

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

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



NEWSLETTER TO RESIDENTS OF BELLE MEADE MAY 2016

NEW ENTERPRISE FUND FOR SEWER UTILITY



For the past two years, residents have seen an increase in the Belle Meade sewer rate in preparation for the deadline (July 1, 2016) mandated by the state to separate the “business” of the sewer collections utility from the general fund operations of the City. At their monthly meeting in April, the Commissioners voted to increase the sewer rate for the third time in as many years in order to finalize a rate that will sustain the operations of the utility for the next 5 years. The new rate of \$2.85 per 100 cubic feet of water consumed, will take effect with the July billing from Metro Water Services. The Commissioners also approved a capital grant of \$125,000 from the general fund to the newly established independent enterprise fund.

Over the past year, Commissioner Bob Weigel assisted the staff with initiating a sewer rate study that was prepared by consultant Buddy Petty, PE, President of Rate Studies.

Commissioner Weigel and staff analyzed the consultant’s report and reviewed the financial obligations to determine the rate structure and start-up capital needed to support the utility, so that this endeavor would be successful and conform to state regulations.

Why did the sewer collections operation need to be separated financially from other City activities? Approximately two years ago, the State of Tennessee passed a law requiring all municipalities to separate their financial accounting for water and sewer utilities from the general fund activities and create an enterprise fund. The new enterprise fund must be independent from other city operations and must maintain certain finances as designated by the state. The key element of operating as an enterprise fund is that it must generate adequate revenue to be self-sufficient and no longer be dependent on the City’s general fund. The first area the State must approve is a cash flow analysis to make sure the enterprise fund is financially stable. The second area of concern is the net position analysis (assets less liabilities). Depreciation is included in this analysis, but not in the cash flow analysis. If the change in net position is negative for two consecutive years, the state would determine the rates necessary to fund the operations of the utility.

Commissioner Weigel states he wants residents to know that the new Belle Meade sewer rate is very competitive with neighboring rates, (i.e. Metro Nashville, Franklin, Brentwood, Hendersonville,). He believes that residents will be very happy with the new enterprise fund, since the general fund will not have to subsidize the losses of the present sewer collections system any longer through the use of property tax income. This will allow the general fund more monies to enhance our safety, beautification, and property values.

MAILBOX BEAUTIFICATION



The merry month of May has been “declared” as mailbox beautification month. It’s been said that your eyes are a window to the soul. It might be true that your mailbox is a window to your home. Certainly mailboxes are first impressions to the neighborhood. Drive around our city and see the variations in mailboxes.

Some are large and beautiful; others small and tasteful; whereas some are in need of much tender loving care.

It’s relatively simple, a DIY project for most any family. Here are some ideas for sprucing up the “window” to your home.

- Need a little paint?
- Pole need straightening?
- Maybe a new mailbox?
- Street numbers or street name missing?
- How about some landscaping accentuating the mailbox . . . Mandevilla, Liriope (lilyturf, monkey grass), multiple flower displays, etc.

Many websites provide DIY ideas and projects. Below are a couple of links to get you started.

www.beautifulmailbox.com

www.pinterest.com/mouncorked/mailbox-beautification/

<http://www.ahahome.com/non/articles/98/082498.html>



FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF TIM EADS:



There are just a few weeks left in the school year, and I know many of you will be traveling. Please remember to utilize our House Check Service when you are going to be away from home. If you are new to the program, please go to the City website at www.citybellemeade.org and look under the Police Tab to find an application to the program. Once you are enrolled, then just a simple call to the station at 615-297-0241 will update your file.

Being a part of your Neighborhood Watch Program is essential to preventing crime in Belle Meade. You can also find more information about this program on the website or by contacting Officer Dee Howell, the NHW Coordinator, at dhowell@citybellemeade.org

Many residents are preparing to open their swimming pools this month, so this is a good time to remember pool safety. Make sure you have all of your safety equipment and it is in good working order. Make sure safety fences, gates, and locks are in good working order and those using your pool practice safety while enjoying the fun.

Over the past several weeks, we have had four bobcat sightings in the vicinity of the Royal Oaks and Westview area. There have been no reported attacks or confrontations. Our wildlife contractor has been alerted and is attempting to set some wildlife cameras in the area to determine if the animal is passing through or looking to stay in the area for an extended time. If you encounter a bobcat, make some noise to get it to move on, much the same way you would with a coyote. If you do spot a bobcat or coyote, please call 615-297-0241 and report the sighting so we can log the location.

Please continue to practice good crime prevention habits by participating in NHW, Parking Smart, and setting your home alarm when you are away. Always maintain a sense of your surroundings so you notice things that are out of place and recognize suspicious activity, which should be called in to us immediately at 615-297-0241. Stay alert for the many scams that continue to be perpetrated on the internet and by phone.

Congratulations to all those with children or relatives that are graduating from High School or College!

