

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 AUGUST 2019

BELLE MEADE COMMISSIONERS CONSIDER ADOPTION OF CONSERVATION OVERLAY

(Article written by Jane-Coleman Cottone, Tennessee Historical Commission)

The City of Belle Meade has begun a process to establish a conservation overlay to protect the historic character of this beautiful area. Recent community input has brought attention to the excessive number of teardowns and speculative designs proposed by builders who often sacrifice quality for profit. An overlay would mean all requests for demolitions and new construction within the designated historic zone would be subject to review by an appointed Historic Zoning Commission. Earlier this summer, city officials met with staff from the Tennessee Historical Commission (THC) to seek advice on the necessary steps for creating the overlay. As the State Historic Preservation Office, THC offers free assistance to any local government launching their own preservation initiatives. THC staff advised the city to begin by completing a survey of all the homes in Belle Meade to identify the most historically significant houses, their dates of construction, and architectural styles. The state office also assisted with the drafting of two ordinances that recently passed upon first reading at the July 17th Belle Meade City Commission meeting.

Ordinance 2019-7 amends the Belle Meade Municipal Code to create the Historic Zoning Commission (HZC). Based upon enabling legislation in the Tennessee Code, the commission shall consist of five appointed members including an architect, if available; a representative of a local patriotic or historical organization; a person who is a member of the local planning commission at the time of such person's appointment; and the remainder from the community in general. The HZC shall have the authority to regulate the construction, alteration, relocation or demolition of any building which is located or is proposed to be located within the boundaries of a designated historic district. Once appointed, the HZC will submit written recommendations to the Board of Commissioners regarding the creation of any historic zoning districts, and they shall adopt for each proposed district a set of review guidelines, which it will apply in ruling upon the granting or denial of certificates of appropriateness. Ordinance 2019-8 gives the Belle Meade Board of Commissioners the authority to vote upon recommendations for proposed historic districts and to amend the zoning map to reflect any historic overlay districts created by the Board of Commissioners. Also on July 17th, the commission voted to pass a resolution creating a temporary moratorium on the issuance of demolition permits during the time it takes to fully implement Ordinances 2019-7 and 2019-8.

Before the city commissioners can establish the overlay, they must confirm the proposed area meets the criteria specified in the

state enabling legislation. A majority of the protected buildings must be of a certain age, represent a significant architectural style, and maintain their architectural integrity. Two staff members from the Tennessee Historical Commission, Peggy Nickell and Claire Meyer, are currently finishing a survey of the entire city and developing an inventory of approximately 1,200 homes. They are also making recommendations as to which homes should be considered "contributing" to the historic character of the district versus which homes are "non-contributing" due to recent construction or alterations over time. Once completed, this information will be used by the future HZC to determine the proposed boundaries for the overlay district.

After members have been appointed to the HZC and they meet to review proposals for the overlay, the HZC must also adopt a set of design guidelines, which will be applied in reviewing applications for certificates of appropriateness (COAs). A COA is like a permit for demolitions, additions, and new constructions that must be obtained before a property owner can apply for a building permit. The design guidelines will be written with input from the community, and the document will not be adopted by the HZC without full public notice and an opportunity for public comment. Another staff member from the Tennessee Historical Commission, Jane-Coleman Cottone, will assist the city with drafting and revising the design guidelines. While the content will be decided on the local level, state law requires the guidelines to be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. More information about these standards can be found on the website of the National Park Service.

There are many substantial benefits to establishing a historic overlay district, not the least of which is the authority to prevent the demolition of architecturally significant buildings and to control the design of the new construction going up throughout the city. By creating a Historic Zoning Commission, the City of Belle Meade will be automatically eligible to become a Certified Local Government (CLG). The CLG program is a voluntary partnership between federal, state and local governments working together to save the irreplaceable character of historic places. Through the certification process, communities demonstrate their commitment to historic preservation. In return, they have increased access to special grants and other resources to support their preservation efforts. The program is administered jointly by the National Park Service and the Tennessee Historical Commission. There are currently 45 CLG communities throughout Tennessee, including Metro Nashville, Franklin, Murfreesboro, and Columbia.



FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF TIM EADS:



- **Hands Free Law** - the law has been expanded from just school zones to all times behind the wheel of a vehicle. Be safe and use your vehicle’s hands free feature or purchase a Bluetooth device that will allow you to talk hands free in any vehicle.
- **Left Lane for Passing/Turning Only** – remember this rule when driving down Belle Meade Boulevard. This restriction is for the safety of pedestrians using our beautiful Boulevard to walk and run. BMPD is strictly enforcing this law, so be aware.
- **Walk/Jog Safely** – Please wear reflective gear when you are out for an early morning or evening walk or run. It is the law.
- **Park Smart** - Vehicle burglary and theft is an ongoing issue in

the many neighborhoods that surround Belle Meade. Lock your vehicle and remove any valuables including spare keys.

