

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 SEPTEMBER 2019

Historic Zoning Commission (HZC)

Mayor Jim Hunt

Ordinance 2019-9 was passed on August 21, 2019, thereby creating the Historic Zoning Commission. Six days later, a special commissioner meeting was called on August 27, 2019, and the five (5) members of the initial Commission were elected. Ron Farris, Gavin Duke, Jeanette Whitson, Bunny Blackburn and Mal Wall form this most important new Commission. Our sincere thanks go out to these five citizens for agreeing to serve at such a critical time.

Excitement followed by a short period of misunderstanding and confusion is expected. For that reason, a series of public meetings will be held during the process of procedural development. In addition to public input, the Mayor created an informal implementation team to assist and consult with the HZC during this several month period. Those volunteers who will be

attending the public meetings are: Charlie Atwood, Haley Dale, Larry Wieck, Jim Hastings, Scott Kendall, Clay Trabue, Stephanie Galanter, and Charlie Rankin.

The initial meeting of the HZC will be held September 19, 2019 at 3 pm at City Hall. Chair and Vice-Chairs will be elected, creation and approval of by-laws, adoption of Robert's Rules of Order and other new organizational business will take place. Future meetings will deal with more detailed information such as demolitions, historic overlays by neighborhood and street groupings. These overlays will create areas that can limit demolitions. (New construction requires approval of the HZC). This should help in maintaining architectural diversity. All of this will be important in keeping Belle Meade beautiful.

FROM THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE: NEW MONTHLY COLUMN - "ASK A GARDNER" (see page 3)



The goal of the Committee for the Society of Ceres is not only to enhance beautification around our Belle Meade, but also to educate our residents about the flora in and around our lovely City. We are pleased as punch to announce our new monthly newsletter column, *Ask A Gardner!* If you have any questions, concerns, or information you would like to share, please email us at

societyofceres@gmail.com. Our members will rotate answering your questions based on their areas of expertise. The first few months your letters will be answered by two of our members, Boscobel and Stewartia. Boscobel is a Master Gardener, and specializes in organic and sustainable gardening. Stewartia is also a Master Gardener, and has received several awards for her garden.

We are excited to hear from you and answer your questions. So get your emails ready . . . We will be waiting by our inbox!

Happy Gardening!

Laura Katherine Wood, Chair, Beautification Committee



FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF TIM EADS:

• CAR BURGLARIES AT COUNTRY CLUB

Recently we had four vehicles broken into on two separate days at the Belle Meade Country Club. The thief was very fast and used a specialized tool to break the window without setting off the car alarm. He dove in and took high value items from two of the four vehicles. He was not at either vehicle for more than 60 seconds. Fortunately, BMCC had excellent video and we have been able to identify three people involved. These three are out of Florida and are operating a fairly sophisticated theft ring that

involves rental cars, multiple people and states. We have been able to make an arrest of one individual, but the likelihood of recovering any valuables is very low. We expect to indict the other two, but extradition can be difficult in these types of crimes. These kinds of criminal groups are finding it profitable to use this type of system over many states and jurisdictions, so we feel fortunate up to now to have had a low number of cases.



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The best defense against this type of crime and deterring it in the future is to **Park Smart**. Always lock your vehicle no matter where you are and how safe the area may feel. Remove all valuables or store them in area that can be secured such as the trunk. Criminals are opportunists and will exploit any opportunity they can for fast cash and valuables. They are looking for debit/credit cards or checks that they quickly use. If you are a gun owner, please remove your firearm from your vehicle. We are seeing way too many stolen vehicles in the region that have firearms left unsecured. Even if a thief only gets a few hundred dollars or a firearm, it has been a good day for them and a bad day for you.

- Always set your home alarm system and know how to use

all the features on your system. You vendor will be happy to give you a refresher demonstration if you are not sure you are using it to its full capabilities.

- When you travel, utilize our House Check Services. The officers will check your residence on a regular basis, day and night. You can access the request form at our website, www.citybellemeade.org under the "How Do I" section. You can also call our dispatcher at 615-297-0241 and they can assist you in getting scheduled.

Call us immediately if you see suspicious activity so we can send an officer to check the area. If you have a concern about anything, never hesitate to contact me or any member of the Police Department or City Staff.

RECAP OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS



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

- Approved low bid from Sessions Paving Co. for the 2019 Street Resurfacing Project in the amount of \$548,136.00.
- Approved Traffic Analysis Proposal from KCI Technologies to study left hand turn from Belle Meade Blvd. onto Harding Road in the amount of \$12,750.00.
- Approved estimate from the Parke Company for tree removal in right-of-way on Canterbury Drive for \$2,300.
- Approved Parade Permit for the 2019 Thanksgiving Day Boulevard Bolt.
- Approved Parade Permit for Ragnar Relay, scheduled for Saturday, November 9th.
- Approved purchase of four In-Car Cameras through a federal contract for \$10,409.60.
- Approved the low estimate from CDJR for installation of four In-Car Video cameras for \$1,440.00
- Approved low bid of \$16,200.00 from Nashville Landscape Systems for the 2019 Fall Landscape Improvements Project. Payment for this contract will come from the Beautification Fund.
- Approved six (6) invoices from:
 - o J. R. & Assoc. \$ 14,527.00 week 2
 - o J. R. & Assoc. \$ 14,560.00 week 3
 - o J. R. & Assoc. \$ 14,560.00 week 4
 - o J. R. & Assoc. \$ 14,000.00 week 5
 - o J. R. & Assoc. \$ 14,280.00 week 6
 - o Wascon, Inc. \$ 12,038.00



- Approved purchase of one server, and 16 workstations from Dell, Two HP switches from CDW-G and installation of equipment by Keystone Business Services for a total of \$44,185, which is \$2,964 under budget.
- Approved and passed Ordinance 2019-7 on second reading, Creating the Historic Zoning Commission.
- Deferred action on the Appointment of Members to Historic Zoning Commission.
- After Public Hearing, approved and passed on second reading, Ordinance 2019-8, Authorizing the Creation of Historic Overlay Districts for the City of Belle Meade.
- Deferred action on Ordinance 2019-9, to ban dockless electric scooters and bicycles.

The Commissioners took action on the following at the Special Meeting on Tuesday, August 22, 2019:

Appointment of Historical Zoning Commission:

- Bunny Blackburn- term ending June 30, 2021
- Mal Wall- term ending June 30, 2022
- Ron Farris- term ending June 30, 2023
- Jeannette Whitson- term ending June 30, 2024
- Gavin Duke – term ending June 30, 2024

Implementation Team:

Larry Wieck, Charlie Atwood, Haley Dale, Scott Kendall, Jim Hastings, Stephanie Galanter, Steve Horrell

CERES SOCIETY DONATIONS – AUGUST 2019

Hiatt, Mr. & Mrs. John

MAGNOLIA SOCIETY - \$500 - \$999

Mr. & Mrs. David Brown

TULIP SOCIETY - \$250 - \$499

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lowe

Mr. & Mrs. Mark McDonald

AMERICAN FLAG SPONSORSHIP

Mrs. John Fred Tarkington, Jr.

ASK A GARDNER

Dear Ceres:

I miss the color punch that Phlox adds to my June - July garden. Is there a way I can have that splash of color later in the season as well? The color brings joy to my being. I miss it when it fades away.



Dear Sad One:

There is a way to have that Joy in late summer. And it is from the Phlox already tucked in your garden. Let's get started. After the Phlox finishes blooming, there is a visible seed head that does not add that much interest to the garden. Gently step in the garden to get close enough to the plant that you can see where a new sprout is beginning to emerge. This spot is just above a leaf

that is attached to the main stalk. It is usually happening about 1/4 of the way down the stalk from the blossom. Cut just above this spot leaving as little stalk as possible. It will not be long before a new bud will form soon bringing forth a burst of color. You will notice that other small clusters of flowers will form below the new blossom. These small clusters make up a fresh burst of color. Enjoy!!

Happy Gardening,
'Stewartia'

Dear Ceres:

I need help with my tomatoes. For some reason, I have not had a good crop this year. And the plants seem sickly. Many of the leaves have fallen off and the remaining ones have yellow and brown spots. I am crushed because tomatoes are my favorite fruit of the garden and I don't seem to be having much success.

Dear Crushed:

I agree that there is nothing better than a homegrown tomato. I am sorry to hear that your tomatoes are underperforming.

The spotted leaves and defoliation may be due to Early Blight or Septoria Leaf Spot. These are common fungal diseases of tomatoes. If you want to salvage some fruits this season, I would recommend that you carefully remove the diseased leaves and spray with an organic fungicide. Copper and Neem oil are options that may help. At the end of this garden season, make sure to clean up all tomato debris so that spores don't overwinter in your soil.

Next season, I would recommend that you plant your tomatoes in a different bed or in pots (crop rotation). Make sure that your plants have good air circulation and limit overhead watering. Drip irrigation is a worthwhile investment to limit disease spread. Finally, I highly recommend that you choose tomato varieties with resistance to fungal diseases. For example, Iron Lady and Juliet are varieties with good disease resistance. In fact, I planted both varieties this year. Juliet is especially performing well in my garden.

I hope that these strategies help you to have a productive tomato garden next season. Keep in touch and let us know how you and your tomatoes are doing.

Regards,
'Boscobel'



FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: GUIDELINES FOR DRAINING YOUR POOL OR SPA



You can help keep our creeks, streams and rivers clean by properly draining your swimming pool or spa.

DO NOT drain the water into the sanitary sewer, you may drain the water onto grassy areas following these

guidelines:

- De-chlorinate the water by allowing it to stand untreated for 7 to 10 days before you drain the pool/spa.
- Drain the water directly onto the grass in your yard. Be a good neighbor – allow the water to only drain onto your property so that it does not cause erosion or flooding in your neighbor's yard.
- Drain the pool water slowly to allow it to be absorbed into the ground and to prevent erosion and ponding. Standing water can lead to mosquito problems in as little as 48 to 72 hours and may be a code violation.

Note: draining saltwater onto grass and landscape can damage plants and soil due to high salt content.

It is illegal in Davidson County to drain your filter backwash water, saltwater or chlorinated pool water, or spa directly into the stormwater drainage system or a creek unless it is de-chlorinated.

(CITY OF BELLE MEADE STORM WATER ORDINANCE – SECTION 8, ILLICIT DISCHARGES).

DID YOU KNOW?

- High levels of chlorine in pool water can kill wildlife, fish, crayfish and other aquatic animals.
 - A saltwater swimming pool system uses pool salt to make chlorine. The chemicals and salt in saltwater pools can kill plants, wildlife, and aquatic animals such as fish and crayfish.
 - Stormwater drainage systems (catch basins in the streets, ditches, etc.) drain rain water directly to creeks and streams.
- TOGETHER WE CAN KEEP OUR CREEKS, STREAMS AND RIVERS CLEAN! REMEMBER:**
- Drain only de-chlorinated water onto grassy areas. Drain the water slowly.
 - And **NEVER** drain pool and spa water directly into street drains or drainage ditches – they lead directly to our creeks, streams and rivers.

Questions concerning pool guidelines and saltwater pools should be directed to:

THE CITY OF BELLE MEADE – (615) 297-6041

Larry Smith, lsmith@citybellemeade.org or
Nathan McVay, nmcvay@citybellemeade.org

Belle Meade Newsletter

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS OCTOBER 2019 & NOVEMBER 2019

Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, October 16th at 4:00 pm
Wednesday, November 20th at 4:00 pm

Board of Building Code Appeals

Tuesday, October 8th at 4:00 pm
Tuesday, November 12th at 4:00 pm

Municipal Planning Commission

Tuesday, October 15th at 4:00 pm
Tuesday, November 19th at 4:00 pm

Board of Zoning Appeals

Tuesday, October 15th at 5:00 pm
Tuesday, November 19th at 5:00 pm

* Historic Zoning Commission *

Thursday, September 19th at 3:00 pm

Agendas are available online at
www.citybellemeade.org

PAST DUE

STORMWATER FEE – There are still about 150 unpaid stormwater invoices that were due by August 31st. If you are not sure if you paid this fee or need to know the amount due, please call Charlotte Hunter at 615-297-6041.

PROPERTY TAXES – 2019 property tax statements will be mailed around October 1st. Belle Meade does not mail tax statements to mortgage companies. All statements are mailed to the owner of record as per the Metro Nashville/Davidson County Tax Assessor's office. Most mortgage companies will request tax information from Belle Meade for their mortgage clients, but it is up to the homeowner to verify that their mortgage company has the current tax information. If you have any questions, please call City Hall at 615-297-6041.

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



THRIFTSMART DONATION BOX – behind City Hall. Acceptable donations include clothing, shoes, linens, CDs, DVDs, books, toys and other non-breakable houseware items. Call 615-833-8200 for pickup of large items.

CITY OF BELLE MEADE
4705 Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

return service requested