RECAP OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS



The Commissioners took action on the following items at the **April 20th** regular meeting:

- Approved the bid from Lining & Coating Solutions LLC for \$68,870.76 to repair 70' of 30" pipe under Royal Oaks Place and approximately 570' of pipe along the R-O-W.
- Approved the extension of the Creek Debris Removal Contract with JR and Associates for a length of one year, through June 30, 2017.
- Deferred the request from the Police Department to purchase a new patrol car.
- Approved the purchase of four (4) bullet resistant vests for the police department from CMS Uniforms for \$765 each, total cost of \$3,060.
- Deferred action on the proposal to design a video surveillance system.
- Deferred discussion regarding future changes to the Page Road lot at Warner Park.
- Approved on first reading Ordinance 2016-1, amend the zoning code to allow the use of churches and other places of worship for specific charitable fund raising activities.
- Approved on first reading Ordinance 2016-2, amend the zoning code to clarify the definition of "Addition".
- Approved on first reading Ordinance 2016-3, amend anti-



noise regulations. This will change the noise restriction regulations on Friday and Saturday nights from 10:00pm to 11:00pm.

- Approved Resolution 2016-01, amend sewer user rates and authorizing a capital grant for the new sewer enterprise fund (see related article on page 1).

The Commissioners took action on the following items at the **April 27th** special meeting:

- Approved on second and final reading Ordinance 2016-1, amend the zoning code to allow the use of churches and other places of worship for specific charitable fund raising activities.
 - Approved the permit from St. George's Church to host a weekly farmer's market on the church property from May 19 through Oct. 31st.
 - Approved on second and final reading Ordinance 2016-3, amend anti-noise regulations. This will change the noise restriction regulations on Friday and Saturday nights from 10:00pm to 11:00pm.
 - Approved on first reading Ordinance 2016-4, close, vacate, and abandon a portion of Redwing Avenue at the rear of 121 Westhampton Pl. and 400 Sunnyside Dr.
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BUILDING & ZONING



Permits and PODS

The Codes Department gets weekly calls concerning permits and a good number of those calls are “Do I need to get a permit?” Many citizens are just unaware that a permit may be needed because they are repairing from water damage, replacing an existing fence or refinishing the hardwood floors etc. More than likely you will need to get a permit.

Any construction totaling \$2,000 or more in the City of Belle Meade requires a permit, whether it be outside or inside the home. The cost of the permit varies depending on the type of work or the total cost of construction. The cost of construction is taken to a fee table where the cost of a permit

is calculated. Most permit fees are minimal for repairs. The fine for not having a permit can be costly! Having said that, some items are currently excluded such as just painting your property inside or outside, installing a new roof, repair of shutters or gutters etc.

If in doubt, please call the office of codes (615) 297-2364 and speak with the Building Official, Lyle Patterson.

With the innovation of PODS (Portable On Demand Storage) units, more and more people are wanting to get these for removal and storage of their furniture while they are having construction performed on their homes. Belle Meade does not allow PODS to be stored on-site for long term use, so once the PODS are loaded, they must be taken off site to the PODS storage facility.



Four easy ways to report a power outage.

Never touch or go near downed wires. In case of an emergency or hazardous condition, call 911.

1. Online Account Log In

If you have no electricity at your location, report the outage by logging into My Account. Customers without an online profile can register here: <https://www.nespower.com/login/login.aspx>

2. Mobile Website

Visit our website from your mobile device to report a power outage through My Account. Customers without an online profile can register here: <https://www.nespower.com/login/login.aspx>

3. Text “OUT” from Mobile Device

Quickly report a power outage by texting “OUT” to 637797 (NESPWR). Customers who have not signed up for interactive text messaging with NES can register here: <http://nespower.com/NESTextRegister.html>

4. Call 615-234-0000

Call our automated reporting line, 615-234-0000. You will need the NES account number, meter number or phone number associated with your account for the system to recognize your outage.

Ceres Society Donations April 8th – May 5, 2016

Altenbern, Jr., Dr. & Mrs. Douglas
Anderson, Mr. Dwaine
Baldwin, Mr. & Mrs. Elliott
Bellar, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry
Belle Meade Plantation
Blaufuss, Mr. & Mrs. William
Follin, Ms. Katherine
Gremillion, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel



Link, Mr. & Mrs. J. Banks
McGuire, Mr. & Mrs. Garry
Page, Mr. & Mrs. Robert
Parkes, Mr. & Mrs. Gary
Riley, Mr. & Mrs. Steven
Sheffield, Mr. & Mrs. Frank
Trammell, Mr. & Mrs. Vance

Belle Meade Newsletter

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS JUNE AND JULY 2016 BELLE MEADE CITY HALL

Municipal Planning Commission

Tuesday, Jun 21st at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, Jul 19th t at 4:00 pm

Board of Building Code Appeals

Tuesday Jun 14th at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, Jul 12th at 4:00 pm

Board of Zoning Appeals

Tuesday, Jun 21st at 5:00 pm

Tuesday, Jul 19th at 5:00 pm

Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, Jun 15th at 4:00 pm

Wednesday, Jul 20th at 4:00 pm

Agendas are available online at
www.citybellemead.org

REMINDERS:

WASTE/RECYCLE COLLECTION:

REMEMBER:

WHITE BAGS = garbage

BLACK BAGS = recycle



DRUG COLLECTION BOX – available
24/7 in the Police Dept. for the safe
disposal of unused or expired
medication.

Farmers' Market

St George's Episcopal Church

Weekly – beginning

Thursday, May 19

4 pm – 7 pm

Fresh produce, food trucks, music

CITY OF BELLE MEADE
4705 Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

return service requested