

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 MAY 2020

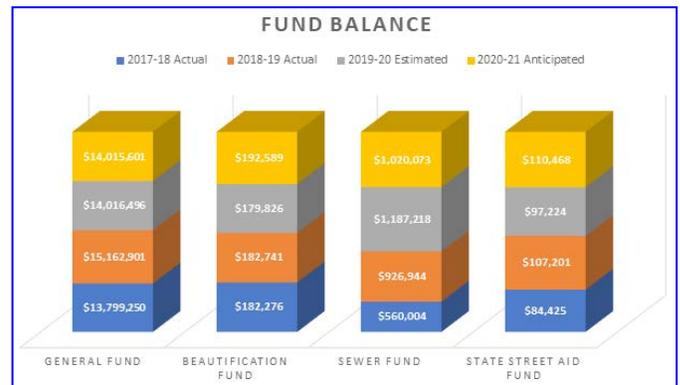
STORM DEBRIS CLEANUP

The City's current brush & chipper contractor, The Parke Company, will be providing an extra truck and a 2-man crew to assist the regular brush & chipper crew with pick up of the debris from May 3rd's storm. This extra crew will work 5 days a week for two weeks beginning May 11th. Please be patient, as they

estimate this could take a while to get to everyone in the City, based on the amount of debris already placed at the street. They cannot pick up large tree trunks and root balls. If you hired a private contractor to work on your trees, then they are responsible for hauling off the debris.

ANNUAL BUDGET PREPARATION

Budget preparation this spring was probably the most difficult ever, in light of COVID-19. We anticipate sharp decreases in intergovernmental revenue from sales tax, mixed drink tax and gas tax as well as interest revenues. No one can predict how long this economic downturn will last. We are budgeting for a little over 1M in Hall tax revenue (second to last year of receipts before phasing out) and our property tax rate currently generates 1.5M. The City will receive grant money from the State of Tennessee this year in the amount of \$93K and \$253K from Metro for road maintenance. Expenses were budgeted with a conservative outlook, anticipating that some capital items may need to be postponed. The State Comptroller's office requires all municipalities to file their 2020-2021 budget by June 30th. They advise consistent monitoring of budgets, especially for the remainder of 2020, and making budget amendments as needed. Belle Meade is fortunate that current and previous Commissioners have been prudent



in building up the City's fund balance as a safeguard for the time when the Hall tax would be phased out. Who knew this would also be a protection during a pandemic?

Re-Opening City Hall During COVID-19



City Hall will be re-opening to the public later this month, date to be determined based on the delivery of PPE materials, including extra masks, hand sanitizer, disinfectant spray and touchless thermometers. Fortunately, the City staff has been able to conduct business as usual for the last two months by phone, email and Zoom virtual

meetings, and we will continue to encourage use of these procedures rather than in-person visits and meetings. If you need to come to City Hall, we ask that you call and make an appointment with the person you need to see. We ask that you wear a mask and maintain proper social distancing. The City is required to prepare a plan for re-opening using the CDC guidelines as a minimum. This will include taking employee's temperatures daily upon arrival, asking COVID-19 screening questions, use of masks and social distancing when in contact with the public, and cleaning and disinfecting of offices and common areas.

The Police Department has re-scheduled the April and May traffic courts to June and July. With the assistance of City Judge Mark Beveridge, a plan was prepared for conducting traffic court safely in accordance with CDC guidelines. The plan was then submitted to the State Administrative Office of the Courts for approval.



FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF TIM EADS:



- **Operation Blue Light** continues to be in effect. This service includes pick-up and delivery of needed items such as food, medicines and/ or other items deemed essential. This program is available to residents that have been identified as vulnerable and that have completed an application. Neighborhood Watch Captains are helping us with this program. You can also call us at 615-297-0241 for assistance with signing up.
- **Park Smart** by always removing your keys and valuables from your vehicle. Use your home alarm system even if you are going to be away for a short time. Please verify the BMPD is listed as the first responder to your alarm. This ensures we are contacted directly, enabling us to respond much quicker to your alarm call.
- **Neighborhood Watch** groups have been updated recently

by Mayor Hunt. He made contact with all Block Captains, recruited new Captains for areas without one and updated the NW lists with names, emails and phone numbers of new residents. All this just in time for the storm on Sunday May 3rd that knocked power out in many Belle Meade homes. The revamped NW contact lists were invaluable in determining who was without power for the days after the storm so that Belle Meade could report specific information to NES for repairs. If you do not know who your Block Captain is, please contact Mayor Hunt, text to 615-456-4121 or jhunt@citybellemeade.org.

