

COMMISSIONERS: James V. Hunt, Sr., *Mayor* • Bob Weigel, *Vice Mayor* • Gray O. Thornburg, Cathy Altenbern, Boyd Bogle • Beth Reardon, City Manager • Tim Eads, Chief of Police

City Hall (615) 297-6041 / Police Dept. (615) 297-0241 / www.citybellemeade.org



NEWSLETTER TO RESIDENTS OF BELLE MEADE APRIL 2017

METRO PARKS BOARD VOTES TO RE-OPEN LOT FOR PARKING AT PAGE ROAD & BELLE MEADE BLVD

From Mayor Jim Hunt:



Due to the continuing increase in popularity of the Belle Meade Boulevard entrance to Percy Warner Park and parking overflows at all Metro Parks lots surrounding this Park, the Metropolitan Board of Parks & Recreation, at their April meeting, voted to reopen the Page Road lot near the entrance to Percy Warner Park with limited parking, effective immediately. The back two-thirds (2/3) of the lot will be restricted from parking use, and the front one-third (1/3) of the lot will be open for parking from dawn to dusk, 7 days per week. Improvements to the lot are in

the discussion and planning stages at this time. The Friends of Warner Parks committee is considering plans for pervious paving in the parking area to reduce degradation of the lot during extreme wet or dry weather. They will also consider landscape improvements and enhancements for fencing or walls that will complement the entrance to Percy Warner Park across the street. The Commissioners will continue to keep Belle Meade residents informed of future developments regarding this lot.

REMINDER!! SPEED LIMIT CHANGE TO 25 MPH ON HARDING PLACE, effective April 15th. The Board of Commissioners voted at their March meeting to reduce the speed limit on Harding Place from 30 mph to 25 mph, from Lynwood Boulevard to Westover Avenue. This change will take effect on April 15, 2017.



After careful consideration, and receiving the endorsement of the Harding Place neighbors and the Chief of Police, the Commissioners determined that for the safety of the public, the speed limit on Harding Place within the Belle Meade City limits should be reduced to 25 miles per hour for motor vehicles and retained at the current 20 miles per hour limit for trucks. *Per City Code, "trucks" are defined as any motor vehicle of one and one-half (1-1/2) ton rated capacity or more.* This speed limit change, along with a proposed sidewalk project on Harding Place, should make this heavily travelled street much safer for pedestrians and motorists.



FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF TIM EADS:

- Solicitors are required to have a permit from the City of Belle Meade. A permit does not necessarily mean it is a safe purchase, so buyer beware. If you believe someone is soliciting without a permit, please call us immediately at 615-297-0241 so we can send an officer to check for a permit.
- Please encourage your lawn care service contractor to park in your driveway or on your property if possible. If they must park on the street, they cannot block the lane of traffic. This can result in a ticket and fine.
- Be safe when outdoors and on city streets! Each of the fol-

lowing is required by city law, and non-compliance can result in a citation!

- ◆ Wear reflective clothing at dusk/dark or early morning.
- ◆ Walk single file, facing oncoming traffic.
- ◆ Bike single file, traveling with traffic.
- Remember that the left lane of Belle Meade Blvd. in both directions is for passing or turning only. Please do not use the left lane as a driving lane.
- Report suspicious activity immediately - 615-297-0241.



RECAP OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS



The Commissioners took action on the following items at the **March 15th** meeting:

- Approved the installation of five (5) air relief valves for \$2,965.00 by Dixon Plumbing.
- Approved the proposal from CEC for sewer system modeling to develop a plan for addressing pressure areas in the City sewer system at a not-to-exceed cost of \$12,000.
- Approved the proposal for website design and annual maintenance from Keystone Business Solutions for \$14,500 and \$1,500, respectively.
- Approved an estimate to install a concrete handicap ramp in front of the Police Department by Wayne Gray Construction, Inc for the cost of \$2,500.
- Approved an estimate to pressure wash the exteriors of City Hall and the Maintenance Garage by Pro Wash, LLC for the cost of \$975.00.



