

COMMISSIONERS: James V. Hunt, Sr., Mayor • Louise Bryan, Vice-Mayor • Bob Weigel,
Cathy Altenbern • Rusty Moore • 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 MARCH 2019

From Mayor Hunt:

Proposed Survey as Result of Retreat in February 2019

The Belle Meade Commissioners held their annual retreat on February 20-21. It was once again the opportunity to discuss many topics ranging from speed limits, traffic and communications to sidewalks, zoning and public safety. Our newest Commissioners, Louise Bryan and Rusty Moore, agreed that the Retreat provided an excellent education on city issues. Conducting another Citizen Survey was viewed as a method to condense the volume of topics and involve citizens in the decision-making process for the future.

Examples of questions for the survey could include the following examples:

- Need to create and market brand for “Welcome to Belle Meade” and other awareness programs
- Society of Ceres – Master beautification plan for City
- Sidewalk master plan
- Speed calming and other traffic concerns
- Page Road parking area at Percy Warner Park entrance
- Zoning Code potential modifications/clarifications
- Tree Ordinance

- Property tax increases as a result of Hall tax elimination
- Lock box program
- Evaluation and utilization of Video Camera Security System
- Methods and improvement of communications with residents
- Evaluation of new dumpster access procedures
- Recycle procedures and possible improvements

The final survey questions will be developed over the next several weeks for distribution shortly thereafter. If you have any suggestions for additional topics or questions on the survey send them to jhunt@citybellemeade.org or breardon@citybellemeade.org prior to March 22, 2019. If you haven't already, sign up to receive the Citizen Survey on the website, under “How Do I...”, “Sign Up”, Email List” and click to open up the screen where you can choose which items you want to receive. Or, here is the link: <https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1794761/33905/?v=a>



FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF TIM EADS:

Spring Break trip? Remember to utilize our House Check Service, as we will conduct extra patrols of your residence while you are out of town. Sign up at www.citybellemeade.org and look under the “How Do I” tab. You can also call our dispatch center 615-297-0241 for assistance in getting signed up. Always remember to activate your home alarm system even if you are going to be away for a short period of time. Make sure Belle Meade Police is listed as the first responder - we answer every alarm call!

SCAM ALERT – Be aware of someone claiming to be from the Social Security Administration making calls wanting your personal information. Here is an excerpt from a recent local complaint:

“Over the past week or so, we have been receiving an onerous telephone call from someone purporting to be the Social Security Administration, threatening us with legal action regarding our SSA account unless we call them back.”

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS:

- Education is key. These agencies DO NOT CALL. They send letters via U.S. Mail.
- Never give out your personal information such as your social security number, date of birth, or any other information that may be considered security sensitive.
- If you receive a call like this, **HANG UP!**

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- If you are concerned about calls from the Social Security Administration, **still hang up**, then later look up their official phone number and call them yourself. **Do not call the number showing in your caller ID!**
- If you received such a call and gave out your personal information unwittingly, check your financials and get a matter of record report from the police department if you think you were scammed.
- ****Tax season** is an especially critical time to **protect** your social security number because scammers use social security numbers to file false taxes for refunds, ripping off the government and messing it up for you when you prepare your tax return.
- If the Social Security Administration or any other government agency has legal issues with you, you will be notified in writing and often by certified letter. They do not threaten over the phone.

Many thanks to our citizens for letting us know when these scams occur. By working together, we can serve you better.

FREE DRIVER AWARENESS CLASS:

Registration is now open for the Metropolitan Police Department's FREE Driver Awareness Class for high school aged teens, scheduled for Saturday, March 16th from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. This popular course will be held in the community room of the MNPD's South Precinct, 5101 Harding Place. It is open to all high school aged teens, regardless of county of residency.

The class, taught by Nashville police officers, will not offer behind the wheel training, but rather will focus on impaired driving, distracted driving and overall traffic safety.

Persons interested in signing up for this program may do so on-line at this link:

<https://www.nashville.gov/News-Media/Calendar-of-Events/Event-Details/ID/10034/begin/3-16-2019/Teen-Driver-Safety-Program.aspx>

RECAP OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS



Commissioners took action on the following items at the February 20, 2019 regular meeting:

- Approved tree removal in Right of Way near 14 Lynwood Lane by The Parke Company for \$2,600.00, the lowest of three estimates obtained.
- Approved estimate for labor charges to install (3) in-car video cameras in police cars, from Wireless Plus for \$1,440.00.
- Approved purchase of Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software license from Metro Dept. of Emergency Communications for a onetime fee of \$12,500. This software enables 911 calls for Belle Meade addresses to be dispatched directly to the BMPD.
- Approved purchase of (2) battery powered traffic/speed monitoring signs from RadarSign for \$7,300, the lowest of three quotes. A grant from AAA, if approved, will reimburse

the City for this cost.

- Approved St. George's Church request for an Activity Permit for the weekly Farmer's Market, from May until October 2019.
- Approved the purchase and installation of (5) Arborvitae and (1) Alleé Elm tree and removal of (2) dead trees in the parking area behind City Hall. Nashville Landscape Systems, Inc. was the lowest bidder at \$ 2,600.00
- Approved bid for painting interior and exterior of City Hall and Public Works buildings by Certa Pro Painters of Nashville for \$26,795.00.
- Deferred Ordinance 2019-1 for 30 days. An Ordinance to Close, Vacate and Abandon the Right of Way of Pendleton Avenue between its intersection with the Right of Way of Lynwood Blvd. and its terminus in the Turner Subdivision.



FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

Brush & Chipper Service Reminders – Springtime means cleaning up your yard and preparing it for all the warm weather gardening and family activities. A benefit of your property taxes is the once-a-week brush & chipper service that is contracted for roadside pickup of normal yard waste, such as bagged leaves and clippings, small limbs and normal landscape debris. *This service contract does NOT cover the pickup and removal of large trees that have been cut down*

on your property – that is the homeowner's responsibility. If you set out a large amount of trimmings, the contractor may only take a portion of the pile on his weekly stop. Please understand that the contract requires pickup of all residential properties and the contractor has a limited amount of time that his crew can spend at each stop. Also, please do not bring yard waste to the dumpsters behind city hall. Thank you!

CERES SOCIETY DONATIONS – FEBRUARY 2019

**Mr. Brian Plegge & Dr. Karla Christian
Mrs. Eugenia Young**

CERES SOCIETY

Article by Caroline Stevens, member, Ceres Society Beautification Committee

Spring is around the corner. The Cherry trees are blooming and Redbuds are soon to follow, bringing joy to all. Can't wait for the Paw-Paws to present their handsome burgundy blossoms on their leafless boughs. Take a hike in one of the city parks looking for Paw Paws after you have googled the species to become familiar with its growth pattern. Wish I could view your faces as you marvel at the Southeast's number one fruit in the late 1800s! Now you will have to remember where you spotted this leafless wonder and go back in the fall to partake of its fruit.



Yes, spring has been announced! Along with this beauty comes hours and hours of preparation for Nashville's gardens, i.e., annuals, perennials, and vegetable beds. Remember to take time to walk the trails this spring and enjoy the wildflowers that have started to poke their heads through the blanket of decayed leaves, imagining the whole time which ones will enhance a shady spot in your side yard. The Dutchman's Breeches tickle me as their white covered legs bounce in the breezes.

The Ceres Society Beautification Committee looks forward

to Belle Meade residents presenting their concerns and ideas of ways to keep and bring joyful beauty to our community.

By the time this article has been read, the Weed Wrangle will have taken place on March 2nd. Weed Wrangle is a nationwide event where groups volunteer to irritate plants that are squeezing out our native and desirable plants from a specific area. This irritation accrues mainly in public parks, pocket parks, and along river and creek banks. On a specific day all across the country, hands are fast at work making a difference. It might be fun for residents of Belle Meade to see if they can find where Weed Wranglers started their irritation of invasives. I'll give you a hint - a famous race horse was raised there! Below is a picture of the volunteers at this year's event in Belle Meade.



Page Road Parking Area in Percy Warner Park Officially Opens



attractive area with limited parking in front of a larger open green space. The relationship between Belle Meade and Metro Parks remains strong and cooperative. The following is Metro's News Release for the opening of the parking area:



Metro Parks announced today that the Page Road Parking Lot in Percy Warner Park will officially open Friday, March 8, 2019. Park officials say the new lot - which includes a paved parking area, a path to the intersection, and low stone walls and landscaping - will alleviate some of the long standing problems with mud, erosion, blocked cars, and other issues. The new lot is part of a long term effort to solve traffic and parking issues throughout the park.

"Our goal with this project was to preserve the parks' natu-

ral and cultural resources, while also enhancing the quality and safety of the user experience," said Parks Director Monique Odom. "We feel like we've accomplished that goal. The project is now a maintainable facility that can remain open during all weather conditions, protects the environment, offers an improved visitor experience and is compatible with adjacent residences."

Warner Parks are one of the city's most utilized green spaces. With well over a million visitors annually and growing, parking pressures have presented challenges. The Page Road lot has long been used as informal overflow parking near the Belle Meade Gates. In 2016 (?) several new parking areas and trailheads were developed, to which the Page Road Lot has now been added. The goal has been to respond to user needs while protecting the park's natural character.

During peak periods, parking demand at the Belle Meade Gates may still exceed availability. Visitors are encouraged to access the trail and road system from less crowded points of access which include:

- Percy Warner Clubhouse (which has restrooms), 1221 Forrest Park Drive
- Deep Well, 6921 Highway 100, Nashville, TN 37221
- Gaucho Road, 2628 Old Hickory Blvd., Nashville, TN 37221
- Chickering Road, 1651 Chickering Rd., Nashville, TN 37221

Carpooling, visiting during off-peak periods, and bicycling or walking to the park are other ways to deal with parking limitations.

Belle Meade Newsletter

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS

APRIL 2019 & MAY 2019

Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, April 17th at 4:00 pm

Wednesday, May 15th at 4:00 pm

*****NOTE – March meeting re-scheduled to
March 27th at 4:00 p.m.**

Municipal Planning Commission

Tuesday, April 16th at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, May 21st at 4:00 pm

Board of Zoning Appeals

Tuesday, April 16th at 5:00 pm

Tuesday, May 21st at 5:00 pm

Board of Building Code Appeals


Tuesday, April 9th at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, May 14th at 4:00 pm

Agendas are available online at www.citybellemeade.org

REMINDERS:

Property Tax deadline was February 28th! We have approximately 75 property taxes that are unpaid and now past due. Beginning March 1st and for each month thereafter, a 2% interest penalty will be applied to the unpaid base tax amount. If you have questions, please call Charlotte Hunter, 615-297-6041 or chunter@citybellemeade.org.

FREE SHRED DAY – SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2019 from 9am to 12 noon at city hall. Start gathering your paperwork! This community event is limited to private individuals with no more than 8 boxes or bags and is not intended for commercial purposes. Some items people may want to consider shredding include: credit card statements, old checks, tax returns and anything a thief can use to steal your identity. **You do not need to remove paperclips or staples.** (Service provided by  Shred On The Run.)

CITY OF BELLE MEADE
4705 Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

return service requested