.gov  
1242 Monarch Way  
615-917-1384 (mobile) / 615-371-2200



*If you look up the word home, it should say "Brentwood." It epitomizes all the feelings we have when we think of home-warmth of family and friends, safety, a peaceful setting and a great place to be.*

Commissioner Anne Dunn  
anne.dunn@brentwoodtn.gov  
1613 Covington Drive  
615-370-3702 (home) / 615-371-2200, ext. 2420

## What Brentwood Means to Us

From your City of Brentwood Commissioners



*Brentwood is a highly desirable suburban city founded on low density land use.*

Commissioner Mark Gorman  
mark.gorman@brentwoodtn.gov  
9732 Turnbridge Court  
615-483-6004 (cell) / 615-371-2200, ext. 2460



*Brentwood is marveling at the mist in the valleys in the morning. It is stopping to talk to your neighbor in the grocery store. It is taking food after surgery, taking your neighbor's child to soccer practice, and taking the time to build a community, one connection at a time.*

Commissioner Susannah Macmillan  
susannah.macmillan@brentwoodtn.gov  
6400 Westbourne Dr  
(O) 615-371-2200 ext. 2370



*Brentwood is family. Many families are born and raised here, go away for education, only to return to the same beautiful spot they always knew as home. Brentwood is a hometown that offers everything you want to come home to and start your own family. Our City has great schools, businesses, family and community activities, and the perfect location in Middle Tennessee. Over the past 50 years, even through growth, the core values of Brentwood are still in place.*

Commissioner Regina Smithson  
regina.smithson@brentwoodtn.gov  
6011 Wellesley Way  
615-377-0115 (home) / 615-371-2200 ext. 2410

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

December 2 5:30pm  
**Christmas Tree Lighting**  
John P. Holt Brentwood Library

December 7 9:00am  
**Morning with Santa**  
John P. Holt Brentwood Library

December 7  
**Neighborhood Luminaires**





# *Holidays at Ravenswood Mansion*

When it is time to plan your holiday event, Ravenswood Mansion offers a charming and picturesque setting for your gathering. Our Historic Home is fully decorated at Christmas time, making it the perfect backdrop for creating holiday memories. Plus, the included amenities and our special December pricing means this is the perfect spot in Brentwood for your holiday party.

## **AMENITIES**

Heated indoor space  
Cocktail style capacity: 125  
Seated capacity: 75  
Tables and chairs included

## **DECEMBER PRICING**

Saturday 9am-11pm - \$3,500  
Sunday 9am-11pm - \$2,500  
Friday 9am-11pm - \$2,500  
Mon-Thurs 9am-11pm - \$1,500  
Mon-Thurs 5pm-11pm - \$1,000  
Mon-Thurs 9am-5pm - \$500



[www.RavenswoodMansion.com](http://www.RavenswoodMansion.com)