



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*

Belle Meade City Hall (615) 297-6041 / Belle Meade Police Department (615) 297-0241

NEWSLETTER TO RESIDENTS OF BELLE MEADE

November 2009

*This is the third of what we hope will be a series of articles throughout the year written by Commissioners concerning items of interest in the City.*

### **FROM THE COMMISSIONERS:**

#### **Did you know that the City of Belle Meade provides residents with...**

- Notary Public services at no charge?
- Dumpsters (3) behind City Hall for household trash items?
- Leaf and brush collection and chipper services weekly?
- Recycle program with back-door pickup once a week?
- Full time Police Investigator – expert on ID theft and home security?
- House-check program for residents while out of town?
- Crime updates and emergency notifications via website and email blasts?
- 24/7 maintenance to sewer grinder pumps?
- Enforcement and follow-up to complaints for violations of city ordinances, including loose dogs, barking dogs, excessive noise, overgrown vegetation or lawns, property maintenance issues and more? City Hall will send a staff member to residence and/or a written notice of violation and request for compliance
- Street sweeping once a month?
- Road salting when snow/ice is dangerous?
- Twice weekly back door trash pickup?
- Creek debris cleanup to lower the risk of flooding?
- Liaison for tree trimming and street light repair (NES)?

If you desire additional information on any of these, call City Hall at 297-6041, the Police Department at 297-0241, OR visit the city website, [www.citybellemeade.org](http://www.citybellemeade.org).

### **The Employee Fund**

During the year, but most often during the holiday season, Belle Meade residents wish to show their gratitude to employees who so conscientiously carry out their duties. The City has a policy that any cash gifts be deposited into The Employee Fund; these gifts are then equally distributed among all City employees. This allows all contributions to be permissible under the law and carry no weight with any particular employee or group of employees.

This fund is administered by the employees of the City of Belle Meade and is managed separately from other City monetary accounts. The Fund can purchase gift certificates and sponsor events during the year in which all employees participate. The Fund also purchases floral arrangements and fruit baskets when employees have a death in the family, have a new baby or are hospitalized. Employees do not receive bonuses other than what is distributed from the Employee Fund.

The Belle Meade Commissioners encourage residents who are so inclined to participate in The Employee Fund. Gifts can be made payable to "Employee Fund" and sent to City Hall, ATTN: Employee Fund, 4705 Harding Road, Nashville, TN 37205.

## **FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPT**

**Creek Maintenance Etiquette** – Each year the City budgets significant funds for the maintenance and clean-up of the creeks within Belle Meade. Former Mayor Fillebrown began this practice over a decade ago and it has considerably reduced the flooding of properties throughout the City. Residents can assist with this worthwhile project by keeping yard waste and fallen leaves out of the creeks. PLEASE do not dispose of landscaping debris or any other items (pumpkins!) by throwing them in the creek, thinking they will disappear harmlessly. In fact, these items become a nuisance by clogging the creeks, increasing the chance of flooding, and causing the City to spend additional funds for cleanup. Please dispose of yard waste properly by placing it at the street for weekly pickup by the brush and chipper service.

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**RE-CAP OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING, OCTOBER 21, 2009**

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The Commissioners took action on the following items:

Approved a request to purchase safety equipment for the police squad cars from Galls, Inc. at a cost of \$2,559.68. It was noted that a safety grant from the Tennessee Municipal League would reimburse \$1,000 of the total cost.

Approved new rates for off-duty police work based upon current payroll tax, gasoline, and depreciation expenses. The new hourly rate is \$35 (up from \$32) or \$40 if a patrol car is used for traffic control or as a fixed post for security.

Approved the re-appointment of Carole Nelson to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a three-year term ending November 2012.

Approved the purchase of (136) holiday wreaths from Boy Scout Troop 6 for a total bid price of \$2,856.

Approved a proposal from LSI, Inc, the City's landscape contractor, for landscaping the island on Walnut Drive at a cost of \$2,380.

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**BEAUTIFICATION FUND UPDATE:**

On September 1, Commissioner Cathy Altenbern and Beautification Committee Chairman Liz Bass sent a letter to every Belle Meade household soliciting membership in the Ceres Society, which supports the Beautification Fund. As you may have noticed in the October newsletter, many residents responded quickly and generously. We are pleased to report that almost 300 members responded with donations totaling over \$28,000. **THANK YOU!** However, there are more than 1,100 homes in Belle Meade; so, if you are not a member of the Ceres Society, please consider becoming one. Your generous (tax-deductible) donation will continue the tradition of beauty along the streets of Belle Meade for all to enjoy.

The Beautification Fund monies provide for the planting of seasonal annuals and bulbs all over the City, turf maintenance for the Belle Meade Boulevard Medians, maintenance/replacement of City trees and bushes in the medians, islands, and pocket parks, and the holiday wreaths that hang from our street sign poles. In addition, when funds permit, the City has appropriated Beautification Funds for such major projects as the landscaping around the new city hall, the reconstruction and landscaping of the Georgian Place island, the edged bed at the corner of Abbot Martin, and just this year, the cleanup of the cul-de-sac and reconstruction of the island on Walnut Drive.

**REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS  
FOR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2009**

ALL MEETINGS HELD AT  
CITY HALL  
4705 HARDING ROAD

Municipal Planning Commission  
Tuesday, November 17th at 5:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, December 15th at 5:00 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals  
Tuesday, November 17th at 7:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, December 15th at 7:30 p.m.

Board of Commissioners  
Wednesday, November 18th at 4:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, December 16th at 4:00 p.m.

Agendas are available online at  
[www.citybellemeade.org](http://www.citybellemeade.org)

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**GOODWILL INDUSTRIES  
DONATION DRIVE – LAST CHANCE FOR 2009!**



Please make a note that Goodwill will have a truck at the Belle Meade City Hall parking lot on Saturday, December 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. All donations of usable clothing and household goods are greatly appreciated.

**PLEASE NOTE  
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:**

City Hall offices will be closed  
Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27  
Trash and recycle pick-up days will remain as usual,  
with the exception of Thursday, November 26th.  
Trash and recycle items normally scheduled for that day  
will be collected on Wednesday, November 25th.



## FROM THE POLICE DEPT

**SAFE HALLOWEEN EVENT** – Thanks to the folks that came out for this event. We enjoy the chance to visit with everyone and see the children in costume. The Police Department appreciates the Belle Meade Commissioners' support of this outreach.

**SAFETY REMINDER** – With the Holiday shopping season now upon us, please take a moment to secure your purchases in the trunk of your vehicle, out of sight, and always have your keys ready when walking to your car.

### **FROM THE DESK OF DETECTIVE TOM SEXTON:**

Over the last few months there have been several thefts from vehicles in the Belle Meade area. To gain entry, some of the vehicles had a window broken out even when the doors of the vehicle were unlocked. Several of these vehicles were parked at homes in the southern part of Belle Meade.

The majority of the thefts are occurring between the hour of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. Several residents noticed their dogs barking or their motion lights had been activated and called the Belle Meade Police. We encourage all residents to continue to call and report these incidents. We feel that the individual(s) responsible for the thefts are possibly on foot. They are believed to be walking through yards and between houses making it difficult for our officers to spot these individuals.

We have stepped up our patrol efforts and talking with those we do observe walking during these hours. By working together, we can possibly identify those responsible for the thefts and damage to your vehicles.

On a crime prevention note, we have found that thieves are like roaches...leave something for them to find and you can never get rid of them. A typical theft from an automobile takes only a few seconds and generally generates several hundred dollars of damage to the car. By removing all items of value from your car, especially cash, checks, GPS units, and other valuables, they tend to move on to other areas. Thieves have an excellent communication network and when they discover their effort exceeds the gain, they will go elsewhere.

Please continue call in anything that may seem suspicious (297-0241) and let's work together to make it a Happy Holiday for everyone in Belle Meade!

**CRIME UPDATES ADDED TO WEBSITE** – The police department has added a new option to the City website ([www.citybellemeade.org](http://www.citybellemeade.org)) called "Crime Updates", which will be updated twice weekly. Incidents occurring in and near Belle Meade will be reported. To view the crime updates on the website, click on "Police Dept." at the top of the page and click "Crime Updates" on the drop-down menu. If they wish, residents can call or email the Chief and Investigator with questions or comments. Links to other local and national crime websites will also be displayed. If there is a critical safety issue in Belle Meade that necessitates prompt notification, the City will email all those residents who have signed up for this service. If you have not signed up yet, you may do so at [www.citybellemeade.org](http://www.citybellemeade.org) homepage.

## RECYCLING ITEMS FOR BELLE MEADE – FALL 2009

**RECYCLE GUIDELINES:** Just in case you missed it in last month's newsletter, here is the latest information from PDQ on acceptable recycle items. Remember, if non-recyclable items are put in the blue recycle bags, then the entire contents will be considered trash and go to the landfill.



**PAPER:** office paper, magazines, junk mail, newspaper, computer paper, notebook paper, phone book, paperback books, construction paper, brown paper bags.

**BOXES:** milk or juice cartons (empty), cardboard boxes, food boxes (clean – no food). All boxes should be broken down.

**PLASTIC CONTAINERS:** #1-7: drink bottles and their caps, detergent & cleaner bottles and their caps, yogurt/cottage cheese and other dairy “tubs” and their lids (please empty containers) and plastic trays, such as the lunchable type containers (any color except black trays – optical sorting machines can't see them).

**ALL METAL & ALUMINUM CANS:** food and drink cans (please empty cans).

**DO NOT RECYCLE:** plastic bags, black plastic trays, clamshells (fast food take out), or Styrofoam, paint cans, aerosol spray cans.

**NO GLASS** is accepted at this time.



CITY OF BELLE MEADE  
4705 Harding Road  
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED