



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

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

## NEWSLETTER TO RESIDENTS OF BELLE MEADE SEPTEMBER 2022

### 2022 CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONER



Four Belle Meade citizens have qualified to run for the three open seats for Commissioner this year:

- ✓ Louise Bryan (current Commissioner) - 4314 Iroquois Ave.
- ✓ John O. "Neal" Clayton - 4402 Harding Place #2
- ✓ Rusty Moore (current Mayor) - 4422 East Brookfield Ave.
- ✓ Charley Thornburg - 1212 Nichol Lane

Commissioner Bob Weigel has chosen not to run again after serving on the Board since 2014. The City greatly appreciates Bob's eight years of service, two of which he

served as Vice-Mayor (2016-2018). Bob's focus during his terms were the operations of the Public Works and Sewer departments as well as the City's financial operations. He assisted Mayor Hunt with the formation of the CD Laddering program in 2014, which has proven to be a successful long-term investment option for the City. Thank you, Bob for your eight years of service and dedication to the City. We will miss you!

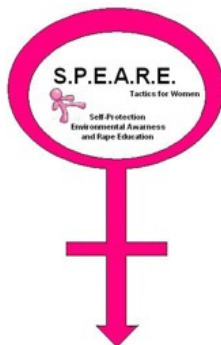
The October newsletter will feature bios of the four candidates, prior to the early voting period. Click [HERE](#) to view the Early Voting Schedule. Stay tuned - the City is also planning to hold a public forum in late September or early October, featuring the four Belle Meade Commissioner candidates.



### FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF CHUCK WILLIAMS



The Belle Meade Police Department is hosting a Self-Protection, Environmental Awareness, and Rape Education class ("S.P.E.A.R.E.") for women on Saturday, September 17th from 7:30 AM to 12:00 PM at St. George's Episcopal Church. **WE STILL HAVE A FEW OPENINGS, SO RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!**



S.P.E.A.R.E. is an all-encompassing self-preservation class. This is simply not your typical self-defense seminar. Rather than focusing solely on escaping an attacker, S.P.E.A.R.E seeks to arm participants with the knowledge needed to avoid situations before they become physical. An in-depth PowerPoint presentation reveals the stark reality of violence and sexual assaults in America, the danger of date rape drugs, and even what a rapist looks for in a victim. It seeks to educate participants on everything from

being aware of your surroundings to escaping an attack; tactics that are especially important for women of all ages.

Please RSVP by contacting Chief Williams at [cwilliams@citybellemeade.org](mailto:cwilliams@citybellemeade.org).

The department welcomes Joann Vahldiek, full-time communications officer/dispatcher, to Belle Meade. Joann has many years of experience with City of Portland's Police Department and 911 Communications Center as well as with the Sumner County Sheriff's Department. It is rare that you find a dispatcher that WANTS to work the 6pm to 6am shift, so we feel fortunate to have her on our team!



Joann Vahldiek

## BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

### GET TO KNOW YOUR SOIL: WHY & HOW

(By Jeffrey Ezell, Iroquois Ave. resident and Beautification Committee member)

When you consider your yard, what comes to mind? Everyone engages with their outdoor space differently. The levels of engagement span the entire spectrum from planting and maintaining plants yourself (highly involved) to hiring a landscaper and hoping for the best (minimally involved). The unifying thread of single-family homes in the area is that they all have a yard with plants. From trees to shrubs to grasses, **all plants have similar basic needs: food, water, air, space to grow, and soil in which to grow.** Let's consider what we need for success.

Generally, our yards are manicured spaces. Most shrubs, trees, ornamentals, or edible plants are planted intentionally, and if so, we need to focus on the needs for healthy plants:

- **FOOD:** Fortunately plants make most of their own food through photosynthesis, so long as they get proper sunlight. Many plants actually produce more energy than they need so they can pump up to 30% of the food they make into the soil to support beneficial soil microbes, a key we will revisit shortly.
- **AIR:** your plant is going to get air.
- **WATER:** not too much, not too little. Things to consider are whether you want to irrigate or how much to water, or if the plant is a good fit if you will be planting it in a low-lying area with poor drainage.
- **SPACE:** this one is also fairly simple. You shouldn't plant a tree under a power line or too close to your house if it will be 60 feet tall at maturity. Certain shrubs should not be planted too close to a building, or growth will be hindered and nothing good will come to the building.
- **SOIL:** soils differ from region to region. Middle Tennessee soils are typically clay-heavy and low in organic matter. Heavy clay soils are dense, so they have a hard time draining well

which causes soil erosion and potentially flooding. Denser soils make root growth more difficult. Healthy soils have a balance of four main constituents: Microbes and other living things, organic matter made from dead plants and organisms, inorganic matter (think minerals like sand and clay), and air. Air in soil? Yes. Think about where roots really grow; they grow in spaces between soil particles - if there's no space, there's little growth. Soils around here are low on organic matter which means they are high on dense minerals which causes them to be low on air space. We haven't even started on soil pH. Most plants grow well in soils with a pH of 5.5 - 7.0. Blueberries and azaleas prefer pHs on the lower end of that range.

Still with me? Feel free to forget all that about soils, because this what you need to remember if you want to care for your soil: if you get your soil tested, you will receive a full report, complete with recommendations about which plants may be well-suited for your soil, and how to amend and/or fertilize your soil to optimize it for the plants you prefer. Soil testing is a service provided by the UT Agricultural Extension Office and is pretty easy. You will now be able to pick up a soil sample box at Belle Meade City Hall! Follow the instructions on the box (it's a small box), and stick it in your mailbox. There is a cost which depends on how detailed you would like the test to be, but think of it as really cheap insurance on your plants. The information you receive could mean the difference between life and death for your leafy buddies!

Questions? You can reach Jeffrey Ezell at 615-866-8152 or [jeffrey@compostcompany.com](mailto:jeffrey@compostcompany.com)



## RECAP OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS

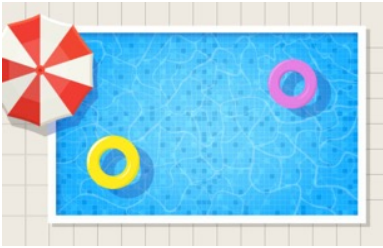
The Commissioners took action on the following items at the meeting on August 17, 2022:



- Approved the lowest bid for the City Hall Parking Lot Improvements project, which includes excavating and installing concrete pads for two cardboard dumpsters and adding two asphalt parking spaces. The following bids were submitted:  
Sessions Paving \$38,865.00 (APPROVED)  
Gibbs Brothers Constr. \$45,750.00  
Jarrett Builders \$99,100.00
- Approved the proposal from Barge Cauthen & Associates for civil engineering services for the annual street resurfacing project in the amount of \$14,000.00.
- Approved the Parade Permit request for the annual Boulevard Bolt on Nov. 24, 2022.
- Approved the bid from Rossmeyer Harley Davidson for the purchase of a Harley Davidson police motorcycle with equipment. The following bids were submitted:  
Boswell's Harley Davidson -Nashville \$24,330.00  
Rossmeyer Harley Davidson - Daytona FL \$24,969.00 (APPROVED)  
Moonshine Harley Davidson -Franklin \$25,336.77  
Knoxville Harley Davidson -Knoxville \$29,999.00  
Chief Williams recommended purchasing from Rossmeyer in Florida because they had the bike and equipment in stock and it

- could be on the street by the first of September, versus two to six months estimated lead time from the lowest bidder in Nashville.
- Received and approved the Annual Activity Report from the Belle Meade Historic Site.
- Approved the following invoices over \$5,000.00:
  - o Baker Tilly \$ 7,350.00
  - o Bradshaw Heating &Cooling \$ 7,000.00
  - o Gibbs Brothers Constr. \$ 7,485.00
  - o J.R. & Associates \$15,970.00
  - o J.R. & Associates \$15,240.00
  - o J.R. & Associates \$15,340.00
  - o Miller & Martin \$ 5,000.00
  - o Mobile Communications \$ 5,094.00
  - o Straeffer Pump & Supply, Inc. \$ 6,605.30
  - o Wascon Inc. \$ 7,083.20
  - o Wascon Inc. \$ 8,153.44
  - o Wascon Inc. \$16,509.56
  - o Wascon Inc. \$ 6,749.32
  - o Wascon Inc. \$ 8,153.44
- Approved Resolution 2022-010, Authorizing the City of Belle Meade to Participate in the "Safety Partners" Matching Grant Program.

**FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT: Director Larry Smith, [lsmith@citybellemeade.org](mailto:lsmith@citybellemeade.org)  
and Assistant Director Nathan McVay, [nmcvay@citybellemeade.org](mailto:nmcvay@citybellemeade.org). Phone 615-297-6041**



**GUIDELINES FOR DRAINING YOUR POOL OR SPA**

You can help keep our creeks, streams and rivers clean by properly draining your swimming pool or

spa. **DO NOT DRAIN THE WATER INTO THE SANITARY SEWER.** You may drain the water onto grassy areas following these guidelines:

- ◆ De-chlorinate the water by allowing it to stand untreated for 7 to 10 days before you drain the pool/spa.
- ◆ Drain the water directly onto the grass in your yard. Be a good neighbor – allow the water to only drain onto your property so that it does not cause erosion or flooding in your neighbor’s yard.

- ◆ Drain the pool water slowly to allow it to be absorbed into the ground and to prevent erosion and ponding. Standing water can lead to mosquito problems in as little as 48 to 72 hours and may be a code violation.
- ◆ A saltwater swimming pool system uses pool salt to make chlorine. The chemicals, chlorine and salt in pools can kill plants, wildlife, and aquatic animals such as fish and crayfish.
- ◆ Stormwater drainage systems (catch basins in the streets, ditches, etc.) drain rain water directly to creeks and streams.

**It is illegal to drain your filter backwash water, saltwater or chlorinated pool water, or spa directly into the stormwater drainage system or a creek unless it is de-chlorinated. (CITY OF BELLE MEADE STORM WATER ORDINANCE – SECTION 8, ILLICIT DISCHARGES).**

**STORMWATER TIPS – Drainage System Maintenance**

Natural stream channels are typically large enough to contain only the most frequent flooding events. Larger rain events which occur on the average of once every 2 to 5 years will most likely cause the streams to overflow their banks. For this reason, it is critical that the stream channels and storm grates be kept clear of trash and yard debris. **DO NOT DUMP TRASH, LEAVES, BRANCHES, CHRISTMAS TREES, PUMPKINS OR OTHER YARD WASTE INTO OR ADJACENT TO A STREAM OR DRAINAGE DITCH.** These materials will be washed downstream during heavy rain events and will most likely be deposited in front of culverts and bridges, causing

flooding of properties or roadways, endangering motorists. Landscaping companies should not be allowed to blow leaves and other yard waste into the creek beds and drainage ditches. They are required to haul this debris away or use the weekly curbside collection for normal amounts of brush and bagged leaves and clippings. If an excessive amount of yard waste is put out for collection, it may take several weeks for the contractor to pick everything up, as they can only spend 15-20 minutes at each household on their route.

Please contact Public Works if you have questions or need to report a blocked stream, drainage culvert or grate.



**CERES SOCIETY DONATIONS – AUGUST 2022**

**TULIP SOCIETY-\$250-\$499**

Dr. & Mrs. Robert Faber

Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Hale



**CERES SOCIETY – UNDER \$250**

Mr. & Mrs. Ron Farris

# *Belle Meade Newsletter*

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## REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS

### OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

Please check website for meeting locations

#### Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, Oct. 19th at 4:00 pm

Wednesday, Nov. 16th at 4:00 pm

#### Historic Zoning Commission

Tuesday, Oct. 11th at 3:00 pm

Tuesday, Nov. 8th at 3:00 pm

#### Board of Building Code Appeals

Tuesday, Oct. 11th at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, Nov. 8th at 4:00 pm

#### Municipal Planning Commission

Tuesday, Oct. 18th at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, Nov. 15th at 4:00 pm

#### Board of Zoning Appeals

Tuesday, Oct. 18th at 5:00 pm

Tuesday, Nov. 15th at 5:00 pm

Agendas are available online at [www.citybellemeade.org](http://www.citybellemeade.org)

## REMINDERS:

**STORMWATER USER FEES ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 15TH. If you have not paid this fee, please do so promptly.**

The City accepts payment by check or online at

<https://citybellemeade.org/faq/stormwater-user-fee-2/>

Questions? Please contact Rusty Terry at City Hall,  
615-297-6041 or [rterry@citybellemeade.org](mailto:rterry@citybellemeade.org).

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CITY OF BELLE MEADE  
4705 Harding Road  
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

return service requested