- **House Check Services** are provided by the Police Dept. when you travel out of town. You can access the application on our website at www.citybellemeade.org

RECAP OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS



The Commissioners took action on the following items at the **April 15, 2020** meeting:

- Approved bid for Creek Debris Removal Maintenance Contract from J.R. & Associates.
- Approved request to extend the Solid Waste Trash/Recycle Contract with Franklin Disposal for one year, with a monthly price increase of \$2,475. The original 3-year contract did not include any increases.



- Approved proposal from Landscape Services Inc. for the spring/summer annual plants and labor to install in the amount of \$13,950.
- Approved the following invoices over \$5,000:

o Commonwealth Chemical	\$12,320.00
o KCI Technologies	\$16,180.00
o Wascon Inc.	\$ 9,980.00
o Wascon Inc.	\$ 5,415.26

THE SOCIETY OF CERES - ASK A GARDENER



I love Audrey Hepburn’s quote, “To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.” It offers hope and inspiration. The seeds sown today will someday blossom. It reminds me to focus on what I am sowing, both in the garden and in the community.

This gardening season has brought unexpected treasures. Two budding gardeners, Emerson and Avery, have joined my garden team. These young garden apprentices, ages 9 and 10, delight in worms, the occasional skunk, and the Cooper’s hawk nesting in the trees. During one of our recent conversations, we discussed Victory Gardens, which were cultivated during times of food scarcity (WW I, II, The Great Depression). Excitedly, the girls decided that we should plant a Victory Garden, one whose bounty we could share.

In this month’s column, I decided to change the format. Instead of answering gardening questions, I will ask them. Emerson and Avery will be the teachers. They have been assigned the task of researching Victory Gardens.

Q : What is a Victory Garden?

Emerson: During WW I and II, people grew gardens in yards and public parks so they could get the food they needed.

Avery: When food availability was low, people grew their own food so that they could get what they needed.



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Q: What types of vegetables were grown in Victory Gardens?

Emerson and Avery: Tomatoes, onions, potatoes, carrots, lettuce, beans and many others

Q: Why do you want to plant a Victory Garden?

Emerson and Avery: Gardening is fun! We like to have food for our family and to share --mostly because it is fun . . .

Boscobel: Well done, girls, your teachers would be proud of your research.

With schools closed for the semester, children have plenty of time. Let's invite them into the garden. They can dig in the soil and feel the sun warm their skin. They can see butterflies hover on the flow-

ers and hear songs of courting birds. They can squeal as they touch cow manure or an unexpected intruder on the lettuce.

Let's join the youngsters and have fun in the garden. Let's plant Victory Gardens and share with our neighbors. Let's play in the soil and remember that, just like our beloved plants, everything has a season. Today's crises will fade. Let's focus on what we sow and, like Audrey Hepburn, believe in tomorrow.

Stay Well and Happy Gardening,

Boscobel

(Boscobel is a Certified Master Gardener and member of the Society of Ceres.)

MAY 17-23, 2020 IS NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

Belle Meade honors the three hard-working and conscientious men who work daily to maintain this City: Larry Smith, Public Works Director, Nathan McVay, Assistant Public Works Director, and Dylan Hood, Sewer Collections Operator. Together they are responsible for maintaining over 900 sewer grinder pumps, many miles of sewer lines, 36 miles of paved roads and rights-of-way, and hundreds of traffic and street name signs. They oversee the contractors who provide trash/recycle pickup, brush and chipper service, street sweeping, landscape maintenance, snow removal, garbage and cardboard dumpster service, and street maintenance. These guys rotate being on call for emergencies and sewer grinder pump repairs between the hours of 3:00 pm and 7:00 am weekdays and 24 hours on weekends and holidays. During the recent storm on Sunday, May 3rd, all three men reported that evening and worked until almost midnight assisting NES and the brush and chipper contractor with removing fallen trees from streets. For several days after, as more trees fell, they worked extra hours continuing the storm debris cleanup and supporting the NES crews working to restore power.

