

COMMISSIONERS: Gray O. Thornburg, *Mayor* • James V. Hunt, Sr., *Vice Mayor* • Cathy Altenbern, Tomas F. Corcoran, George W. Crook, Beth Reardon, *City Manager/Treasurer* • Tim Eads, *Chief of Police* • Linda Berner, *City Recorder*



NEWSLETTER TO RESIDENTS OF BELLE MEADE

January 2009

MEET AND GREET The Belle Meade Commissioners!

You asked for it and we listened....
Please drop by to meet your elected officials



THURSDAY, JANUARY 29th
5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
or
FRIDAY, JANUARY 30th
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



at City Hall, 4705 Harding Road

This is an informal gathering where you can ask questions, voice concerns, and sign-up for email lists and ways to get involved.
Our citizens are a huge part of what makes this city great and we value your input.
Questions? City Manager Beth Reardon, breardon@citybellemeade.org or 297-6041.

GOING GREEN... BELLE MEADE GREEN!

In this time of “earth-saving” and “money-saving”, the Commissioners want to join in the effort! We are in the process of re-designing our city website and one new option we will provide is the opportunity to sign up for email communications. **This is totally optional**, but the Commissioners believe it is important to move in a more paperless direction. We hope to have the new website functioning by March 1st. More information will be coming as to when and where to sign up online!

By giving us your email address, you will receive:

BELLE MEADE NEWSLETTER. While it is already on the website, the newsletter will be sent via email each month. This saves paper and postage!

SAFETY/SECURITY email BLASTS. This list will be used for safety alerts when necessary. Recent events have shown us residents desire this type of information and will benefit from receiving accurate information in a timely manner.

Additionally, you will have the chance to sign up for the e-newsletter and email alerts at the “Meet the Commissioners” events later this month. **Note: email addresses will only be used for City of Belle Meade purposes and will not be distributed or sold.** If you have questions or concerns, please contact Beth Reardon, City Manager, at 297-6041 or breardon@citybellemeade.org.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2009

ALL MEETINGS HELD AT CITY HALL
4705 HARDING ROAD

Municipal Planning Commission
Tuesday, January 20th at 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 17th at 5:00 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals
Tuesday, January 20th at 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, February 17th at 7:30 p.m.

Board of Commissioners
Wednesday, January 21st at 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 18th at 4:00 p.m.

Agendas are available online at
www.citybellemeade.org

SPECIAL ELECTION DAY
THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2009
BELLE MEADE CITY HALL
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

RECAP OF REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING, December 17, 2008

The Commissioners took action on the following items:

- Appointed Commissioner Cathy Altenbern to the Municipal Planning Commission.
- Passed on second reading Ordinance 2008-5, Housekeeping Amendments to various provisions of the Code of the City of Belle Meade.
- Approved the 2009 Annual Financial Report.

A message from Metro Council Representative, Emily Evans:

Dear Friends:

Early voting began January 2 and continues until January 17 for two amendments to the Metro Charter. There is just one early voting location at the Howard School Office Bldg. at 800 Second Avenue South. Early voting polls are open Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The Belle Meade precinct will be open on Election Day, January 22. Here are a few important facts to know as you go to vote:

Amendment #1 “English Only”

- Makes English the official language for Metro as already required by state law.
- Goes beyond state law by prohibiting use of other languages except when required by state or federal law or when Metro Council provides an exception.
- Most translation services currently provided by Metro are required by state or federal law. There is likely to be little

change except in tourism, business and economic development areas.

Amendment # 2 Charter Revisions.

- Would change law so that only 3,810 signatures would be required for a charter amendment to be submitted to the voters for consideration.
- Under current law, a charter amendment needs anywhere from 2,400 to 25,000 signatures depending on when it is submitted.
- Increases frequency of which charter amendments can be submitted to voters from once every two years to every general election and one special election a year.
- Prohibits Metro Council from over-riding petition submitted charter amendments for four years.

If you need more information, please do not hesitate to call 356-6294 or write to me at Emily.evans@Nashville.gov.

POLICE DEPARTMENT TO SPONSOR CITIZEN SAFETY SEMINAR

The Police Department will be having a general Safety Seminar on *Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.* at Belle Meade City Hall. We hope you can join us for this event. Presentations will include information on general safety tips, crime prevention, and neighborhood watch programs. Please plan to attend and learn how you can better protect your home and neighborhood.

In other news, several residents have received strange phone calls from a female caller accusing a Belle Meade resident or their company of being involved in a Ponzi-type scheme. These calls have been investigated and they are false. We do not believe the caller poses a threat to those called or the resident

at this time. The person is out of state and we believe she obtained the phone numbers through an internet search engine. If you receive such a call, please notify the Police Department immediately at 297-0241.

Please continue to be prudent by locking your homes and vehicles and report anything that may seem suspicious or out of the ordinary. As an example, sometimes criminals will park their vehicles along the roadway with the hood up or have the flashers on while they are out committing a crime. When you report this to the police department, an officer can respond by either providing assistance to a stranded motorist or disrupting criminal activity.

SAVE THE DATES!

BELLE MEADE COMMISSIONER MEET & GREET EVENTS:

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 29TH AT 5:00 – 6:30 P.M.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 30TH AT 11:30 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.**

BELLE MEADE POLICE DEPARTMENT CITIZEN SAFETY SEMINAR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH AT 6:00 P.M.

**ALL EVENTS TO BE HELD AT
BELLE MEADE CITY HALL**

PLANNING A YARD SALE OR ESTATE SALE?

With the passage of Ordinance 2008-5, the Commissioners modified the provisions for yard and estate sales so that signage advertising the sale is now allowed. The new regulations allow ONE sign, no larger than 8 square feet, to be posted on the property at which the sale is being held during the day(s) permitted for the holding of such sale. A Garage/Estate Sale Permit must be obtained from city hall prior to the sale. Regulations regarding signage are included with the Permit form. Please call city hall, 297-6041, if you have any questions.

CITY OF BELLE MEADE
4705 Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED