

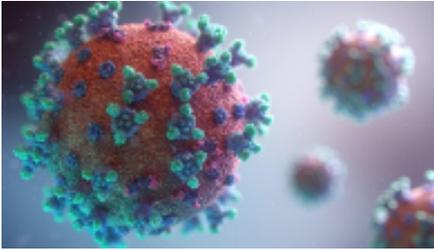
COMMISSIONERS: James V. Hunt, Sr., Mayor • Louise Bryan, Vice-Mayor • Bob Weigel,
Cathy Altenbern • Rusty Moore • Beth Reardon, City Manager • Tim Eads, Chief of Police

City Hall (615) 297-6041 / Police Dept. (615) 297-0241 / www.citybellemeade.org



NEWSLETTER TO RESIDENTS OF BELLE MEADE AUGUST 2020

“CAN WE UNINSTALL 2020, THIS VERSION HAS A VIRUS IN IT”



made us realize that for all of the lows, there are highs. There has to be more positives than I've listed, but here are a few uplifting effects.

COVID-19 has made us stay away from each other for survival. It has been normal to look at the negative effects of battling a global pandemic. Positive thinking has

1. Innovations to stay connected. Virtual meetings using Zoom, WebEx, Teams and other video conferencing provide efficient and creative methods to continue many of our civic, social and business responsibilities and activities. Most school age children are going to school using these tools.
2. Building genuine and lasting relationships. Have we been too busy to appreciate family and other loved ones? We now have time to “Slow down and smell the roses”.
3. Improvements in better hygiene. Wash those hands, cov-

ering our mouth when we cough. If we are not doing this, at least we are more aware.

4. Remote working turning mainstream. Less traffic and pollution, even stronger and better communications with staff and co-workers. Also, more time with family. Just be careful with not too much time. At least that's what my wife says.
5. Never too old to learn. Great time to read, or if you're not into reading, get Audible and listen to books. Entertaining and educational.
6. Time enough for exercise too. Less traffic on our side streets, sidewalks (we need more) make walking easy, good exercise and meeting new people at 6 feet, sometimes with masks., but interesting conversations are common.

As I've heard it too many times, “we will get through it”, and we will get through it. Use the remaining time to strengthen our bodies and our minds.

Stay Positive,
Mayor Jim Hunt

UNWANTED OR UNSOLICITED MAIL



Recently there have been numerous reports of seeds and/or plant material being received by area residents. The common denominators are that the material appears

to have been mailed from China and has not been ordered by the recipient. Receiving something of this nature is disturbing and has raised valid concerns on why it was sent to a specific resident and the purpose of the material sent.

There can be many possible explanations to these questions but there is only ONE valid response: if you receive a package that you did NOT order, do NOT open it. Do not plant the seeds. Caution must be the goal in dealing with the unknown. Should a Belle Meade resident receive a suspicious package, please contact the BMPD at 615-297-0241 and an officer will assist with the disposal of the package.

If you are not a Belle Meade resident, we strongly encourage following the guidelines established by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA). These guidelines and related forms can be found on their website at: <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture.html>. The guidelines instruct you to seal the seeds in two plastic bags and send all enclosures and packaging to Tennessee Department of Agriculture, attention Plant Certification, P.O. Box 40627, Nashville, TN 37204, OR send via UPS or FedEx to 436 Hogan Road, Nashville, TN 37220. Also include the recipient's name, contact information, and full address. Option 2: Notify TDA through their online form. Then seal the seeds into two plastic bags and place in the trash.

If the seeds have already been planted, TDA recommends digging up the seeds or sprouted plants. They should be double-bagged and placed in the trash. It is not advisable to compost the seeds or plants. No harm has been reported to anyone that has received the seed or plant material packages, but we must remain vigilant to ensure safety for ourselves and the environment.

RECAP OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS



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

- Approved proposal from Barge Cauthen totaling \$16,500 for engineering services related to annual street re-surfacing project
- Deferred for 30 days, Parade Permit request from the Boulevard Bolt, Inc. (The City was informed later that the Bolt has been canceled for 2020)
- Approved proposal from Barge Cauthen totaling \$29,500



for engineering services related to preparation of Streets Condition Inventory and Maintenance Schedule

- Approved proposal from CEC for a not-to-exceed cost of \$25,000 for engineering services related to the Sewer System Modeling Project
- Deferred action on first reading of Ordinance 2020-4, modifying the Zoning Code concerning reconstruction of non-conforming structures and changing legal use.



FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF TIM EADS:



• **Overview of Speed Study - 400 Block of Lynwood Blvd.** In February 2019, a study was conducted in this area over a five-day period. The results showed that the average speed for the Northbound lane was 31.03 and Southbound was 29.42. In December of 2019, the Commissioners approved for Public Works to install delineators that would create a choke point midway through the block in an attempt to slow traffic. Another study was conducted after this installation with the following results. Northbound average speed 27.53 with Southbound showing 27.99. This showed the delineators to be effective in slowing speeds. Recently, residents reported that they felt drivers were getting accustomed to the choke point and speeds were back up. A study from June 2020

did show a slight increase in average speed for the Northbound lane to 28.56 mph and the Southbound steady at 27.34 mph. A three-day study in July of 2020 of the Southbound lane showed an average speed of 27.57 which appears to be steady. A slight increase in the 50th and 85th percentile did show a 1 mph increase. The Commissioners are working on a City-Wide Master Plan that will include solutions for traffic calming that are permanent and more appealing than the delineators. Please contact Chief Eads if you are interested in a speed study on your street.

• **Park-Smart** by locking your vehicle. Remove any valuables, including garage door openers.

- Report suspicious activity immediately at 615-297-0241.

Reminder - YARD SIGN REGULATIONS



Temporary, freestanding, non-commercial signs may be placed or erected on any lot in any zoning district at any time. This category includes, but is not limited to: real estate signs, political signs, garage or estate



signs. Home occupation or contractor signs shall be considered commercial signs and are not allowed in any district.

No temporary signs shall be placed in the public right-of-way and they may not be illuminated or exceed eight (8) square feet in area.

sale signs, baby announcements, lost pet signs, special event signs, banners for parades, and any other non-commercial mes-

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET

The City's budget is a legally binding plan on how it will spend funds for the next year, beginning on July 1st. The budget process is a year-round on-going process that includes months of planning and discussion by staff, Commissioners, and the Budget & Finance Committee until final approval. Due to the uncertain economic future brought about by COVID-19, the FY 20-21 budget was drafted with a conservative outlook. State shared revenues were forecasted lower than usual (sales tax, gas taxes, mixed drink tax, Hall tax). Expenses were kept to those deemed necessary, and salary increases were postponed until

mid-year, when the staff and Commissioners will reassess the economic situation and amend the budget as needed. The Commissioners voted not to increase the Belle Meade property tax rate this year in light of Metro Nashville's increase of more than 30%. Capital improvement items were included in the budget, with the understanding that some could be postponed until the next budget year. Some capital items will be funded by outside sources and grants, including street resurfacing on Chancery Lane (north and south), Honeywood Drive, and (old) Lynwood Blvd. east of Lynwood Terrace; various small road/r-o-w proj-

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET

ects, purchase of a new IT server, purchase of 20 grinder pumps, as well as professional services to complete the Conservation Overlay Design Guidelines. The Sewer Fund will subsidize its

first capital project on Sunnyside Drive. Please contact Finance Director Leigh Mills if you have any questions or would like additional details of the budget. lmills@citybellemeade.org.

CITY OF BELLE MEADE ANNUAL BUDGET 2020-2021							
FUNCTIONS	GENERAL FUND	BEAUTIFICATION FUND	CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	STREET AID FUND	WASTE COLLECT FUND	SEWER UTILITY FUND	TOTAL
EXPENDITURES							
General Admin.	714,893		93,204				808,097
Police	1,795,870		111,276				1,907,146
Building Insp.	122,221						122,221
Streets	362,160		353,175	79,940			795,275
Waste					460,820		460,820
Sewer Utility			301,220			483,308	784,528
Stormwater	199,460		97,000				296,460
Parkways	83,477	46,537					130,015
Transfers	1,115,475		(955,875)		(460,820)	301,220	
Total Expenditures:	4,393,556	46,537		79,940		784,528	5,304,561
REVENUES							
Local Taxes	1,548,145						1,518,145
Permits	175,000					1,600	176,600
Intergovernmental	1,988,356			93,184			2,081,540
Fines	144,000						144,000
Charges for Services	176,600					465,000	641,600
Other	355,084	300				106,850	462,234
Contributions	15,000	59,000					74,000
Transfers			(955,875)		(460,820)		
From Reserves						211,078	
Total Revenue:	4,402,185	59,300	(955,875)	93,184	(460,820)	784,528	5,339,197

Can You Flush Flushable Wipes?

