



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 FEBRUARY 2022

Welcome the City's Newest Residents – the Eastern Bluebird

Thanks to the idea and generous donation from Jim and Betty Stadler, the City recently purchased four Bluebird nest-boxes and installed them on the Boulevard. These four boxes are located at BMB medians #18, 20, 34, and 37 (median numbers are painted on the curbs). The Eastern Bluebird is a year-round species in Tennessee. Due to significant population growth over the past 10 years, it is more possible than ever for people to attract these beautiful birds. The Bluebird is most associated with fields, meadows and open habitat. However, when spring is approaching and their attentions turns to courtship and nesting they leave the open areas and spread out in search of potential nest sites. Their search often takes them



into suburban and wooded areas, places not usually associated with Bluebirds. Bluebirds are insect and berry eaters, but will occasionally accept alternative food sources like sunflower hearts and shelled peanuts, suet, raisins, dried mealworms and of course, live mealworms.

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FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF CHUCK WILLIAMS

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of many Belle Meade residents, we were able to purchase twelve **Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)**, one for EVERY patrol car. (see related article in the [December newsletter](#)). In addition, we were able to buy several sets of pediatric pads that are used for small children under 8 years of age. The officers must com-

plete the required AED training and then we will have this important safety equipment available for use. **THANK YOU TO ALL THE DONORS WHO MADE THIS POSSIBLE. YOUR SUPPORT MEANS SO MUCH TO THE DEPARTMENT.**



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STORMWATER PUBLIC MEETING – Thursday Feb. 24th

The Building & Zoning and Public Works departments, along with the city's consulting engineer, Steve Casey of CEC, will be conducting a presentation and answering your questions regarding 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 with stormwater issues and what each resident can do to help with stormwater runoff on their own property. **The meeting will be at City Hall, Thursday February 24th at 5:00pm.**

TDOT MULTI MODAL GRANT AWARDED FOR PEDESTRIAN SIDEWALK



The City received some exciting news in January from TDOT, stating that it has selected Belle Meade's Multimodal Access Grant proposal for funding in the amount of \$742,736.60. This grant program has a 5% local government match, meaning 95% will be funded through the state. This project will complete the side-

walk gap along state route 70/Harding Road between Belle Meade Boulevard to just east of Lynwood Boulevard where the existing Metro sidewalk terminates. This sidewalk will open up access and bring connectivity to retail, business, schools, and much more along Harding Road. This project is the first one from the City's master plan, *Belle Meade Together*, to be funded.

Belle Meade Newsletter

Continued from page 1.... (Eastern Bluebird)

The best way to attract bluebirds is to offer nest-boxes. One is good, but two is better. There is often competition from other species for a nest-box and Bluebirds can sometimes be indecisive. Installing two or more nest-boxes in the best areas of your yard will increase your chance of success. Choose an area most suitable to Bluebirds. Placing the nest-box adjacent to or in an open lawn area is preferable. The direction it faces is not critical. Facing it away from prevailing weather patterns can be helpful. Mounting the box on a pole about five feet high is perhaps the best option, but mounting to a fence, out-building or tree will work also. If you choose a tree, make sure the tree canopy is well above the nest-box. As a general rule, place nest-boxes at least one hundred feet apart or out of sight of one another.

Bluebirds nest two to three times per season between the

months of March and August. The first nest may take weeks to build, but later nests may take only a day or two. The preferred nest material is pine straw and fine grasses. Bluebirds lay three to six light blue or white eggs. One egg is laid per day until completion and then incubation begins. Incubation takes 12-14 days. The fledgling period then begins in which the babies will develop quickly. In another 14-16 days the fledglings will be ready to leave the nest.

Monitoring is a safe and easy practice. A quick peek in the nest-box every day or two helps to learn about the process and will not upset the birds.

Special thanks to John Carreau of the Wood Thrush Shop for this information. John has already sighted a Blue Bird scouting one of our boxes for spring nesting and he will keep us informed by watching for the actual nestings over the next few months.



FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF CHUCK WILLIAMS



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I am pleased to announce the promotions of Mack Mangrum and Kate Cloxton. Congratulations to both officers and I wish them the best in their future assignments.