In addition to taking care of the City, these men help to maintain City Hall and their Public Works building by cleaning gutters, pres-

sure washing, making necessary repairs inside and out, and being general handymen to the staff.

We are grateful for their dedication and work ethic. If you see them out working on the street, or at your home repairing your grinder pump, please take a moment to say, "Thank You" and let them know you appreciate what they do to keep our City running smoothly, every day and night.



Dylan



Larry



Nathan

CERES SOCIETY DONATIONS APRIL 2020

Mr. & Mrs. James Ezzell
Dr. & Mrs. Sam Girgus
Dr. & Mrs. Fred Goldner, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Miles Kirkland
Mr. & Mrs. Layng Martine, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin McDermott, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Nichols
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Rzasnicki
Mr. & Mrs. John Scott

OAK SOCIETY - \$1,000 and above

Mr. & Mrs. Rusty Moore

MAGNOLIA SOCIETY - \$500 - \$999

Mr. & Mrs. John Bryan, III

Mr. & Mrs. George Bullard
Dr. Karla Christian & Mr. Brian Plegge
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Damon
Dr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Eskind
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Frist, III
Mr. Alan Looney
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Majors
Mr. & Mrs. David Mastran
Mr. & Mrs. W. Douglas McDowell
Mr. & Mrs. James Turner, Jr.

TULIP SOCIETY - \$250 - \$499

Dr. & Mrs. Doug Altenbern, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. David Amiot
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Ashwood
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Bellar

Bonaventure Homeowners Assn. Inc.
Mr. John Cain, III
Mr. & Mrs. John Chadwick
Mrs. Anita Cochran
Mr. Michael Dixon
Mr. & Mrs. Junius Ellis
Mrs. Irwin Eskind
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Fleischer
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Fridrich
Mr. & Mrs. C.J. Gideon, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Hardy
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hull
Mrs. Mary Loventhal Jones
Mr. & Mrs. John McBee
Ms. Gillian Davies Lebrun
Mr. & Mrs. Mark McDonald

Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Petroni
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Saunders
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Slaughter
Ms. Rachel Gardner Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Stanley, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Weigel
Mr. Brad Williams

CERES DONATIONS IN HONOR OF:

Cathy & Doug Altenbern
Louise Bryan, Jim Hunt, Rusty Moore & Bob Weigel

Belle Meade Newsletter

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS

JUNE & JULY 2020

All Meetings Held at Belle Meade City Hall

Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, June 17th at 4:00 pm

Wednesday, July 15th at 4:00 pm

Historic Zoning Commission

Tuesday, June 9th at 3:00 pm

Tuesday, July 14th at 3:00 pm

Board of Building Code Appeals

Tuesday, June 9th at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, July 14th at 4:00 pm

Municipal Planning Commission

Tuesday, June 16th at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, July 21st at 4:00 pm

Board of Zoning Appeals

Tuesday, June 16th at 5:00 pm

Tuesday, July 21st at 5:00 pm

Agendas are available online at www.citybellemeade.org

REMINDER



St. George's Farmers Market begins Thursday, May 14 from 3:00-6:00 pm. Guidelines for a Safe Shopping Environment include: *wear a mask *maintain social distance of 6 feet *point to your selection & do not touch produce *do not bring re-usable bags *pay by debit/credit card or pre-order



Have you responded to the 2020 census yet? If not, what are you waiting for? It only takes a few minutes online. As of May 9, 2020, Belle Meade's response rate was 70.5%. We can do better!!

<https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond.html>

CITY OF BELLE MEADE
4705 Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

return service requested