

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](http://www.citybellemeade.org)



## NEWSLETTER TO RESIDENTS OF BELLE MEADE MARCH 2020

### Re-Cap of Commissioner Retreat 2020

The elected officials of Belle Meade had an extremely effective and interesting retreat February 26-27, 2020. Highlights of those two days follow.

- **Beautification/Ceres**—Revised Tree Ordinance is now in final review before vote to approve. Once this is completed, application for Tree City USA can be made; Future meetings of committee will be held at City Hall;
- **Public Works**. BMB streetlight mast arms and fixtures to be replaced. Power outages to be addressed at upcoming NES workshop; Traffic concerns to be major topic of Master Plan. See final bullet point
- **Sewer Utility**. Eight year Sewer modeling plan proposed by CEC, our contract engineering firm, will be incorporated into our Capital Improvement Plan. Phase 1 will be cost estimated for 20-21 budget.
- **Zoning/Codes**. Changes to accessory structures ordinance to be considered; Historical Commission grant application submitted; Action to be taken for BZA to follow zoning codes; HZC proving to be very effective. Strong and qualified HZC members making immediate impact.
- **Finance**. Discussion of future property tax increases as Hall Tax revenue reduces to zero in 2020. Small annual increases in property tax as opposed to fewer larger increases. Banking services to be bid as required by new state legislation
- **Public Safety**—Part time officer received strong supportive comments; Very informative report by Detective Sexton on effectiveness of Video Surveillance System (VSS); Consider additional cameras for specific locations after meeting with police

officials; Outstanding service awards program for police officers introduced.

- **Communications** – continued need for effectiveness of Website and Newsletter. Continue efforts to gather mobile phone and email on ALL residents.
- **Staffing, Consultants**- Beth praised for her response to staff new hires.
- **Other Items**—
  - o **Parmer Park**—City to become more actively involved in Park's future management
  - o **Regular worksite sessions**—Continue with work session prior to formal monthly Commissioner meeting. Workshops will be posted on website, at city hall and agendas
  - o **Citizen complaints**—how planning with staff and commissioner collaboration will lessen or eliminate hasty, “knee-jerk” responses.
- **Master Plan draft**—discussed creation of RFQ on fast track; to be sent out in March 2020, Creation of Selection and Steering Committees; Selection Committee: 2-3 residents in addition to staff and commissioner representation. Interviews each firm in April and make decision within 30 days. Steering committee. of 8-10 residents in addition to staff and commissioner representation. Attends regular meetings TBD by consulting firm and assists with review of issues, fact gathering, goal setting, public meeting preparations, resident surveys, etc. Expect minimum of 6 months to produce final plan. Need volunteers to fill these two committees. If interested send email to [jhunt@citybellemeade.org](mailto:jhunt@citybellemeade.org) or [breardon@citybellemeade.org](mailto:breardon@citybellemeade.org).

### ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE FUTURE OF BELLE MEADE?

Consider one of the City's several boards, commissions and/or committees. Needs are as follows:

- **Board of Zoning Appeals** – one regular and one alternate member NOW (see website for description) 3 year term
- **Board of Commissioners** – Election of two commissioners at November general election – 4 year term
- **Historic Zoning Commission** – one member in 2021 with training beginning NOW – 5 year term
- **Beautification/Ceres Committee** – qualified landscaper, gardener. NOW or later
- **Master Plan Committees** – Selection- two-three resident members to interview each firm responding to RFQ – short duration commitment of approximately 30 days in April. Steering – Eight-ten resident members to assist selected consulting firm with fact gathering, goal setting, public meeting preparations, surveys, etc. longer duration of approximately six months.

Interested residents can email Mayor Jim Hunt, [Jhunt@citybellemeade.org](mailto:Jhunt@citybellemeade.org), City Manager Beth Reardon, [breardon@citybellemeade.org](mailto:breardon@citybellemeade.org) or Assistant City Manager Lyle Patterson, [lpatterson@citybellemeade.org](mailto:lpatterson@citybellemeade.org).



### TREE ORDINANCE UPDATE:

Staff members, along with the review subcommittee and city attorney, have made some edits to the Ordinance language that was approved on first reading by the Commissioners. These edits will be presented to the Commissioners for review and notice will be sent to the residents when the draft Ordinance is posted on the website and at city hall prior to second and final reading.

