

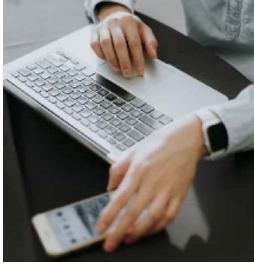
COMMISSIONERS: James V. Hunt, Sr., Mayor • Rusty Moore, Vice-Mayor • Bob Weigel
Louise Bryan • Haley Dale • Beth Reardon, City Manager • Vince Higgins, Interim Chief of Police

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



NEWSLETTER TO RESIDENTS OF BELLE MEADE FEBRUARY 2021

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS – JUST CLICK THE LINK



From Commissioner Louise Bryan

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed productivity norms for people all across the globe. While remote working was initially disruptive to our lives, a new range of possibilities is emerging which may provide long term benefits from this unprecedented virus. For Belle Meade residents, Governor Lee's Executive Order 71* extending virtual government meetings means residents

can easily remain engaged in local government by just clicking on a zoom link! While every public meeting is always open and accessible to the public — now join Commissioners, City Staff, Board Members, Committees and fellow residents — from the comfort of your home — to learn more about issues and legislation involving your neighborhood, Belle Meade.

The central tool for Belle Meade communication is the website, citybellemeade.org. The website is continually updated with the current agendas, dates and times of every meeting. Simply click on the link to join. Most meetings have a formal Public Comment time where any member of the public may speak. After that time, official business listed on the Agenda begins; however, the Chair may decide to open the Public Comment again if additional comments are requested.

The City of Belle Meade (the “City”) is chartered as a City Manager-Commissioner form of government. The Board of Commissioners is the policy making body, while the City Manager is the Chief Administrative Officer. The citizens elect five Commissioners for staggered four-year terms and the Commissioners elect two of their members to serve as Mayor and Vice-Mayor for two-year terms

Following is a summary of regularly scheduled meetings which are always open to the public. All residents and interested parties are cordially invited to attend. Meeting dates are also posted each month in the City's newsletter, which can be viewed online <https://citybellemeade.org/contact/>. Sign up online for the best way to receive important information via the newsletter or email bulletins. <https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1794761/33905/?v=a>

Board of Commissioners:

Regular meetings of the Commissioners are held on the third Wednesday of every month at 4:00 p.m. Special meetings may be required from time to time and will always be posted on the website with an Agenda.

Municipal Planning Commission – MPC

Regular meetings are held on the Third Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m.

Purpose: The board considers proposals for sub-divisions of land, combining of lots, amendments to the zoning code, and petitions for

the closure or renaming of streets. Plans for consideration are due at the Building Official's office by 12:00 p.m. 15 days prior to the meeting.

Historic Zoning Commission- HZC

Regular meetings are held on the Second Tuesday of each month at 3:00 p.m.

Purpose: The HZC is tasked with preserving the architectural integrity of Belle Meade. Proposed new builds, demolitions, and significant alterations to structures more than 50 years old must come before the HZC. Plans for consideration are due at the Building Official's office by 12:00 p.m. 15 days prior to the meeting.

Board of Zoning Appeals—BZA

Regular meetings are held on the Third Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m.

Purpose: The board considers plans and drawings for compliance with the zoning code including structure height, minimum lot area, open side and rear yards, setback requirements, and permitted and non-conforming uses. Plans for consideration are due at the Building Official's office by 12:00 p.m. 15 days prior to the meeting.

Board of Building Code Appeals – BBCA

Regular meetings are held on Second Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m.

Purpose: The board considers variances in cases of non-compliance with the building code and violations of the property maintenance code.

Budget & Finance Committee

The Committee holds a minimum of two meetings a year. The Annual Audit meeting is generally held the first Wednesday in December. The Annual Budget meeting varies, but generally takes place in April.

Purpose: The Budget & Finance Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Board of Commissioners on matters related to finance, including recommendation of approving the audited financial statements, approving the annual fiscal budget, and engagement of the city's audit firm.

Beautification Committee

The Committee holds a meeting every other month.

Purpose: The Beautification Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Board of Commissioners on matters related to beautification of the city. It is solely funded by public donations.

Civic engagement is the glue that holds our government together. Stick with the City of Belle Meade and be active by asking questions, sharing opinions and remaining informed. Your participation just requires a click.

At press time: * Executive Order 71 currently extends through February 27, 2021.

Belle Meade Newsletter



BELLE MEADE TOGETHER UPDATE & NEW YOUTUBE VIDEO

The Steering Committee met on Wednesday, Feb. 3rd with consultant Kimley-Horn to review strategies, design concepts and guiding principles to aid in developing proposed projects for the Master Plan. The five areas of emphasis are:

- beautification and branding;
- traffic calming and management;
- walking/cycling;
- public spaces;
- and • drainage/stormwater. The Committee will meet several more

times to develop a draft plan that will be presented to the Belle Meade residents for comment and feedback.