- Approved the proposal for a Salary and Benefit Study from Burris, Thompson, and Associates of Murfreesboro, TN at the cost of \$8,850.00.
- Approved Resolution 2017-02, Reduce Speed Limit on Harding Place from Lynwood Blvd to Westover Ave.
- Approved Ordinance 2017-2, on first reading, Amending Title 12, Chapter 4, Adopting New FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map.

The Commissioners took action on the following items at the **March 28th Special** meeting:

- Approved the equipment purchase for wireless access in City Hall from CDW-G for a total cost of \$2809.04.
- Approved Resolution 2017-03, In Support of Transportation Funding and Transit Referendums.
- Approved Ordinance 2017-2, on second reading, Amending Title 12, Chapter 4, Adopting New FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map.

UPDATE FROM DETECTIVE TOM SEXTON ON TWO MAJOR CRIMINAL CASES THAT OCCURRED IN RECENT YEARS:

Home Invasion/Aggravated Assault

One of the two primary suspects that were arrested in the violent home invasion in 2013 has plead guilty to the offenses. The victim did not have to testify in the case and is pleased with the results. We have one more suspect to go and fully anticipate the same results. This case was supposedly going to be investigated and prosecuted by another agency, but they failed to do so. Our investigation was responsible for locating and identifying four individuals that were charged. We obtained full confessions from three of the four suspects, presented the case to the Grand Jury, obtained indictments, and now we are seeing the fruit of our labor in Criminal Court. The victim in this case has recovered from her physical injuries but still has some rough times dealing with the incident. By not having to appear in court, the victim was able to enjoy a pleasant trip to Florida which she deserved!

Silver Burglaries

The City experienced seven burglaries during 2011 and 2012 that involved the theft of silver only. It is with great pleasure I can finally report that the burglar, Blane Nordahl, has been convicted in the first of many trails he is facing. Blane Nordahl's nickname of "Burglar to the Stars" is now more like "The Inmate Behind Bars". This conviction came about after more than three years of repeatedly going to court, having evidence challenged (and upheld) and patiently waiting. It was only through the great amount of support that we received from Chief Eads and the Belle Meade City Administration that this was possible. The other detectives working the case, Atlanta Detective Drew Bahry and Aiken Detective Billy Royster are absolutely two of the finest detectives I have ever had the privilege to work with. Nordahl's crime spree spanned over thirty years, involved millions of dollars of property stolen, hundreds of homes burglarized and countless numbers of terrorized victims. Until this investigation, Nordahl had only spent a minimal time in prison for his crimes. In some cases, he only spent weeks in jail for

night time home burglaries where large amounts of silver were stolen. In some cases, the property he stole was invaluable from both a historical and sentimental perspective. Regardless of that fact, Nordahl managed to obtain plea bargains and "sweet deals" for telling investigating agencies what crimes he had committed and how they were committed. This allowed other agencies to close their case files but also meant Nordahl was free to continue his criminal activities all over the eastern part of the Country. To give a little perspective on what type of criminal Blane Nordahl was: the value of the property stolen by Nordahl was greater than that stolen by John Dillinger, Bonnie and Clyde, the James Gang and Baby Face Nelson!

These other agencies appeared on many national television programs, gave "exclusive" interviews to prominent print media describing how they "caught" Nordahl in the past. Many agencies "caught" Nordahl but until this investigation, no one was able to keep him in jail! The shared investigations of the Belle Meade, Aiken and Atlanta Police Departments produced more evidence against Nordahl than all the other police investigations combined over a 30 year period. There was no plea bargaining of any kind entertained nor accepted. Two of the Fulton County Judges have stated this was the most complex case that they have ever observed in the Fulton County Court system. From this point, Nordahl will go to at least two other jurisdictions in Georgia for prosecution of crimes committed there. After these cases are heard, Nordahl will be coming to Nashville for trial. Nordahl is 54 year old and MUST serve 6.5 years in prison on the one case of many in Georgia. He will be 60 when the one Atlanta sentence expires. The other trials in the other Georgia jurisdictions will add additional mandatory jail time that he will have to serve. The will effectively mean a life sentence without parole. The City of Belle Meade was instrumental in not only "catching" Blane David Nordahl, but being a part of the only investigation that will keep him from ever doing it again. To read more, just Google "Blane Nordahl".



