

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

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



NEWSLETTER TO RESIDENTS OF BELLE MEADE JANUARY 2022

GENEROSITY

“Happiness doesn’t result from what we get, but from what we give.” — *Ben Carson*

And the Generosity Award goes to. . . none other than you, our invaluable residents of Belle Meade! Consider the various donations of time and money that were received by the City JUST in 2021:



- Beautification Fund - \$87,220
- Employee Fund - \$21,275
- Exemplary Service Fund (David and Cindy Wilds Award) - \$20,000
- Twelve (12) Body Cameras for each Police Officer - \$19,000
- Twelve (12) AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) for each police vehicle - \$11,205
- American Flags on Belle Meade Boulevard, including Memorials - \$1,850

Let’s not forget to recognize all the many volunteer hours that create a city which will withstand the test of time. Consider the following boards and commissions:



- Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) (5 members, 4 alternates)
- Historic Zoning Commission (HZC) (7 members)
- Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) (10 members)
- Board of Building Code Appeals (BBCA)

(5 members)

- Beautification Committee (9 members)
- Budget & Finance Committee (5 members)
- Belle Meade Master Plan Steering Committee (8 members)
- Board of Commissioners – (5 elected leaders committed to making a positive impact)

The City Staff and Commissioners express our deepest gratitude for the generosity of these gifts. Regardless of whether these are gifts of time to serve on these various committees and boards or monies, they allow the City to continue its legacy and make Belle Meade the best city, by far, in the State of Tennessee and even the Southeast. Some of the many benefits from this significant and generous support from residents:

- ✓ City employees feel valued and appreciated;
- ✓ Public areas within the City are beautifully planted and maintained;
- ✓ Police officers are equipped with the latest safety equipment to better protect your neighborhoods and maintain a low crime rate;
- ✓ Property values in Belle Meade continue to increase;
- ✓ Historic architecture is being preserved, alongside tasteful new construction;
- ✓ The City’s financial position is strong;
- ✓ A Master Plan to guide the city for decades has been adopted;



FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF CHUCK WILLIAMS

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 2022.

system effectively and always report suspicious activity immediately to us at 615-297-0241 to limit delays in response time.

- Prepare an inventory of your valuables. Photograph and record the serial number of items that have them. This greatly increases the chances of recovery and prosecution should you have a theft, or if you have to file a claim for fire damage or theft.
- Call in suspicious activity when you observe it.
- Be aware of scams that occur daily by phone, in person and internet. If you are concerned that something is a scam, please contact us 615-297-0241. Before engaging the services of a new contractor, contact Detective Tom Sexton at tsexton@citybellemeade.org or call him at the police station and request a public background check to verify references.

SAFETY TIPS FOR THE NEW YEAR:

Make sure your vehicle is ready for operation during winter conditions. Check your tires’ 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.

- Set your home alarm system any time you are away. Arm the exterior when you are home, especially at night when you are sleeping. Verify with your provider that BMPD is your first responder.
- Discourage vehicle burglaries by Parking Smart, at home and everywhere else. Continue to use your home alarm



FROM BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE CHAIR, LAURA KATHERINE WOOD:

What a year 2021 was! While it had its ups and downs, I think that it was more up than down! I like to start a new year reflecting on the achievements and successes of the past year, of which the Society of Ceres had many:

- Donations from our residents reached an all-time high! Thank you!!
- Working with City Officials we created and implemented a Tree Ordinance
- We welcomed Jackie Bellar to our Committee
- We worked with City Commissioners and consultants from Kimley-Horn on the Belle Meade Together Plan

Looking forward to this year, we have lots of exciting things planned:

- Weed Wrangle will be March 5, 2022. Watch your newsletters for more information on how to volunteer!
- There will be two demonstration medians on Belle Meade Boulevard to showcase the recommendations of the Belle Meade Together plan which was adopted by your Commissioners in October
- The Beautification Committee will be adding new members early in the year
- Our monthly articles in the Belle Meade Newsletter will be starting up again, full of wisdom and recommendations from our members

- The Society of Ceres will have its own page on the City's website which will be a wealth of resources, articles and advice. It will even have archives of past Ceres and City events!

I would like to recognize the Beautification Committee members for all their hard work and faithfulness over the last year:

Caroline Stevens,
member emeritus
Carolyn Sorenson
Jackie Bellar
Jill DeBona
Lisa Ellis

Carter Dawson
Gavin Duke
Martha Phipps
Michael Dixon
Peter Grimaldi, *advisor*

Many, many thanks to these residents for volunteering their time, their energy, their resources and their wisdom. They faithfully met throughout the year via Zoom and in person and worked tremendously hard to create designs and demonstration proposals, write articles, organize events, create planting programs and to ensure that our City stays the beautiful meadow that we all love. Thank you, thank you!

Here's to another year of Beautification, Education and Preservation! Cheers to 2022!



RECAP OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS

The Commissioners took action on the following items at the the **December 15, 2021**, meeting:



The Commissioners took action on the following items at the December 15, 2021 meeting:

- Approved the purchase of a 2022 police Ford Interceptor SUV with lighting package, cage and push bumper for state contract price of \$41,839, replacing a police vehicle involved in an accident resulting in total loss. Insurance reimbursed the city \$33,074.85.
- Approved the purchase of an in-car camera from Digital Ally for federal contract price of \$2,800 to replace camera damaged in traffic accident.
- Approved the purchase of a radar unit from Stalker Radar that was damaged in traffic accident for the state contract price of \$1,900.
- Approved the purchase of a computer mount, keyboard and brackets from Data Source Mobility that were damaged in traffic accident for the NCPA contract price of \$1,601.89.
- Approved a proposal from SCI Technologies (SkyCop) for the annual service agreement of the video camera system in the amount of \$40,500.
- Approved the engagement of an attorney for traffic court appeals to represent Belle Meade's officers in Metro court.
- Approved the following invoices over \$5,000:
 - CEC for engineering services for stormwater review \$6,484.75
 - Approved invoice from Kraft CPA \$5,000
 - Approved invoice from Stonehenge Properties LTD for \$7,077 for police recorder.
 - Approved emergency repair estimate from Wehby Plumbing for the pressure reducing valve due to high water pressure for \$1,620.10.
 - Approved invoice from McNaughton & Gunn for books "Belle Meade: A Legacy of Land Lives and Love" \$2,961.08
 - Approved invoice from SkyCop for replacement of camera located at Tyne/Lynwood/Forsythe for \$5,025
 - Approved invoice from SkyCop for replacement of camera located at Harding Place/ Enquirer/ Iroquois for \$5,025.

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- Approved the Annual Financial Audit Report, per the Budget and Finance Committee's recommendation.
- Approved emergency replacement of the pressure reducing valve in City Hall, for \$1,620.10, by Wehby Plumbing.
- Approved the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Executive Search Services for a City Manager
- Granted approval for the City to cover 100% of the employee health insurance premium. The City will continue to pay 70% of the premiums for dependent coverage, with the employee paying 30%.
- Approved, on first reading, Ordinance 2021-4, increasing the limits for expenditures requiring Commission approval from \$1,000 to \$3,000.

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 led 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 and quality of life.

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, slowing it down, and spreading it out, allowing it to soak into the ground.

YOU'RE INVITED - STORMWATER PUBLIC MEETING

The Building & Zoning and Public Works departments, along with the city's consulting engineer, Steve Casey, will be conducting a presentation and answering your questions addressing stormwater issues within the city. This meeting will focus on concerns from residents about public versus private stormwater measures

and cohesion between the two. Topics will also include hot spots, past projects, future projects, when the city can get involved and what each resident can do to help with stormwater runoff on their own property. The meeting will be at City Hall, date and time to be announced in the upcoming February newsletter.

CERES SOCIETY DONATIONS – DECEMBER 2021

MAGNOLIA SOCIETY - \$500 - \$999
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Chapman

TULIP SOCIETY - \$250 - \$499
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Grubbs, Jr.



The fiscal year 2020-2021 Audited Financial Report has been approved by the Board of Commissioners, after meeting with the Budget & Finance Committee and the auditors from Kraft CPAs. The full report can be viewed on the website, <https://citybellemeade.org/finance/>

If you wish to review a paper copy or have questions about the Report, please call 615-297-6041 or contact Finance Director Leigh Mills lmills@citybellemeade.org or City Manager Beth Reardon breardon@citybellemeade.org

Belle Meade Newsletter

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS

February & March 2022

All Meetings Held at Belle Meade City Hall

Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, February 16th at 4:00 pm

Wednesday, March 16th at 4:00 pm

Historic Zoning Commission

Tuesday, February 8th at 3:00 pm

Tuesday, March 8th at 3:00 pm

Board of Building Code Appeals

Tuesday, February 8th at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, March 8th at 4:00 pm

Municipal Planning Commission

Tuesday, February 15th at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, March 15th at 4:00 pm

Board of Zoning Appeals

Tuesday, February 15th at 5:00 pm

Tuesday, March 15th at 5:00 pm

Agendas are available online at www.citybellemeade.org



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.



PROPERTY TAXES are due by February 28, 2022. If you mail your payment, make sure it is postmarked no later than Feb. 28th. On March 1st, taxes are considered delinquent and incur an additional 2% interest fine each month until paid. Please contact City Recorder Rusty Terry, 615-297-6041 or rterry@citybellemeade.org if you have any questions.

CITY OF BELLE MEADE
4705 Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

return service requested