

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

April 2009

## GOING GREEN . . . BELLE MEADE GREEN!



In this time of “earth-saving” and “money-saving”, the Commissioners want to join in the effort! We have updated our city website and we now provide 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. Please access the city website at [www.citybellemeade.org](http://www.citybellemeade.org) to sign up for this service. 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.

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](mailto:breardon@citybellemeade.org)

## FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

**BELLE MEADE INVESTIGATOR SOLVES BURGLARY** - Thanks to an alert Belle Meade resident and the diligence of Belle Meade patrol officers, a burglary that had been committed recently on Gerald Place was quickly solved. On March 16th a resident called in about a suspicious person and vehicle parked along the street. Officers were quick to check the individual and obtain valuable information. On March 17, it was discovered that a house on Gerald Place had been burglarized and two vehicles taken. Because of the previous contact as a result of the suspicious person call, the investigator was able to quickly solve the case. Two suspects are in jail and a third is expected to be arrested very soon. No other homes have been burglarized and it does not appear to be a trend.

**CHILD SAFETY FAIR AND BIKE RODEO** - Mark your calendars for the third annual Child Safety Fair and Bike Rodeo. Our event is being co-sponsored by St. George's Episcopal Church this year. It will be held on Saturday, May 23rd from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Police Department. Events will center on various safety issues concerning children. So bring the kids & bikes and join us for a fun and informative day!

**THIS IS A FREE EVENT!!**

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ON MAY 23RD!**



## RECAP OF REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS

**The Commissioners took action on the following items - February 18, 2009:**

- Approved the purchase of radar equipment to be reimbursed from a Governors Highway Safety grant.
- Approved the 2009 Activity Permit Request from Belle Meade Plantation, to include the Easter Egg Hunt, Kentucky Derby Party, Barn Door Drive-In Movie, and Fall Fest.
- Approved the request from The Temple for a Special Events Banner for the April Arts Festival.
- Accepted the proposal from LSI Inc. for landscaping enhancements and replacements throughout the City, totaling \$12,557.00.
- Approved on first reading Ordinance 2009-1, amending travel reimbursement regulations. (\*)

**The Commissioners took action on the following items - March 25, 2009:**

- Accepted the proposal from CEC Inc. to develop a stream monitoring plan as required by the City's Phase 2 NPDES Stormwater Permit.
- Deferred a request by a homeowner on Forsythe Place to close an undeveloped street known as Surrey Lane, pending written approval by all contiguous neighbors.
- Deferred the consideration of a donation to Friends of Warner Parks.
- Approved on second and final reading Ordinance 2009-1, amending travel reimbursement regulations. (\*)
- Approved on first reading Resolution 2009-03, adopting an identity theft policy. (\*)
- Approved on first reading Resolution 2009-04, recognizing MTAS' 60 years of service. (\*)

(\*) Note: full drafts of all legislation can be viewed on the city website.

## **SEWER SERVICE – ARE YOU ON GRAVITY OR GRINDER PUMP?**

Approximately 800 residences in the City have sewer grinder pumps that are maintained by the City staff. The other 300-plus homes are on a gravity system operated by the Metro Water and Sewer Department. Gravity sewers require little or no maintenance by the City, and the homeowners are only responsible for maintenance to the service line from the street to the house.

All homes with grinder pumps will have a gray control box with a red light located on the outside wall, usually on the side or rear of the house. If the red light is on, please call City Hall immediately (297-6041) and do not attempt to correct the problem yourself or call a plumber. Larry Smith or George Bartlett will follow up with a phone call or visit to the residence to determine why the red light is on. City staff has record of homes that do not have a septic tank backup system, and will make sure that these homes are serviced immediately. Two common problems that can easily be corrected by the homeowner are: 1) the holding tank lids are not clearly visible in the yard and 2) the control box attached to the outside wall is often obstructed by trees or shrubs. The City's Sewer Regulations state that the City shall endeavor to furnish continuous sewer service, but the customer must provide access to all sewer equipment and service connections.

Often during the mowing season, it becomes apparent that the cleanout caps on the sewer service laterals are missing or broken. It is the homeowner's responsibility to fix or replace these caps. Most of them are located between the house, the splitter box, and the grinder pump tank. In addition, if a sump pump in the basement is tied to the sewer line, it needs to be removed as this causes infiltration, increases the cost, and lowers the efficiency of our system.

**Care and Use of Your Grinder Pump** – Homeowners can provide regular maintenance to their grinder pump system by applying 1/2 to 1 cup of bleach once a week in late evening to the garbage disposal/sink drain. This prevents failure in the grinder pump due to grease buildup and will also deodorize and clear laterals in the internal plumbing.

Remember – do not dispose of waste cooking oil by pouring it down the drain and do not ever disconnect the electrical power to the unit!!

**MOST IMPORTANT** – If you have any questions about your residential sewer system or specific questions about your grinder pump, PLEASE call Larry Smith at City Hall, 297-6041.

## **From the Public Works Department:**

Lawn Mowing Reminders - Many residents contract with lawn and landscaping services to maintain their properties during the warm weather months. Please be sure to inform the contractors not to block access to the roadway with their vehicles and lawn maintenance equipment while they are working. Also, they are not to blow grass clippings or other yard debris into the street. Belle Meade City Code Section 16-107 states, "It shall be unlawful for any person to litter, place, throw, track, or allow to fall on any street, alley, or sidewalk any refuse, glass, tacks, mud, or other objects or materials which are unsightly or which obstruct or tend to limit or interfere with the use of such public ways and places for their intended purposes."

### **REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR MAY & JUNE 2009**

ALL MEETINGS HELD AT CITY HALL  
4705 HARDING ROAD

Municipal Planning Commission  
Tuesday, May 19th at 5:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, June 16th at 5:00 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals  
Tuesday, May 19th at 7:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, June 16th at 7:30 p.m.

Board of Commissioners  
Wednesday, May 20th at 4:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, June 17th at 4:00 p.m.

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

**Sign Up for Email newsletters and informational news blasts! – see page 1.**

**Save the Date – Child Safety Fair & Bike Rodeo – Saturday, May 23, 10 a.m. -2 p.m.**

CITY OF BELLE MEADE  
4705 Harding Road  
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED