

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 JANUARY 2020

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS Mayor Jim Hunt

Critics say we should spend more time and effort keeping resolutions than making them. Call it results directed planning instead of resolutions. With that in mind, let's go back to 2019 and review our goals and see how we've fared. The annual commissioner retreat along with the citizen survey created the following action items for implementation:

- Traffic calming for Jackson Blvd and Lynwood Blvd including no left turns on Harding Road from Jackson. Left turn lane created at Belle Meade Blvd onto Harding Road.
- Early response to Video Surveillance System as a deterrent to local crime prevention is validated
- Confirmation of property tax increases to offset loss of Hall Income Taxes
- Formalization of Beautification Committee (Society of Ceres) becomes a reality. Streamlining of Tree Ordinance, adopting logo, annual beautification award.

- Historic Zoning Commission created to monitor new construction following demolition of existing properties
- Cardboard dumpster installed to improve recycling process and lessen impact on landfills
- Expansion of Public Works department to improve efficiency of road maintenance and sewer services
- Master Plan for City to develop a five to ten-year list of priorities from traffic calming, walkability, beautification, branding, communication to and among residents as well as working with Metro to coordinate priorities

Focusing on these items will assure us of maintaining our beauty and livability. Our reputation as the best of the best will be continued and improved.



The fiscal year 2018-2019 Audited Financial Report has been approved by the Board of Commissioners and can be viewed on the website, under "Departments, Finance". If you wish to review a paper copy or have questions about the Report, please call Finance Director Leigh Mills or City Manager Beth Reardon at 615-297-6041.



FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF TIM EADS:

- Happy New Year to everyone! Thank you all who sent food to all the City Employees during the Holidays. We appreciate your thoughts and support and we look forward to serving you in 2020.
- Make sure your vehicle is ready for operation during winter conditions. Check your tire tread and make sure your wipers are in good working order. Keep a blanket and bottled water in your vehicle. During inclement weather, always allow for extra travel time

and keep a safe distance behind other vehicles.

- Discourage vehicle burglaries by Parking Smart, at home and everywhere else. Continue to use your home alarm system effectively and verify with your provider that BMPD is your first responder.
- Always report suspicious activity immediately to us at 615-297-0241 to limit delays in response time.



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Each year, Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) host the National Night of Remembrance Awards Banquet in Nashville, TN. This night is designated to remember those that were injured or killed by a drunk driver. It also serves as a night to honor those law enforcement officers that make it their mission to help combat impaired driving in their communities. Sergeant Chris Roark received the bronze award for arresting 26 impaired drivers for the year 2018. This is the 4th consecutive year that Sergeant Roark has received this award! Congratulations to Sergeant Roark and his effort to keep us all safe.



RECAP OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS



The Commissioners took action on the following items at the December 18, 2019 meeting:

- Approved Proposal from KCI Technologies for Intersection and Traffic Signal Modifications at Belle Meade Blvd. & Harding Road and at Jackson Blvd. & Harding Road.
- Appointed Chris Tardio to the BZA as an Alternate, and Scott Kendall to the MPC.
- Approved the following invoices over \$5,000:
 - o Gibbs Brothers Construction \$ 6,808.23
 - o Gibbs Brothers Construction \$ 7,532.50
 - o KCI Technologies \$ 5,872.50
 - o Sessions Paving Company \$88,120.00
 - o Thomason & Associates \$10,080.00
 - o Wascon \$ 5,944.00
- Approved Audited Financial Report for FY 2018-2019



- Approved a one-year engagement of Kraft CPAs for FY 2019-2020 audit services.
- Approved Ordinance 2019-9, on second and final reading, Amending Title 14 of the Belle Meade Municipal Code to Apply a Neighborhood Conservation Overlay to All Four Zoning Districts.
- Approved Ordinance 2019-10, on second and final reading, Amending Title 12, Chapter 1, Section 101(1) of the Belle Meade Municipal Code to Adopt the 2015 International Residential Code in Place of the 2009 Code.
- Deferred Ordinance 2019-11, on second reading, Adopting Regulations for Tree Management and Protection.
- Withdrew, Without Objection, Resolution 2019-05, Amend Resolution 2019-04 to Amend Deadline for Moratorium on Issuance of Demolition Permits.
- Approved Resolution 2019-06, Amend Ordinance 2019-5, Budget Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

HISTORIC STEPS AT PERCY WARNER PARK TO CLOSE FOR REPAIR



Project marks first phase of multi-year campaign to preserve and protect Nashville's largest park.

Friends of Warner Parks and Metro Parks and Recreation Department today announced the temporary closure of the historic limestone steps at Percy Warner Park, effective Monday, January 6, 2020. The closure, which includes the steps and park-

land surrounding the steps, will allow for much-needed repair and restoration at one of Nashville's most iconic landmarks, known as the Allée. Construction is estimated to last six months. Hiking trails throughout the park will remain open.

"The historic steps, which opened in 1936, are a beloved destination for tens of thousands of visitors each year," said Metro Parks Director Monique Odom. "As both an everyday entry point for hikers and a backdrop for some of life's most memorable moments, the steps are an integral part of our city's story, now requiring significant repair after generations of wear and tear."

The Allée project, which marks phase one of a multi-phased park

improvement plan, will repair deteriorating and damaged stonework, address drainage issues and erosion, re-establish original view sheds, and conserve habitat lost to invasive plants with woodland restoration.

"Our partnership with Metro Parks is strong, and we appreciate Metro's investment to maintain Warner Parks' 3,180 acres," said Jenny Hannon, Executive Director of Friends of Warner Parks. "As users of the parks, it's also our responsibility to ensure this land, its natural resources, and its rich history are preserved for future generations. We'd love for all Warner Parks enthusiasts and visitors to help support the effort, beginning with the restoration of these landmark steps."

Funding for the project comes from the first phase of the It's My Nature capital campaign, led by Friends of Warner Parks. The non-profit organization seeks to raise \$15 million for the comprehensive plan to restore historic structures, stonework and natural features throughout Warner Parks and to renovate the Warner Park Nature Center. Information on getting involved is on the Friends' website <https://warnerparks.org/itsmynature>

STORMWATER RAIN AND SNOW



Rain, rain, rain - what are you going to do with all that water? It's winter in Tennessee and that means it's the rainy season! If you have built a new home in the last several years or a pool or a large addition, then you have a stormwater system helping to control the rain runoff. These stormwater systems might consist of an underground retention chamber, a rain garden, level spreader or perhaps a pervious surface like a driveway or terrace. These systems were designed to capture the first one inch of rain fall and help protect your property as well as your neighbors' properties. After the one inch, it will then have a controlled release flow. During construction, the protection may be a straw waddle or a silt fence which captures the siltation but allows the water to trickle through. While these systems are not perfect, they do help tremendously in protecting properties and the streams of Belle Meade which eventually feed into the Cumberland River.

If you do not have a stormwater system for your property, there are still some things you can do to help alleviate the water runoff and protect the streams. Direct your downspout pipes from gutters onto your property and allow the water to sheet flow across the yard, but not directed to your neighbors. Install a rain garden and allow the water from downspouts to collect and infiltrate into the ground. Consider using large flagstones instead of a solid surface concrete sidewalk. Best intentions are made when someone plants

a new raised landscape bed, but the water is directed round the raised bed on to someone else's property. Do not rake loose leaves into the City's streets, ditches, culverts, or wherever water runs, as this can clog the culverts and cause flooding. If you border a creek, install plantings to help stabilize the bank. The lack of vegetation on the creek bank can lead to erosion.

Incorporate plantings, especially in areas where runoff collects. As runoff soaks into soil, plant roots help to absorb and filter out pollutants. When runoff soaks into and percolates through soil, the soil also acts as a filter, removing some pollutants. Like other plant roots, tree roots help absorb and filter runoff. Tree canopies also slow rain-fall and spread it over a larger area. Create a detention area to catch stormwater runoff and use this water to irrigate garden plants.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), stormwater management is the effort to reduce runoff of rainwater or melted snow into streets, lawns and other sites and the improvement of water quality.

No matter what method you choose, always direct runoff away from your home's foundation but not to your neighbor's property line. If your property has a steep slope or receives additional runoff from an external source, consult with a professional landscaper to discuss possible solutions. The goal of managing stormwater runoff includes decreasing the volume, minimizing the pollutants, slow it down, spread it out and soak it in.