The Commissioners want to provide ample time for citizen review and questions.

The proposed Ordinance not only affects residents who are pulling a building or demolition permit, but also residents who have no construction activity but want to remove trees from their property.

## TORNADO RECOVERY ASSISTANCE



The Hands On Nashville team is collaborating with the City of Nashville and the Office of Emergency Management to determine the greatest needs and coordinate the volunteer response. They will be planning large cleanup events this weekend. If anyone asks how they can help, here are some resources to consider:

- **Volunteer:** If you'd like to register to volunteer, visit [hon.org](http://hon.org) and click the blue button on the home page. You can get

the latest updates on volunteer needs via our [blog](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), or [Instagram](#).

- **Donate money:** The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee is managing an [emergency response fund](#).
- **Donate items:** The [Community Resource Center](#), which is in particular looking for personal hygiene items, bleach, trash bags, gloves, box cutters, baby and toddler clothes, formula, underwear, bras, batteries, and baby food.
- **Donate food:** Organize a drive through [Second Harvest Food Bank](#).



## FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF TIM EADS:



- **Reminder - the Belle Meade Police Department is offering an 8-hour Road Wise Driver course for Seniors** three times during 2020. This AAA

Course allows students an opportunity to receive a discount on their vehicle insurance, in most cases. Please check with your insurance agent to see if you are eligible. The course will be split over two days with each session lasting 4 hours or less. The first classes will be held at City Hall on March 25th & 26th beginning at 5:30 p.m. Future dates will be announced. The Course is free to Belle Meade Residents. Here is a link to the Tennessee Highway Safety Office Senior Driving Program <https://tntrafficsafety.org/seniors>. To register for the class contact Officer Dee Howell at [dhowell@citybellemeade.org](mailto:dhowell@citybellemeade.org) or 615-297-0241. The class is limited to 50 students.

- We are currently recruiting a Block Captain for our Neighbor-

hood Watch Program. If you live in the 400 & 500 block of Lynwood Boulevard, we need your help. Please contact Officer Dee Howell to find out what your responsibilities would be. [dhowell@citybellemeade.org](mailto:dhowell@citybellemeade.org).

- Park Smart everywhere by locking your vehicle and securing or removing any valuables.
- Suspicious activity – report immediately - 615-297-0241.
- Severe Storm Season reminders: review safety plans with your family member on how to prepare for a tornado warning. Stay tuned to local news outlets. Download a weather app on your smartphone, so you get pin-point alerts. If there is a warning, seek cover in the lowest level of home or building. If there is no basement take cover in a small interior room away from windows and doors. Learn more at <https://www.ready.gov/tornadoes>.

## SPRING REMINDERS



- **BRUSH & CHIPPER SERVICE** - A benefit of your property taxes is the once-a-week brush & chipper service for roadside pickup of bagged leaves and clippings, small limbs and normal yard waste 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 trim-

mings, the contractor may only take a portion on his weekly stop so that they can complete their daily route. Also, do not bring yard waste to the dumpsters behind city hall.

- **GARAGE / ESTATE SALE PERMITS** - If you are planning to have a garage or estate sale, you must first obtain a permit from the City. You may either stop by City Hall and complete the form or obtain it from the website, [www.citybellemeade.org](http://www.citybellemeade.org),

under the "How Do I . . ." tab. The City does not charge a fee for this permit. One yard sign may be posted on the day(s) of the event at the property where the sale is being held.

- **LAWN CARE REMINDERS** - Please remind your landscapers and lawn care services not to block access to the street with their vehicles and equipment while working. Also, they should not blow grass clippings and other yard debris out into the street, which is a violation of Belle Meade Code section 16-107. NOTE - If you have a sewer grinder pump, please make lawn service crews aware of the location of the green grinder tank lid, to avoid damage from mowing equipment.
- **DOGS RUNNING LOOSE / BARKING DOGS** – With warm weather and pets being outside more often, the City staff receives an increase of complaints about dogs running loose or barking excessively. The City has ordinances prohibiting dogs from running freely in the neighborhood and

disturbing the peace and quiet of a neighborhood with loud and frequent barking. Please be considerate of your neighbors! The City will send a letter to the pet's owner requesting compliance with the ordinances if a complaint is received, but if violations continue, the owner can be cited to appear in City Court.