LOCAL FARMERS MARKET BEGINS THURSDAY, MAY 4TH

St. George's Episcopal Church is offering a weekly farmers market on Thursdays from 3:30-6:30 pm, beginning May 4, 2017, thru October. This producers-only market features a variety of vendors, including fresh local vegetables and berries, home-made pasta, organic pork and beef, jams and pick-

les, baked goods, soups, and other items. Local food trucks will be featured. Proceeds from the market will benefit organizations that address food insecurity in Nashville and the surrounding area. Come for a good time, some great food and fresh produce! "Find them on Facebook @stgeorgesfarmers market" and "Follow them on Instagram @stfarmersmarket".

INVASIVE PLANT OF THE MONTH: (First in a series of articles)



Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) might have been intentionally planted along your garden walls and fences because it is a vigorous grower with sweet smelling flowers. Regardless of whether you planted this vine, you might see it sneaking along the ground somewhere in your yard, creating a dense mat of ropey vines and twining around trees and shrubs. Japanese honeysuckle can girdle small saplings and it can form dense mats in the canopies of

trees, shading everything below. Given a full opportunity to grow and spread, Japanese honeysuckle can destroy native habitat more effectively than Kudzu.

Japanese honeysuckle is an evergreen to semi-evergreen vine that can be found either trailing or climbing to over 80 feet in length. It flowers from April to July with showy, fragrant, tubular, whitish-pink to yellow flowers growing between the pairs of oval leaves. Fruits develop in the fall and are small, shiny black berries. Japanese honeysuckle invades a variety of habitats including forest floors, canopies, roadsides, wetlands, and disturbed areas. Berry-eating birds account for some of this pest plant's spread. While some people may think exotic plants like Honeysuckle support wildlife, these plants are not a natural food source and rarely supply the correct nutrition for local wildlife.

A native of eastern Asia, it was first introduced into North America in 1806 in Long Island, NY. Japanese honeysuckle was planted widely throughout the United States as an ornamental, for erosion control, and for wildlife habitat. Now it is considered a major pest plant in this area and a cause of habitat disruption.

Controlling Japanese Honeysuckle

Mechanical. For small patches, repeated pulling of entire vines and root systems may be effective. Hand pull seedlings and young plants when the soil is moist, holding low on the stem to remove the whole plant along with its roots. Monitor frequently and remove any new plants. Cut and remove twining vines to prevent them from girdling and killing shrubs and other plants. An effective method for removal of patches of honeysuckle covering the ground is to lift up and hold a portion of the vine mass with a rake and have a chain saw operator cut the stems low to the ground. Mowing large patches of honeysuckle may be useful if repeated regularly but is most effective when combined with herbicide application (see below). Mow at twice a year, first in mid-July and again in mid-September.

Chemical. Japanese honeysuckle leaves continue to photosynthesize long after most other plants have lost their leaves. This allows for application of herbicides when many native species are dormant. However, for effective control with herbicides, healthy green leaves must be present at application time and temperatures must be sufficient for plant activity. Several systemic herbicides (e.g., glyphosate and triclopyr) move through the plant to the roots when applied to the leaves or stems and have been used effectively on Japanese honeysuckle. Following label guidelines, apply a 2.5% rate of glyphosate (e.g., Rodeo® for wetlands; Roundup® for uplands) mixed with water and an appropriate surfactant, to foliage from spring through fall. Alternatively, apply a 2% concentration of triclopyr (e.g., Garlon 3A) plus water to foliage, thoroughly wetting the leaves but not to the point of drip-off. A coarse, low-pressure spray should be used. Repeat applications may be needed. Treatment in the fall, when many non-target plants are going dormant, is best. Also, a 25% glyphosate or triclopyr solution mixed with water can be applied to cut stem surfaces any time of year as long as the ground is not frozen.

