



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 FEBRUARY 2017

Update on Video Surveillance System From Mayor Jim Hunt

As earlier reported, the residents of Belle Meade overwhelmingly favored the installation of a citywide video surveillance system at key intersections. The demo system installed in late November at the Lynwood/Hillwood Blvd. and Harding Road intersection has already resulted in identifying local theft as

well as viewing and documentation of an accident at this intersection. The next step in the approval process is gathering equipment bids. Town Hall meetings will follow for residents' Q & A. Hopefully we can complete these steps, and if all goes well, implementation by late spring or early summer.

Officer Dennis Goins Retires



The City staff and Commissioners honored Officer Dennis Goins at a luncheon on January 31st for his retirement from the police department after more than 29 years of service. In addition to his long tenure at Belle Meade, Dennis has been a police officer and Deputy Sheriff in Tennessee since 1976. He has been on three different Tactical/SWAT teams as a counter-sniper and hostage negotiator. In addition, he's been a K9 handler with two phenomenal dogs,

Lucan and Narc, and has accumulated thousands of hours of police training over the years.

Dennis is a native Nashvillian and his family has been here for 200 years. Members of his family fought in every war and conflict since the Revolutionary War. His father served in two wars and for 38 years. Dennis is very knowledgeable on the history of U.S. warfare, especially the Civil War, and has participated in Civil War reenactments locally.

Dennis states "The time I spent here as a Belle Meade Police Officer has been the very best. I have met children of children I knew 25 years ago in Belle Meade. I loved my job. I actually love the City of Belle Meade." And to his fellow officers: "Continue to do Her proud."

INVASIVE PLANT LECTURE

**Wednesday February 22nd, 12:00pm- 1:00pm (Lunch provided)
Belle Meade City Hall**

In preparation for the upcoming Nashville Weed Wrangle, where volunteers clean public spaces of invasive plant species, The City of Belle Meade invites the community to a **Lunch and Lecture featuring Steve Manning of Invasive Plant Control, Inc.** Steve will educate us about the threats that invasive plants cause to our landscapes and the benefits of native species. He will also discuss identification and removal techniques of invasive species. This should be a wonderfully educational event

and we look forward to expanding your knowledge about invasive plants in our own neighborhoods. Lunch will be provided, compliments of the City of Belle Meade. Seating is limited, so reservation is required. **RSVP to Beth Reardon at breardon@citybellemeade.org or 615-297-6041 by Monday, February 20th.**

Sponsored by the City of Belle Meade, IPC (Invasive Plant Control, Inc), and the Garden Club of Nashville.

Real and Personal Property Tax Deadline – The deadline for paying your 2016 Belle Meade Real Property Taxes and Personal Property Taxes is Tuesday, February 28, 2017. After that date, a 2% penalty per month will be incurred. City Hall closes at 4 pm, but your tax payment can be left with the police dispatcher on the 28th in order to meet the deadline. If you have questions, please contact Kemishia Sadler at 615-297-6041 or ksadler@citybellemeade.org.



FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF TIM EADS:



Please remember to call in suspicious activity immediately to us at 615-297-0241. There have been some burglaries in the area just outside Belle Meade in which the burglars have worked as a team. A newer model white SUV was used. In one case, the driver pulled into a driveway and dropped off his partner-in-crime. The driver pulled out and went a short distance down the street and waited about 10 minutes until he was called back to the house. Fortunately, there was video evidence and some eyewitnesses to help put the case together. We believe Metro PD will ultimately make a case. If you see this type of activity in your neighborhood, go ahead and call the Belle Meade PD. The police officer will determine if the person has a legitimate reason to be parked in a neighborhood.