- **Home Alarms** - Always use your alarm system even if you are only going away for a few hours. If you are leaving town, be sure and use our House Check Service. Your house is checked several times every 24 hours. The request form is at www.citybellemeade.org under the “How Do I” tab or call 615-297-0241 for assistance from the dispatcher.
- **Scams** - Internet and phone scams continue to be a problem. If you are not certain about any type of call or email you receive, please contact us and we will help you research the matter.

RECAP OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS’ MEETINGS



The Commissioners took action on the following items at the Regular Meeting on Wednesday, July 17, 2019:

- Approved safety lighting equipment purchase and installation for the new Public Works truck from On Duty Depot for \$2,549.00.
- Approved four (4) invoices over \$5,000 from:
 - ◆ Commonwealth Chemical \$22,400.00
 - ◆ J. R. & Assoc. \$14,380.00
 - ◆ Wascon, Inc. \$ 9,531.00
 - ◆ Dixon Plumbing \$ 8,742.00



- Passed Ordinance 2019-7 to Create the Historic Zoning Commission, on first reading.
- Passed Ordinance 2019-8 for the Creation of Historic Overlay Districts in the City of Belle Meade, on first reading.
- Deferred Ordinance 2019-9 to Ban Dockless Electric Scooters and Bicycles, on first reading.
- Approved Resolution 2019-04, Creating a Temporary Moratorium on the Issuance of Demolition Permits.

REMINDERS:



City Hall will be closed on Monday, September 2nd 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, 9/3 & TUESDAY ROUTE WILL BE PICKED UP ON WEDNESDAY, 9/4.

BRUSH & CHIPPER COLLECTION –

MONDAY ROUTE WILL BE PICKED UP ON TUESDAY, SEPT. 3rd.

PUBLIC HEARING LEGAL NOTICE

A public hearing meeting will be held during the regular Board of Commissioners meeting on Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at Belle Meade City Hall, 4705 Harding Road, Nashville, for consideration of the following proposed Ordinance, with caption as follows:

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE 2019-8, “AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE CREATION OF HISTORIC OVERLAY DISTRICTS IN THE CITY OF BELLE MEADE”. SECOND AND FINAL READING

Public comments will be accepted at this public hearing. Parties wishing to speak on these issues shall be present at the meeting or submit comments to the Office of the City Manager, 4705 Harding Rd, Nashville TN or via email to breardon@citybellemeade.org on or before the public hearing date and time. Copies of the Ordinance are available for inspection at City Hall during normal business hours, M-F, 8am to 4pm, or online at www.citybellemeade.org.

CERES SOCIETY DONATIONS – JULY 2019

MAGNOLIA SOCIETY - \$500 - \$999

- Dr. & Mrs. Ben Davis
- Mr. & Mrs. Steven Riley
- Mr. & Mrs. Gar Bo Wong

TULIP SOCIETY - \$250 - \$499

- Dr. & Mrs. Phillip Brown
- Mr. & Mrs. Bob Jackson
- Mr. & Mrs. Garry McGuire
- Mr. & Mrs. Harry Peffen, III

AMERICAN FLAG SPONSORSHIP

- Mr. & Mrs. James Hunt, Sr.
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Ledbetter
- Mrs. Samuel Welborn, Jr.
- In Mem: Samuel K. Welborn, Jr. Spec. 5, U.S. Army, Vietnam Veteran*

FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

Annual Creek Debris Removal Project update – This project is about one-third complete and involves cleaning out blockages in creek culverts and areas around bridges so that flooding chances are reduced during sudden heavy or long lasting rain events. The contractor is required to follow specific guidelines for this work according to Tenn. Dept. of Environment and Conservation rules. Please call Public Works at 615-297-6041 if you have any questions about this work.

Annual Street Resurfacing Project – The project is currently

out for bid and is estimated to cost around \$600,000. This year is also the first year that Belle Meade will receive funds from Metro Nashville/Davidson County for “Roadway Costs” in the amount of \$193,617, according to a recently amended Memorandum of Understanding with Metro. The following streets are scheduled for resurfacing this fall:

Clarendon Ave., Evelyn Ave., Sutherland Ave., Westview Ave., east segment of Harding Place, and South segment of Hillwood Blvd.

EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB)

Emerald ash borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis*, attacks only ash trees. It is believed to have been introduced into Michigan 15 to 20 years ago on wood packing material from Asia. Since then, the destructive insect has been found in numerous states including Tennessee. Typically, the emerald ash borer beetles can kill an ash tree within three years of the initial infestation.



The larvae (the immature stage) feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree’s ability to transport water and nutrients. Adults are dark green, one-half inch in length and one-eighth inch wide, and fly only from April until September, depending on the climate of the area. In Tennessee most EAB adults would fly in May and June. Larvae spend the rest of the year beneath the bark of ash trees. When they emerge as adults, they leave D-shaped holes in the bark about one-eighth inch wide.

TDA officials urge area residents and visitors to help prevent the spread of EAB:

- **Don’t transport firewood, even within Tennessee.** Don't bring firewood along for camping trips. Buy wood from a local source. Don't bring wood home with you.
- **Don't buy or move firewood from outside the state.** If someone comes to your door selling firewood, ask them about the source, and don't buy wood from outside the state.
- **Watch for signs of infestation in your ash trees.** If you suspect your ash tree could be infected with EAB, refer to the EAB Symptoms Checklist and online EAB Report Form to alert state plant and forestry officials, or call TDA’s Consumer and Industry Services Division at 1-800-628-2631.