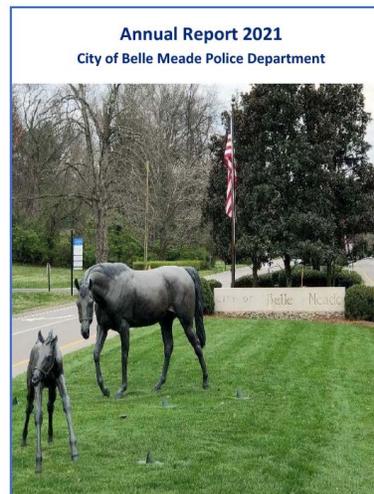


Mack Mangrum will assume the role of Lieutenant. Mack has been with our agency since 2002. He has served many functions during his tenure, including Officer, Field Training Officer (FTO), Corporal, and Sergeant. He has numerous specialized training hours in law enforcement and is over the department's firearms training.

curity. She is currently enrolled in the doctorate program at Liberty University.



Kate Cloxton has been with our agency since 2018. Kate will assume the role of Sergeant. She is a 2012 graduate from Campbell University, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice. She is a 2017 graduate from American Military University, where she received her Master of Arts in Homeland Se-



cwilliams@citybellemeade.org

The Police Department's 2021 Annual Report is posted on the City website. Click [HERE](#) to read the Report, which includes information on the administration and patrol staff, services provided and statistics on citations issued, crime and more. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions about this publication. 615-297-0241 or



RECAP OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS

The Commissioners took action on the following items at the the **January 19, 2022**, meeting:



- Approved the lowest of seven bids for the purchase of 12 AEDs to be placed in all patrol cars. Bid amount was \$11,820.00 from Master Medical Equipment.
- Approved the Fee Estimate of \$74,200 from Kimley-Horn to perform a complete Zoning Code re-write, with expected completion in fall 2022.
- Approved the auditor's recommendation to reduce the purchase price per certificate of deposit to \$245,000 from the

current price of \$248,000 to avoid exceeding the FDIC threshold after interest is added to the purchase price.

- Approved the following invoices over \$5,000:
 - o Commonwealth Chemical \$21,560.00
 - o Kimley-Horn \$ 5,750.00
 - o Kraft CPAs \$ 5,500.00
 - o Lonnie Cobb Ford, LLC \$41,839.00 (new police vehicle)

Belle Meade Newsletter

o McNaughton & Gunn	\$ 7,893.18
o Sammie Gibbs Construction (snow removal – 1st event)	\$28,195.00
o Sammie Gibbs Construction (snow removal – 2nd event)	\$25,150.00
o SkyCop, Inc. (annual service contract)	\$40,500.00
o Wascon, Inc.	\$ 6,899.32

- Approved on final reading, Ordinance 2021-4, Increasing the Limits for Expenditures Requiring Commission Approval from \$1,000 to \$3,000.
 - Approved on first reading, Ordinance 2022-1, to Close, Vacate and Abandon the Pedestrian Walkway Easement as Shown on Plat for the Resubdivision of Royal Oaks Section B.
 - Approved Resolution 2022-01, Budget Amendments to the original Appropriations approved in Budget Ordinance 2021-1.
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FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

Traffic Safety Modifications Completed:

Stansell Electric was the contractor selected to make the following modifications, which were completed prior to the end of January:

1. Belle Meade Boulevard at Harding Road Left Turn Signal Modification – the left-turn arrow signal has been changed to a dual left/right turn signal for vehicles in the left lane, and maintain the existing right turn arrow for the vehicles in the right lane. Road striping has been adjusted to match the signal changes.
2. Tyne Blvd. at Belle Meade Blvd. Sight Distance Modifications – As a result of a sight distance analysis by the engineers at KCI Technologies, the stop bar on Tyne was removed and a new one was installed closer to Belle Meade Blvd. to increase the sight distance for drivers turning out of Tyne. It was also recommended that the City regularly trim the median plantings so sight distance was not impaired.
3. Jackson Blvd. No Left Turn Modifications – To better inform drivers on Jackson Blvd. at its intersection with Harding Road that only right turns are allowed, additional pavement markings were added to discourage left turns onto Harding Road.

GRINDER PUMP MAINTENANCE-

One of the largest contributors to sewer backups is common household GREASE. What appears harmless when cooking can clog pipes and will eventually cause the grinder pump to stop functioning, creating a mess for the residents and high maintenance costs for the City. To reduce service calls and maintenance issues with your sewer grinder pump, here are some simple tips and maintenance routines to follow. If you have household help that regularly uses your kitchen, please share this with them!