Native Plant Alternatives. Vines that make good substitutes for Japanese honeysuckle include Carolina jessamine, Trumpet honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*), Trumpet creeper, native wisteria and Passionflower vine. (Article courtesy of Tennessee Valley Wild Ones).

STORM WATER PERMITTING FOR DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT

Development and redevelopment within the City can have an impact on both the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff. Redevelopment typically involves demolishing and replacing an existing structure. Redevelopment can change the character of a neighborhood by removing smaller houses and replacing them with larger ones, resulting in loss of open space, loss of natural trees, landscaping and other vegetation.

Development and redevelopment typically involves regrading a lot and increasing the impervious area on a parcel. This may cause changes in the rate of stormwater runoff, stormwater velocity, stormwater quality, and alterations to flow patterns. It can also increase the potential for flooding by adding additional stormwater runoff to a stormwater system that may not be adequately sized to handle it.

The City's ordinances are written to regulate development and redevelopment and promote the use of best management practices by homeowners, architects, and engineers. By adopting appropriate building codes, zoning, and stormwater requirements that control the setbacks, buildable area, height, the amount of impervious area, and other regulations, the City can potentially reduce the impact of flooding and stormwater runoff on the community.

One of the permits required by the City for development and redevelopment is a Land Disturbance Permit (often referred to as an LDP or Stormwater Permit). Common cases that require a property owner to obtain an LDP or Stormwater Permit are:

1. Land disturbing "activity" that disturbs 10,000 or more sq. feet.
2. The creation and use of borrow pits.
3. Construction of Pools

4. Geothermal Systems

5. Any other comparable activities as determined by the City Building Official.

Other comparable activities may include but are not limited to: the underground piping of roof gutter stormwater, significant grade changes or increase in impervious area.

Note: If one acre or more of land is disturbed, coverage under the Tennessee Construction General Permit is also required, meaning that a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) must be submitted to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC).

If a stormwater permit is required, a stormwater plan must be submitted electronically to the City on behalf of the homeowner. The stormwater plan is prepared by a civil engineer registered in the state of Tennessee at the homeowner's expense. The plan is reviewed primarily for compliance with the City's ordinances by the City's Engineer and a formal review letter is returned to the City and homeowner's civil engineer. Many plans require more than one review to gain approval. The cost for the City Engineer's time to review the plan is billed to the City of Belle Meade and then in turn billed to the homeowner on a monthly basis.

If you have any questions concerning requirements for future projects, please contact the City Building Official at 615-297-2364 or lpatterson@citybellemeade.org.

**REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS
FOR MAY AND JUNE 2017**

**ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT
BELLE MEADE CITY HALL**

Municipal Planning Commission

Tuesday, May 16th at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, June 20th at 4:00 pm

Board of Building Code Appeals

Tuesday, May 9th at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, June 13th at 4:00 pm

Board of Zoning Appeals

Tuesday, May 16th at 5:00 pm

Tuesday, June 20th at 5:00 pm

Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, May 17th at 4:00 pm

Wednesday, June 21st at 4:00 pm

Agendas are available online at www.citybellemeade.org

BEAUTIFICATION/CERES SOCIETY NEWS:

Annual fund-raising letters for the Ceres Society were mailed the week of April 10th to all residents.



The St. George's Farmers Market season begins on Thursday May 4th, from 3:30-6:30 p.m. and will be held every Thursday through October.

CITY OF BELLE MEADE
4705 Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

return service requested