At first blush, this might seem like a silly question. Of course you can flush flushable wipes. It's right in their name! Right? In reality, NO.

Flushable wipes have been creating quite a problem, both on a smaller scale within homeowners' systems (grinder pumps) as well as on a larger scale within municipal city sewers.

Money Down the Drain: Why Can't You Flush Wipes?

It really all comes down to the ingredients. Being made from a combination of hard and soft wood fibers, toilet paper is very natural. It's just a soft paper (as the name implies). This simplicity, combined with its thin makeup, makes it quick to break down and biodegrade once exposed to moisture.

Flushable wipes are much thicker! This makes them more comfortable to use, of course, and that's one the most attractive components (in combination with the moisture, scented options, lotions, etc.). There's no doubt about it: they offer your low end a high-end experience! A wipe's thicker material may technically break down, so their packaging doesn't lie, but it breaks down at a much, much slower rate than toilet paper. This creates a traffic jam, which inevitably turns into a large, and expensive, clog.

What Kind of Risk Do Flushed Wipes Create?

Here are a few of the most common problems:



- Clogged sewer lines
- Damage to the sewer grinder pump
- Blocked pipes
- Sewage back-ups (even causing basement flooding)
- Catastrophic strain/damage within a city's sewer system, and this causes widespread service/water issues for local residents

What's the Solution?

Well, it's a simple one, but not necessarily fun to hear: don't flush your flushable wipes! The ONLY thing that should go down the toilet is toilet paper and the wipes used on your hands or face or sweet baby's bottom should just go right in the trash. You may sacrifice a little comfort, but at least you won't incur the unnecessary expense of clearing a massive clog or doing damage to an expensive grinder pump system.

(Reprinted from the website of L.R. Bennett, Inc. HVAC and Plumbing contractor, Alexandria, VA)

CERES SOCIETY DONATIONS – JULY 2020

TULIP SOCIETY - \$250 - \$499

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Thornburg

Mr. & Mrs. John Esposito
Mr. John Fulcher & Mr. Anthony Tinghitella

Mr. & Mrs. Nathaniel Greene
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Jackson

Belle Meade Newsletter

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2020

All Meetings Held at Belle Meade City Hall

Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, September 16th at 4:00 pm

Wednesday, October 21st at 4:00 pm

Historic Zoning Commission

Tuesday, September 8th at 3:00 pm

Tuesday, October 13th at 3:00 pm

Board of Building Code Appeals

Tuesday, September 8th at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, October 13th at 4:00 pm

Municipal Planning Commission

Tuesday, September 15th at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, October 20th at 4:00 pm

Board of Zoning Appeals

Tuesday, September 15th at 5:00 pm

Tuesday, October 20th at 5:00 pm

Agendas are available online at www.citybellemeade.org



City Hall will be closed on Monday, September 7, 2020 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.

NO WASTE/RECYCLE COLLECTION SERVICES ON LABOR DAY

MONDAY HOUSEHOLDS WILL BE COLLECTED ON TUESDAY, Sept. 8th

TUESDAY HOUSEHOLDS WILL BE COLLECTED ON WEDNESDAY, Sept. 9th

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CANS OUT BY 7:00 A.M.

REMEMBER: **WHITE or BLACK BAGS = garbage**

BLUE BAGS = recycle

If your trash is missed, please notify us promptly at 615-297-6041 or on the City website www.citybellemeade.org, "Report A Concern".

The BRUSH/CHIPPER Monday route will be picked up on Tuesday, Sept. 8th. Wednesday and Friday routes will run as normal.

STORMWATER USER FEE INVOICES WERE MAILED THE FIRST OF AUGUST. PAYMENT IS DUE BY September 15th.

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

CITY OF BELLE MEADE
4705 Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

return service requested