

COMMISSIONERS: James V. Hunt, Sr., *Mayor* • Bob Weigel, *Vice Mayor* • Gray O. Thornburg,
Cathy Altenbern • Blair Wilson • 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 AUGUST 2018

PROPERTY TAX – 2018



The Tennessee State Income Tax, better known as the Hall Income Tax, has historically provided more than 50% of the City of Belle Meade's operating income. This tax is being

eliminated by reducing the income tax rate by 1% each year until completely liquidated by January 1, 2021. Belle Meade will receive its last portion of the Hall Tax proceeds in 2021.

Fortunately, Belle Meade's share of this year's tax revenue (37.5% of the total collected from Belle Meade residents), provided more than the budgeted amount for the fiscal year. Therefore, your Commissioners, with recommendations from the Budget and Finance Committee, voted NOT to increase Belle Meade property taxes for 2018 and maintain the current tax rate of \$0.25705 per \$100 of assessed property value. Each year, until the Hall Tax is totally eliminated, the Budget and Finance Committee will make recommendations to the Commissioners for any adjustments to the property tax rate. Strong fiscal management is of the highest priority for your City's Staff and Commissioners. We are proud continue this responsibility to the residents of Belle Meade.



FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF TIM EADS:

On August 7th, a man was robbed and kidnapped from his garage in a neighborhood near Lindawood and Harding Place. The crime occurred around 10:45 p.m. when he was returning home late from work. He was forced to go to the ATM with the criminals and withdraw cash. Fortunately, he was not seriously injured. In his statement, he reported the getaway car was parked at the edge of the street as if to pull onto Lindawood. It is not known if he initially noticed the vehicle as he was returning home.

Even though Belle Meade was recently rated the number one safest city in Tennessee <https://www.safewise.com/blog/safest-cities-tennessee/>, everyone still needs to remain vigilant at all times. Always be aware of your surroundings so you can act accordingly and reduce your chances of becoming a crime victim. Always report suspicious activity to us immediately at 615-297-0241. Check the area around you when you return to your vehicle and take notice of anyone loitering. If you observe this, ask the store or business establishment for a security escort to your vehicle. If you notice something suspicious in your neighborhood, you can call the Belle Meade

dispatcher and we will send an officer to assist you in getting safely into your home.

As many of you have noticed, we are 99% complete in having our Security Camera and License Plate Reader Cameras installed at 20 locations/intersections across Belle Meade. We feel this will be a strong deterrent to criminal activity and will greatly enhance our ability to solve a crime should one occur in Belle Meade. If you have any questions concerning our system, I am happy to discuss this with you anytime.

We always do our best to forward information about crimes that occur near us in the Metro area, but we cannot communicate every incident. We do send out pertinent Public Safety email bulletins about crimes in Belle Meade or any criminal activity that we know will directly affect Belle Meade residents. To stay aware of the criminal activity outside of Belle Meade, you can access Nashville's crime mapping system at www.crimemapping.com from the Home Page. Select State, then Agency, and it will bring up the

continued on page 2



continued from page 1

crime map, from there you can zoom in on areas of interest to see what type of crimes are being reported around Belle Meade or anywhere in Nashville/Davidson County. If you want to be added to the West Precinct Newsletter, contact Sgt. Steve Linn at steve.linn@nashville.gov and he will be happy to add you to their mailing list.

A recent uptick in stolen vehicles around the Nashville

area has been attributed to people leaving the keys in their vehicle. Remember to always Park Smart by removing your keys and valuables from your vehicle. Always set your home alarm and be familiar with its operation.

Be aware of school zones and increased traffic congestion, now that schools are back in session. It is now illegal to be on your cell phone while driving in a school zone, so be sure to use your hands-free mode, which is best at all times if you must be on the phone while driving.

CROSSING TO SAFETY – LOCAL BRIDGE PROJECT PLANNED FOR FALL 2018

By Louise Comiskey Bryan



Belle Meade residents must brace themselves for a capital improvement project that will impact travel when the Hillwood Bridge is replaced this fall. The bridge is located on Hillwood Boulevard which is the connecting street to Lynwood Terrace and frequently used as direct access to and from West Nashville. When bridge construction begins later this year, the traffic control plan will include two detour options to Davidson Road or White Bridge Road both connecting to Post Road which provides access to Hillwood Boulevard.

The Hillwood Boulevard Bridge is part of the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) Public Highway Bridge system which oversees 19,822 bridges. On-System Bridges, which total 8,367, are those maintained, owned and operated by the State of Tennessee. These include bridges on the Interstate Highway System, State Highway System and other bridges located in State Parks. Off-System Bridges, which total 11,455, are those found on roads owned, maintained and operated by local governments including counties, cities and townships. The Hillwood Bridge is co-owned by the City of Nashville and the City of Belle Meade and included in the Off-System bridge inventory.

During a routine bi-annual inspection of the Hillwood Bridge in July 2017, the Structures Inventory and Appraisal (SI&A) Office, the TDOT unit responsible for safety of highway bridges, placed a rating of 4, “structurally deficient” on the structure. The classification does not imply that the bridge is likely to collapse or that the bridge is unsafe. Rather, the poor condition includes sections of loss and deterioration and requires the bridge to be monitored and repaired or replaced. The National Bridge Rating system uses a 0 (failed condition) to 9 (excellent) scale to classify the general condition of bridges.

What should residents expect from a bridge that was built the same year the Grand Ole Opry began broadcasting, Calvin

Coolidge was inaugurated, and a gallon of gas cost 9 cents? Residents should expect that rehabilitation is near. Built in 1925 and serving motorists for 93 years, the tee beam bridge spans 177 feet and measures nearly 13 feet curb to curb. With nearly a century of service, the bridge needs a successor to provide safe passage over CSX Railroad and Richland Creek. Given that the average age of all Tennessee highway bridges is 42 years old, the Hillwood Bridge has earned its retirement and will be replaced with a new bridge.

Major infrastructure projects require significant investment in time and money. According to Heather Jensen, Multimedia Production Manager at TDOT, “residents can expect a year long road closure of Hillwood Boulevard for the bridge project. However, TDOT will host community meetings and share all information with area residents in order to provide accurate information for making travel choices”. With her calm manner and detailed approach, Heather is well suited to provide leadership to area residents during the construction phase. Engineers from both TDOT and CSX Railroad will share oversight of the bridge project with TDOT responsible for the bidding process. Construction bid letting begins in August and the contract will be awarded to the lowest bidder, as required by state law. The onset of construction is expected to begin in late 2018.

Highway bridges are typically funded with a mix of Federal, State, and local funding. The Hillwood Bridge project is estimated to cost \$2 million with the majority of that cost met by the state of Tennessee. Jim Hunt, Mayor of Belle Meade, explains, “because the bridge is located within Metro Nashville and Belle Meade City limits, both local governments are required to pay a portion of the engineering, design and construction costs. “TDOT” will pay for 80% of the project with the remaining amount split between Metro Nashville (16%) and the City of Belle Meade (4%).

The future is bright for the bridge inspection and repair in Tennessee. Over the past three decades, state and local governments have collaborated to improve the conditions of bridges with particular focus on reducing the number of structurally deficient bridges similar to the Hillwood Bridge. The total of structurally deficient bridges has been reduced from approximately 20% in 1992 to less than 5% in 2018.

Some questions still remain for local residents: How long will it take to get to Charlotte Ave.? What if construction is extended? Will the project increase my commute time to work?

Well, let’s just cross that bridge when we come to it.

Sources Used: TDOT Department of Transportation.

RECAP OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS



The following items were considered at the July 18, 2018 regular meeting:

- Approved the Parade Permit for the 2018 Thanksgiving Day Boulevard Bolt
• Approved a Proposal from Barge Cauthen & Assoc. for

engineering services for the 2018-19 Street Resurfacing Project in the amount of \$15,500.00

- Approved Change Order #3 to the Harding Place Sidewalk Project, in the amount of \$1,443.00



EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE

VICE MAYOR RUNOFF ELECTION
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2018

METRO OFFICE BUILDING

800 2ND AVE S, 4th FLOOR, NASHVILLE, TN 37210
FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 2018 - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2018

Table with 2 columns: Day/Date and Time Range. Includes dates from August 17 to August 25 with corresponding hours.

ALL EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS OPEN

MONDAY, AUGUST 27, 2018 - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2018

Table with 2 columns: Day/Date and Time Range. Includes dates from August 27 to September 1 with corresponding hours.

Table listing various voting locations and their addresses, such as Belle Meade City Hall, Bellevue Library, etc.

DAVIDSON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION | 1417 MURFREESBORO PIKE, NASHVILLE, TN 37217 | 615-862-8800 | WWW.NASHVILLE.GOV/VOTE

CERES SOCIETY DONATIONS - JULY 2018

Dr. & Mrs. Ashish Shah

TULIP SOCIETY - \$250 - \$499
Ms. Julia Stadler



ThriftSmart Donation Box - behind city hall. Acceptable donations include clothing, shoes, linens, CDs, DVDs, books, toys and other non-breakable housewares items. Call 833-8200 for pickup of large items.

**REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS
FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2018**

Municipal Planning Commission

Tuesday, September 18th at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, October 16th at 4:00 pm

Board of Building Code Appeals

Tuesday, September 11th at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, October 9th at 4:00 pm

Board of Zoning Appeals

Tuesday, September 18th at 5:00 pm

Tuesday, October 16th at 5:00 pm

Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, September 19th at 4:00 pm

Wednesday, October 17th at 4:00 pm

Agendas are available online at www.citybellemeade.org

REMINDERS:



City Hall will be closed on Monday, September 3, 2018 for Labor Day. In case of a sewer, traffic, or other emergency, please call the Police Dept. at 615-297-0241 and the dispatcher will contact city staff.

**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR TRASH & BRUSH PICKUP
WASTE/RECYCLE COLLECTION** - MONDAY ROUTE WILL BE PICKED UP ON TUESDAY, 9/4 & TUESDAY ROUTE WILL BE PICKED UP ON WEDNESDAY, 9/5.

BRUSH & CHIPPER COLLECTION – MONDAY ROUTE WILL BE PICKED UP ON TUESDAY, SEPT. 4TH.

If you are paying for an extra pickup of trash, please do not put cash in the envelope for Franklin Disposal. Checks are the preferred method of payment.

STORMWATER USER FEE INVOICES WERE MAILED SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. PAYMENT IS DUE BY AUGUST 31ST. The City accepts payment by check or credit card by phone or online- www.citybellemeade.org. There is a small convenience fee for credit card use. Questions? Please call Charlotte Hunter at 615-297-6041.

CITY OF BELLE MEADE
4705 Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

return service requested