- **WALK, JOG SAFELY** – walk, jog and cycle single file: walkers and joggers against traffic and cyclists with the traffic flow.

Per City ordinance, reflective clothing must be worn dusk to dawn, and bicycles must have warning lights on the front and rear. Enjoy your time outdoors and be SAFE.

- **FREE SHRED DAY – SATURDAY, APRIL 4th** from 9am to 12 noon at city hall. Bring your sensitive documents for a secure and safe disposal. Limit of 8 boxes/bags per person. (Service provided by Shred On The Run.)



## ASK A GARDENER



It is that time of year again. We, like our gardens, have awakened from our winter slumber. The sun is starting to peek through, encouraging young shoots to emerge. Daffodils brighten our yards and gently remind us that gardening season is

quickly approaching.

The Ceres Society, Ask a Gardener column, returns to celebrate spring and answer the gardening questions of our Belle Meade residents.

Boscobel, a Certified Master Gardener and rose aficionado, will respond with information compiled from her experience and that of the other members of the Ceres Society. We hope that you enjoy the column as much as we do!

*Dear Boscobel,*

*With all of this rain, I am concerned about my garden beds. What do I need to do to prepare for spring planting of vegetables and flowers?*

*Signed,*

*Waterlogged on Westview*

Dear Waterlogged,

It has been quite rainy! Your question is an important one. When we think about our gardens, we must always think about the soil. Heavy rains can cause leaching of important nutrients such as nitrogen, potassium and sulfur. Nitrogen is the first number listed on fertilizer labels and potassium is the third. They are important nutrients for plant growth and vigor. Additionally, heavy rains can cause soils to become more acidic. Soil acidity affects nutrient absorption. I would highly recommend doing a soil test on your garden beds. UT Extension offers this service and will provide a detailed analysis of your soil and recommendations. Here is a link that explains how to collect samples and mail them to their lab: <http://soilplantandpest.utk.edu>.

Spring is a great time to add organic material to your beds- compost and fully decomposed manure are good options.

Keep me posted and let me know how your garden grows this season!

**Boscobel**

## RECAP OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS



The Commissioners took action on the following items at the February 19, 2020 meeting:

- Deferred action on Proposal to Install Pavement Markings or signage on Belle Meade Boulevard
- Approved Activity Permit request for St. Georges Church Farmer's Market
- Approved the following invoices over \$5,000:
  - o Gibbs Brothers Construction Inc. \$ 7,316.00
  - o Nashville Landscape Services Inc. \$16,200.00

- o The Parke Company, Inc. \$25,730.00
- o Wascon, Inc. \$ 6,201.50
- o Wascon, Inc. \$ 5,639.50
- o Wascon, Inc. \$ 5,415.26



- Deferred for 30 days, Ordinance 2019-11, to Amend Title 12 of the Belle Meade Municipal Code to Add a New Chapter Five Thereto Adopting Building Regulations for the Management and Protection of Trees.
- Approved Resolution 2020-02, Adopting Procedures for the Procurement of Banking Services.

# Belle Meade Newsletter

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS APRIL & MAY 2020

### Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, April 15th at 4:00 pm

Wednesday, May 20th at 4:00 pm

### Historic Zoning Commission

Tuesday, April 14th at 3:00 pm

Tuesday, May 12th at 3:00 pm

### Board of Building Code Appeals

Tuesday, April 14th at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, May 12th at 4:00 pm

### Municipal Planning Commission

Tuesday, April 21st at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, May 19th at 4:00 pm

### Board of Zoning Appeals

Tuesday, April 21st at 5:00 pm

Tuesday, May 19th at 5:00 pm

Agendas are available online at [www.citybellemeade.org](http://www.citybellemeade.org)

## REMINDER

**FREE SHRED DAY – SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2020**  
from 9am to 12 noon, City Hall Parking lot. Limit  
of 8 boxes per person.



Ceres Society Fundraising letters will be mailed mid-March to all residents. Please consider initiating or renewing your membership this year. Funds provide for the spring and fall colorful plantings throughout the City, American flags on the Boulevard medians, and a portion of the maintenance of all City greenspaces.

CITY OF BELLE MEADE  
4705 Harding Road  
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

return service requested