PUBLIC WORKS – TRAFFIC CALMING PROJECTS

The Commissioners understand the frustration many residents have with the increase of cut-through traffic and excessive speeding on Belle Meade neighborhood streets. For the past several months, Lynwood Blvd. residents have come to meetings and discussed the need for some type of traffic calming along the 400 block of Lynwood. The Commissioners recently approved the installation of reflective plastic delineators at strategic locations in and along the side of the street, to slow traffic down and perhaps even cause some drivers to choose another route. These delineators are designed to be installed and easily removed if needed. No decision has been made on how long they will be in place.

At their December meeting, the Commissioners approved two

traffic calming projects of a more permanent nature. KCI Technologies, a traffic engineering consulting firm, has studied the option of making the intersection of Jackson Blvd. and Harding Road a right-turn only, and the option of converting one of the right turn lanes to a left turn lane on Belle Meade Blvd. at Harding Road and adding a left turn signal at this intersection. The intersection at Jackson Blvd. has an unsafe limited sight distance for left turns, and the new left turn option at the Belle Meade Blvd. intersection will alleviate the need to use Jackson, and in some cases Leake Avenue, which also has a limited sight distance for left turns. KCI Technologies has been approved to develop plans and construction documents for these traffic signal and turn modifications. The City will advertise for bids in late winter and most likely begin construction in early spring.

CERES SOCIETY DONATIONS – December 2019

Dr. & Mrs. David Glassford
Mr. & Mrs. E. Dan Smith, II

MAGNOLIA SOCIETY - \$500 - \$999

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Chapman

TULIP SOCIETY - \$250 - \$499

Mr. & Mrs. Lawson Allen
Dr. & Mrs. Francis Michael Minch
Mr. & Mrs. James Spradley

CERES DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF:

Mr. & Mrs. Will Johnston

In Memory of Mr. Tom Corcoran

Mr. & Mrs. George McGugin

In Memory of Mr. Tom Corcoran

Mr. & Mrs. David Y. Proctor, III

In Memory of: Mr. Tom Corcoran,

Mrs. Elizabeth Proctor, Mr. Tony Johnston

News from your Metro Council Member, Thom Druffel

Metro Council and Mayor Cooper's office have been busy making plans and identifying action items for the future of Nashville/Davidson County. Click on the links below to read some of the latest press releases.

1. Public Listening Sessions for Metro Transportation Plan
<https://www.nashville.gov/News-Media/News-Article/ID/9177/Mayors-Office-Announces-Public-Listening-Sessions-for-Metro-Transportation-Plan.aspx>
2. Mayor Cooper's First 100 Days Report
<https://www.nashville.gov/News-Media/News-Article/ID/9233/Mayor-John-Cooper-Delivers-First-100-Days-Report.aspx>
3. Mayor Cooper Releases Commitment Tracker
<https://www.nashville.gov/News-Media/News-Article/ID/9236/Mayor-John-Cooper-Releases-Commitment-Tracker.aspx>

**REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS
FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2020**

Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, February 19th at 4:00 pm
Wednesday, March 18th at 4:00 pm

Historic Zoning Commission

Tuesday, February 11th at 3:00 pm
Tuesday, March 10th at 3:00 pm

Board of Building Code Appeals

Tuesday, February 11th at 4:00 pm
Tuesday, March 10th at 4:00 pm

Municipal Planning Commission

Tuesday, February 18th at 4:00 pm
Tuesday, March 17th at 4:00 pm

Board of Zoning Appeals

Tuesday, February 18th at 5:00 pm
Tuesday, March 17th at 5:00 pm

Agendas are available online at www.citybellemeade.org

Thank you

The city hall staff wishes to thank all the generous residents who sent us Employee Fund donations and delicious treats over the holiday season. We truly appreciate your kindness! It is a pleasure to work in Belle Meade and provide services to all of you! Please do not hesitate to call on us when you need assistance.

2019 PROPERTY TAXES are due by February 29, 2020. On March 1st, they will be considered delinquent and incur an additional 2% interest fine. If you mail your payment, make sure it is postmarked no later than Feb. 29th.

WEBSITE UPDATE – Please check out the City website - we've added an events calendar that lists meeting dates and other events for each month of 2020.

Click BELOW to see the Early Voting Schedule for February Presidential Primary.

<https://www.nashville.gov/Portals/0/SiteContent/ElectionCommission/docs/main/EVSchedule-200303.pdf>

CITY OF BELLE MEADE
4705 Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

return service requested