

## Oak Ridger, The (TN)

Estimated printed pages: 2

January 10, 2008

**Section:** News

### City Council: More top stories

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In a recent two-part series, The Oak Ridger asked Council members about two of the top city government stories of 2007: The failed Crestpointe referendum and a proposal to develop a community vision.

Here's a sampling of what Oak Ridge City Council members thought were some other highlights — or lowlights — of 2007.

- The June 5 municipal election, in which three incumbent Oak Ridge City Council members did not seek re-election for the three available seats.

“That was really a shock to me,” Oak Ridge City Councilman David Mosby said.

“We had a major change,” Oak Ridge Mayor Tom Beehan said.

Still, the three new Council members are “rolling up their sleeves” and continuing the “quality leadership” exhibited by the previous Council members, the mayor and Mosby said.

The three Council members who did not seek re-election were former Oak Ridge Mayor David Bradshaw, Councilman Leonard Abbatiello and Councilwoman Lou Dunlap.

They were replaced by councilmen Tom Hayes and Charlie Hensley, and Councilwoman Ellen Smith.

Outside Council meetings, Hensley has been attending various other local board and committee meetings.

“I don't think I can do a good job as a city councilman unless I understand what the other volunteers in the community are doing,” he said.

- Traffic and pedestrian safety, an issue that has taken on added urgency since 12-year-old student Ashley Paine was run over by a school bus near the Oak Ridge Turnpike and Illinois Avenue.

The accident has revived questions about whether students who live near schools should be offered the option of riding buses.

“I think we need to provide school bus service for every child that goes to Oak Ridge schools,” said City Councilwoman Jane Miller, who is also mayor pro tem.

“I think that's a real easy fix.”

- Illegal drug activity.

Beehan said he wants to send a message that illegal drug dealing leads to jail time.

“We need to be very, very aggressive this year,” he said.

- New housing and a high school under renovation.

“That to me is going to be really, really important,” Mosby said, referring to the housing.

He said he hopes the new high school is well-received and a “great boost to the community.”

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