Kimley Horn also assisted the City in creating a YouTube video update of the Belle Meade Together Plan, narrated by Commissioner Louise Bryan. Please take 3 minutes to listen to the update and do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or comments about the Belle Meade Together Master Plan. Here is the link to the YouTube video: [Belle Meade Together Update](#)

COMMISSIONERS ANNUAL RETREAT

The Belle Meade Commissioners will hold their annual retreat on February 17 & 18, 2021 to discuss many issues and opportunities facing the City. The retreat format allows Commissioners and City staff to think strategically about the future of Belle Meade and have concentrated discussion on different topics. No voting or discussion of voting is held during this time. Topics for discussion will include:

- *Review 2020 Retreat Agenda
- *Simplification of Zoning Codes
- *Onboarding of new Committee Members
- *Communication among Committees
- *Update of Historic Zoning Commission and catalogue project
- *Stormwater Utility Rates

- *Use of Stormwater Review
- *Police Department—budget overview and opportunity for direction
- *Belle Meade Together Master Plan—review over 300 online comments, short and long term
- *Parmer Park ownership opportunity
- *Property Tax Review and Budget Review with Hall Tax expiration
- *Capital Spending Plan/City camera system expansion requests
- *City Communications: use of Social Media: The City's YouTube channel, video updates, role of Neighborhood Watch

If you have any topic you would like added to the agenda, please contact Louise Bryan at lbryan@citybellemeade.org or Beth Reardon, City Manager at breardon@citybellemeade.org



FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – INTERIM CHIEF VINCE HIGGINS:

Thank you to the many residents who sent donations on behalf of the family of dispatcher John Baldwin. While the City did not advertise this, word apparently spread through private emails and many citizens responded

very generously. The Baldwin family is humbled and so thankful for the outpouring of concern. We are proud to serve in a community that is so supportive of its police department.



CONGRATULATIONS – to Leigh Mills, Finance & HR Director, who recently received certification from the State for completing the mandatory Certified Mu-

nicipal Finance Officer (CMFO) program. Beginning in 2007 all municipalities are required to a chief financial officer who is either a CMFO or CPA. CMFOs must complete state approved training each year to maintain their certification.

RECAP OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING



The Commissioners took action on the following items at the January 20, 2021 meeting:

- Approved the Pendleton Ave. Settlement Agreement
- Approved the dissolution of the Millrace Lane HOA and obligation for landscape maintenance.
- Deferred action on NES Light Fixtures for Belle Meade Blvd.
- Approved (1) installation of police vehicle equipment by On-Duty Depot for \$2,200.00; (2) purchase of two Digital Ally police in-car cameras for \$5,338.94; (3) purchase of four ticket writer printers for \$2,444.00
- Approved the following invoices over \$5,000:
 - o Commonwealth Chemical Inc. \$24,360.00

- o Kimley-Horn (Master Plan) \$ 6,608.00
- o Straeffler Pump & Supply \$12,455.00
- o Wascon, Inc. \$ 5,845.26



The Commissioners took action on the following items at the January 27, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING:

- Approved the cost estimate from Nashville Electric Service to purchase and install 114 new light fixtures on Belle Meade Blvd. in the amount of 463,259.03, of which \$342,148.28 in capital costs will be paid up front and the remaining labor and equipment cost of \$121,110.75 to be paid upon satisfactory completion of the project, which is anticipated to begin in several weeks.

CERES SOCIETY DONATIONS – JANUARY 2021

Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Vaughn

OAK SOCIETY - \$1,000 and above

Mr. & Mrs. Rusty Moore



MAGNOLIA SOCIETY - \$500 - \$999

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Riley

TULIP SOCIETY - \$250 - \$499

Mr. & Mrs. Chenault Sanders

MYTHS AND FACTS ABOUT PRUNING AND PLANTING TREES



Image credit: MountVernon.org

MYTH or FACT? George Washington chopped down the cherry tree with his hatchet in February.

MYTH: Although it is said young George's honesty gained him more honor from his father than a thousand trees, it is not proven that the lad actually took the tree down or in February.

However, winter is the preferred time to prune trees, and this myth that surfaces around President's Day each year will help you remember when to prune.

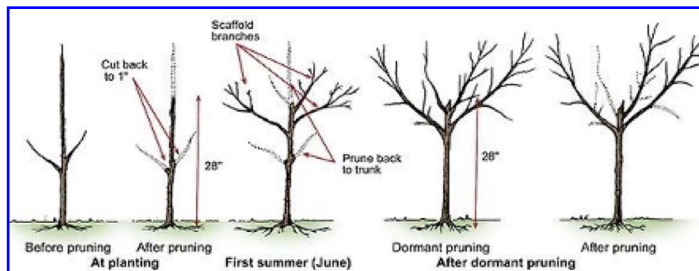


Image credit: MountVernon.org

MYTH OR FACT? Pruning fruit trees will look different from pruning deciduous and evergreen trees.

FACT: First, fruit trees are fabulous additions to your landscape. They thrive and produce fruit when sunlight and airflow are optimized. By removing dead limbs, lower ones that interfere with upward growth, and crossing branches that grow towards the center of the crown, you can encourage and 'train' the tree to grow outwards and upwards to reach sunlight. (See diagram.)