This article was copied from the TN Dept of Agriculture webpage. For additional information and resources, click on this link: <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/businesses/plants/plant-pests-diseases-and-quarantines/ag-businesses-eab.html>

Dan Beasley of The Parke Company, which is the City’s contractor for brush and chipper service, states that some ash trees can be protected with a systemic insecticide treatment. Spring application is the best time for this treatment.

LESSONS FROM THE GARDEN

Jill DeBona, *Society of Ceres*

As I write this article on the last day of July, with summer heat and humidity blanketing my vegetable and rose gardens, I wonder how I can keep fungal disease at bay. Blackspot seems to laugh as I pick mottled leaves from my beloved roses. It knows that it will win the battle despite my efforts to prevent its advance. Our humidity and rainfall give it the advantage. Blackspot robs the roses of their foliage, leaving them naked and vulnerable. As a besotted rose gardener, I worry about their ability to bloom with so few leaves. “How can my rose bushes reach their full potential with Blackspot ravaging them?” To my surprise, the defoliated roses are still blooming. The canes are thorny and bare. Atop these rather grotesque canes, sit the roses, enchantingly beautiful and intensely perfumed. They are like naked goddesses, flaunting their blooms, unaware of their exposed legs and the disease that threatens them from below. I wonder, “How can they bloom so resplendently with so few leaves?”



continue to climb, blossom and set fruit. Again, I wonder, “how can this be?” “How can they remain productive in the face of so much disease?”

I suppose that the answers lie within the secret of Mother Nature. Mother Nature is the teacher and the garden is one of the vehicles by which she imparts her wisdom. In my garden, she seems to choose roses and tomatoes to teach about resiliency, the ability to persevere in the face of challenges.



The roses teach that beauty can transcend affliction. Beauty can surprise us and appear where we least expect it. Through the tomatoes, she teaches that vitality and new growth are possible even in the face of infirmity. A fighting spirit may be required, but productivity can remain. Finally, I think that Mother Nature urges us to be still and to listen for she has much to teach us. . . . As Gertrude Jekyll once said, “A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust.”



Belle Meade Newsletter

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS SEPTEMBER 2019 & OCTOBER 2019

Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, September 18th at 4:00 pm
Wednesday, October 16th at 4:00 pm

Board of Building Code Appeals

Tuesday, September 10th at 4:00 pm
Tuesday, October 8th at 4:00 pm

Municipal Planning Commission

Tuesday, September 17th at 4:00 pm
Tuesday, October 15th at 4:00 pm

Board of Zoning Appeals

Tuesday, September 17th at 5:00 pm
Tuesday, October 15th at 5:00 pm

Agendas are available online at
www.citybellemeade.org

STORMWATER USER FEE INVOICES WERE MAILED THE WEEK OF AUGUST 1ST. PAYMENT IS DUE BY AUGUST 31ST.

The City accepts payment by check or credit card or online at www.citybellemeade.org. There is a small convenience fee for credit card use. Questions? Please call Charlotte Hunter at 615-297-6041.



EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE

METROPOLITAN GENERAL
RUNOFF ELECTION

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

Howard Office Building

700 2nd Avenue S, Nashville, TN 37210

Friday, August 23, 2019 - Saturday, September 7, 2019

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23	8:00 AM – 5:30 PM
SATURDAY, AUGUST 24	8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
MONDAY, AUGUST 26	8:00 AM – 5:30 PM
TUESDAY, AUGUST 27	8:00 AM – 7:00 PM
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28	8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
THURSDAY, AUGUST 29	8:00 AM – 7:00 PM

ALL EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS OPEN

Friday, August 30, 2019 – Saturday, September 7, 2019

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30	8:00 AM – 5:30 PM
SATURDAY, AUGUST 31	8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2	CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3	8:00 AM – 7:00 PM
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4	8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5	8:00 AM – 7:00 PM
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6	8:00 AM – 5:30 PM
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7	8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Belle Meade City Hall	4705 Harding Pike, Nashville, TN 37205
Bellevue Library	720 Baugh Road Nashville, TN 37221
Bordeaux Library	4000 Clarksville Pike, Nashville, TN 37218
Casa Azafraán Comm. Center	2195 Nolensville Pike, Nashville, TN 37211
Edmondson Pike Library	5501 Edmondson Pike, Nashville, TN 37211
Goodlettsville Comm. Center	200 Memorial Drive, Goodlettsville, TN 37072
Green Hills Library	3701 Benham Avenue, Nashville, TN 37215
Hermitage Library	3700 James Kay Lane, Hermitage, TN 37076
Howard Office Building	700 2nd Avenue S, Nashville, TN 37210
Madison Library	610 Gallatin Pike S, Madison, TN 37115
Southeast Library	5260 Hickory Hollow Pkwy, Antioch, TN 37013

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

CITY OF BELLE MEADE
4705 Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

return service requested