Always Park Smart by removing valuables and locking your vehicle. Make a habit of setting your home alarm system. If you are uncertain whether Belle Meade PD is listed as the Primary Law Enforcement Agency to respond to your alarm, give your provider a call to verify. Having a good home inventory in advance of a theft or fire is very helpful. By having serial numbers recorded, you will increase the chances of having a case solved. To learn more about creating a home inventory, go to http://www.rmiia.org/homeowners/Walking_Through_Your_Policy/Home_Inventory.asp. If you do not have access to the internet and want to learn more, please contact Detective Tom Sexton at 615-297-0241.

Each year, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) honors all law enforcement officers across the state that go above and beyond in their enforcement efforts to combat impaired driving. MADD hosts an awards banquet each year to recognize those officers that accomplished that task. The **Bronze Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Enforcement Award** is bestowed upon Troopers, Officers, and Deputies who have removed 25-49 impaired drivers from Tennessee roadways in 2015 and who held a current conviction rate of 75% or better. Congratulations to Belle Meade Officer Chris Roark, who received this award for the second time!



Left: Sergeant Charles Williams

Right: Officer Chris Roark

RECAP OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS



The Commissioners took action on the following items at the **January 18, 2017** meeting:

- Approved the parade request for the Ragnar Relay to be held March 24-25.
- Deferred action on the consideration of proposal from Hodgson Douglas for landscape architectural services for Harding Place sidewalks.
- Approved two (2) invoices over \$5,000
 - Wascon \$5,386.31
 - Sammie Gibbs Construction (snow removal) for \$12,250.00
- Approved the re-engagement of Kraft CPAs as the city's audit firm for a (3) year term at the cost of \$20,500 for 2017 with an increase of \$500.00 each consecutive year.
- Approved Ordinance 2017-1, on first reading, amending Title 14 of the City Code to replace volume with "floor area ratio".



The third annual Weed Wrangle™ Nashville is scheduled for March 4, 2017. Teams of volunteers will locate and uproot invasive plants at over eighteen public parks and green spaces around the city, including Nashville Zoo at Grassmere, Warner Parks, Greenways

for Nashville, and many Tennessee State Parks and Natural Areas. Sign up to volunteer for Weed Wrangle™ at Hands On Nashville, <http://www.hon.org/>

Tales from the Archives - A new monthly series from Cheekwood
February - "Love on a Train"



Cheekwood Cheek Family Archives

As an historic site known for its serene beauty, Cheekwood is often a place for romance. Recognized as one of Nashville's best places for a wedding reception, the grounds and historic mansion frequently serve as backdrop for weddings, marriage proposals and dates. Love is all around!

The beginning of the Cheekwood story is also one of love, dating to the late 19th century. Leslie Cheek and Mabel Wood, the namesakes and owners of Cheekwood,

met on a Nashville-bound train from New York. Their love story is part of Cheekwood's story, and we are fortunate to have an excerpt from Leslie Cheek, Jr., son of Leslie and Mabel, that provides a tale of two sweethearts destined to find love on a train.

"On a trip back from New York, Mabel Wood made a stop in Guthrie, KY, to see who she knew. There, at Guthrie, Leslie Cheek noticed Mabel and sought out to find her name and destination. He gave the conductor a box of cigars to find out who she was, which failed. Then Leslie met John Clemens, a friend of Mabel, who offered to introduce the two during the trip, but Leslie refused, saying he preferred to have it done at the lady's house. Several days later, at her home in Clarksville, TN, Mabel watched from the upstairs window of her home as John Clemens and Leslie Cheek

approached, and she was pleased with the size, appearance, and youth of Leslie Cheek. Clemens told of Leslie's interest and of his trip from Nashville just for the occasion; so they went to church together. For eighteen months Leslie sent "Mitchell's" candy every Tuesday, fruit or a book every Thursday, and flowers every Sunday. On October 3, 1896, Mabel Wood married Leslie Cheek at the Methodist Church in Clarksville, in a dress of ivory satin and with a bouquet of white rose buds and lilies of the valley."

—Paraphrased by Leslie Cheek, Jr.