- Weekly – put ½ cup of household bleach down the kitchen disposal/sink in the late evening. This reduces failures due to grease in the grinder pump and will also deodorize and clear the lines in the internal plumbing.
- Quarterly - Add 1 tablespoon or packet of yeast to each toilet for natural maintenance of the lines within your house.

Most updated residential kitchens include a garbage disposal as a necessary and standard appliance. However, while they are convenient to use, a kitchen garbage disposal is not always a sewer system's best friend. Here are some tips about what you can put down your garbage disposal, and what should never be put into the garbage disposal and (ultimately) the sanitary sewer system. These tips will help protect you, the City's sewer system and the environment too!

- **DO minimize the use of the garbage disposal.** If you are able to compost vegetable waste at your home, you can dispose of material like vegetable peels, cuttings, stems, seeds, and coffee grounds by composting. Composting allows you to convert these waste items into a valuable soil amendment that you can use in your flower beds and garden.
- **DO dispose of liquid materials in the garbage disposal**, as long as they are not hazardous or made up primarily of fats or oils.
- **DO dispose of solid items that cannot be composted in the trash.** It is preferable to dispose of non-compostable items in the trash, instead of sending them down garbage disposal, where they must go to the wastewater treatment plant and be removed through the water treatment process.
- **DON'T put fats, oil and grease down the drain or in the garbage disposal.** These materials (known as FOG) solidify in the sewer and cause blockages and sewer overflows. Materials like bacon grease, oil, and other fats should be poured into an empty metal can and allowed to cool and solidify. Then you can dispose of the can in the trash. If there is a small amount of oil or grease in the pan, you can wipe the pan out with a paper towel to remove the grease before washing. NOTE: "FOG" IS ONE OF THE TOP REASONS FOR GRINDER PUMP DAMAGE IN BELLE MEADE AND IS VERY COSTLY TO THE CITY.
- **DON'T put hazardous materials, such as chemicals or medicine down the garbage disposal.**
- **DON'T put hard or fibrous materials, such as seeds, corn cobs, bones, egg shells, or flower stems down your garbage disposal.** These items can damage your disposal. They should be composted or thrown in the trash.

A second major cause of maintenance issues with your grinder pump is the use of "flushable" wipes. Although their packaging states the wipes are flushable, the problem is that they break down at a much, much slower rate than toilet paper, which is made of natural materials and biodegrades quickly when exposed to moisture. The wipes can get wrapped around the mechanism of the grinder pump, causing it to fail and back-up. They also clog sewer lines, causing back-ups and/or basement flooding. If you must use those "flushable" wipes, dispose of them in the trash.

Please do not hesitate to contact Larry Smith, Public Works Director (lsmith@citybellemeade.org) or Nathan McVay, Assistant Director of Public Works (nmcvay@citybellemeade.org) at 615-297-6041 if you have questions about the operation of your sewer grinder pump.

Belle Meade Newsletter

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS

March & April 2022

All Meetings Held at Belle Meade City Hall

Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, March 16th at 4:00 pm

Wednesday, April 20th at 4:00 pm

Historic Zoning Commission

Tuesday, March 8th at 3:00 pm

Tuesday, April 12th at 3:00 pm

Board of Building Code Appeals

Tuesday, March 8th at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, April 12th at 4:00 pm

Municipal Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 15th at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, April 19th at 4:00 pm

Board of Zoning Appeals

Tuesday, March 15th at 5:00 pm

Tuesday, April 19th at 5:00 pm

Agendas are available online at www.citybellemeade.org

*CERES SOCIETY DONATIONS –
JANUARY 2022*

*MAGNOLIA SOCIETY - \$500 - \$999
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Riley*

*OAK SOCIETY - \$1,000 and above
Mr. & Mrs. Rusty Moore*

*TULIP SOCIETY - \$250 - \$499
Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Vaughn*



REMINDERS:

Property Taxes – are due by February 28, 2022. 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 Rusty Terry 615-297-6041 or terry@citybellemeade.org if you have any questions.

Contact Information - Have you changed your email address or cell phone number recently? If so, please let us know at City Hall so we can update our database. This information is not shared with anyone outside of City Hall and we only use it when necessary. Thank you!

Metro Councilman Thom Druffel - Keep up with what's happening in our District 23. Thom's newsletter link is: <https://gem.godaddy.com/p/42c2631>



City Hall offices will be closed on Monday, February 21st for Presidents Day. In case of emergency, please call the Police Dept. at 615-297-0241 or you may report a non-emergency concern on the City website, www.citybellemeade.org.

CITY OF BELLE MEADE
4705 Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

return service requested