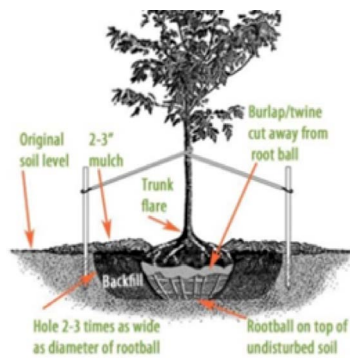


Image credit: Gardeners.com

MYTH or FACT? One does not need to add compost, mulch, or sand to the planting hole when planting a new tree.

FACT: Adding rich organic material and sand to the planting hole can cause root girdling, as the roots will remain happy where they are and will not spread out to seek nutrients nearby. This sets up a weak root system that will not support a mature tree. Mulch is good if applied properly: spread a 2" layer of mulch around the tree and away from the trunk.



Tree topping in Nashville. Image credit: nashvilletreeconservationcorps.org

MYTH or FACT? Top-pruning evergreen and deciduous trees encourages wider crown growth.

MYTH: More is not more in the case of pruning evergreen and deciduous trees: Simply put, never top a tree.

Pruning can add considerable stamina and longevity to your trees and shrubs if done properly. It is part art and part science. While you may have seen beautiful European plane trees pruned into wide-trunked, compacted-crowned masterpieces using a pollarding technique, topping opens up large wounds in trees where bugs and diseases can enter and destroy otherwise healthy trees. Topping also creates weakened sprouts and removes vital leaf canopy for energy. Before taking the shears and saws to your trees, determine the shape and health of your trees.

According to Peter Grimaldi, Vice President of Gardens and Facilities at Cheekwood, "Pruning for structure must be a thoughtful consideration of both space and time. You must understand the growth habit of the tree and how the plant will respond to pruning. And remember to take your time, because you can't glue this stuff back on." Best yet, consult a professional arborist or online resources. For a comprehensive guide to pruning, visit the UT Ag Extension office's best practice management guide [HERE](#).

MYTH OR FACT? Trees planted in my front yard will be safe from utility company's tree trimming practices, because they are planted on my property.

MYTH: Look up before you plant any trees. Mature trees can have a crown spread that interferes with the above-ground utility lines even if planted out of the public right of way and in your yard. Utility companies get a bad rap for aggressive trim cycles to keep uninterrupted service to their customers, but, frankly, the trees were most likely planted in the wrong spot. Likewise, the roots of trees planted near water and sewer lines could damage pipes. Call 811 before you dig to have all subgrade utility lines marked. Cornell's [Urban Horticulture Institute](#) produces good content for street tree selection, planting and maintenance. For tree selection inspiration, visit our neighborhood arboretum, Cheekwood, that has reached the highest status as an arboretum. [CLICK HERE](#).

MYTH OR FACT? Vines growing on tree trunks are not healthy.

FACT: Vines can rob trees of important nutrients, and, if overgrown in the tree, can disguise any diseases or stress trees may be under. Remove vines from the base and trunk of your tree carefully. First, dig up the vines then carefully cut larger vines at the base if digging is not an option. While the tree may look bad while the vines die away, stripping the vines from the bark can open up wounds in the tree and cause damage much like topping does. [Read more here](#).



Image credit: Gardeners.com

MYTH OR FACT? I need to spend a lot of money to get a good tree.

MYTH: Your tree investment should come from a reputable nursery or local program that brokers trees from local growers in McMinnville to your front yard. Trees with a 1-2" diameter have the best chance of survival over bare root seedlings. But never look any free tree in the eye - the right tree planted in the right spot in your yard will be the best long term investment in Belle Meade's future sustainability, especially native trees. [CLICK here](#) to learn more about "nursery to yard" tree sales from Metro Tree Advisory Committee and Nashville Tree Conservation Corps.

Belle Meade Newsletter

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS

MARCH & APRIL 2021

Meetings held at City Hall OR via ZOOM

Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, March 17th at 4:00 pm

Wednesday, April 21st at 4:00 pm

Historic Zoning Commission

Tuesday, March 9th at 3:00 pm

Tuesday, April 13th at 3:00 pm

Board of Building Code Appeals

Tuesday, March 9th at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, April 13th at 4:00 pm

Municipal Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 16th at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, April 20th at 4:00 pm

Board of Zoning Appeals

Tuesday, March 16th at 5:00 pm

Tuesday, April 20th at 5:00 pm

Agendas are available online at www.citybellemeade.org

REMINDERS:

Cardboard Dumpster – Now that the City provides a cardboard dumpster to residents, we ask that you do not put out large amounts of cardboard boxes with your weekly trash and recycle. If you have many shipping or moving boxes we ask that you bring them down to the cardboard dumpster behind City Hall.

Property Taxes – are due by February 28, 2021. Tax payments must be received or postmarked by this date or they are considered delinquent and subject to a 2% per month interest penalty. Contact City Recorder Edie Glaser 615-297-6041 or eglaser@citybellemeade.org if you have any questions.



City Hall offices will be closed on Monday, February 15th for Presidents 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, or you may report your concern on the City website, www.citybellemeade.org.

CITY OF BELLE MEADE
4705 Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

return service requested