Following their nuptials, the new Mr. and Mrs. Cheek settled in Nashville. The family expanded with the birth of their two children, Leslie Jr., and Hulda, as well as many family pets. While Mabel spent much of her time raising the children and planning exotic family trips across the world, Leslie worked for his family company, C.T. Cheek & Sons—the largest wholesale grocery distribution conglomerate in the Southeast region of the United States. Another local Cheek family company, the Cheek-Neal Coffee Company, was having great success with its signature Maxwell House blend, and so Leslie Cheek later invested in the company. With the sale of Cheek-Neal to Postum in 1928, as an investor, Leslie's fortune quickly expanded, likely also expanding the plans for what was to become Cheekwood. The rest, as they say, is history.

The Cheek mansion is currently closed for renovations as we work to restore it to its original design. It will reopen to the public on June 17, 2017.



Cheekwood Cheek Family Archives

STORM WATER RUNOFF

When asked where rain or snow goes after it falls to the ground, most people will say that it soaks into the ground or flows into the gutter. Few people understand what happens to storm water runoff once it is out of sight, or how it changes the landscape and water quality of our streams.

Runoff can occur not only from precipitation, but also from manmade causes, such as terraces, driveways, roof areas, etc. These and other impervious surfaces don't allow rain or snowmelt to soak into the ground. Draining swimming pools can cause runoff and soil erosion as well as damage to the environment. When draining or backwashing swimming pools, efforts to slow down and control unnaturally large amounts of water should be taken in order to reduce soil erosion. Removing the chlorine before the pool is pumped out will help to keep the environment safe.

The average person does not realize that, because of impervious surfaces like pavement or rooftops, a typical city block generates

more than five times the amount of runoff than a woodland area of the same size.

According to federal regulations, many cities and industries must reduce water pollution from storm drains. We can help by taking steps around the home to increase the amount of water that soaks into the ground. This reduces the amount of water flowing into the street. Here are some things you can do:

- Plant trees, shrubs or ground cover
- Maintain a healthy lawn
- Redirect downspouts from paved areas to vegetated areas
- Install gravel trenches along driveways or patios
- Use porous materials such as wooden planks or bricks for walkways and patios
- If building a new home, install pervious driveways and walkways
- Use a rain barrel to catch and store water for gardens
- Wash your car on the lawn, not the driveway

Belle Meade Newsletter

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR MARCH AND APRIL 2017

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT
BELLE MEADE CITY HALL

Municipal Planning Commission

Tuesday, Mar 21st at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, Apr 18th at 4:00 pm

Board of Building Code Appeals

Tuesday, Mar 14th at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, Apr 11th at 4:00 pm

Board of Zoning Appeals

Tuesday, Mar 21st at 5:00 pm

Tuesday, Apr 18th at 5:00 pm

Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, Mar 15th at 4:00 pm

Wednesday, Apr 19th at 4:00 pm

Agendas are available online at www.citybellemeade.org

PUBLIC NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners has been rescheduled to February 22, 2017 at 4:00 pm. A public hearing will be held at this meeting for consideration of proposed Ordinance 2017-1, with caption as follows:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 14 OF THE CITY CODE TO CHANGE THE MANNER IN WHICH THE CITY REGULATES THE SIZE OF RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES TO RELY UPON THE STANDARD OF "FLOOR AREA RATIO" RATHER THAN VOLUME, AND TO AMEND THE CODE AS REQUIRED BY THAT CHANGE IN REGULATION

The meeting will be held at Belle Meade City Hall, 4705 Harding Road, Nashville TN 37205. The public is invited to attend.



**FREE SHRED DAY – SATURDAY,
APRIL 1, 2017** from 9am to 12 noon
at city hall. Start gathering your

paperwork! Bring your sensitive documents for a secure and safe disposal. (Service provided by Shred On The Run.)

CITY OF BELLE MEADE
4705 Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

return service requested