

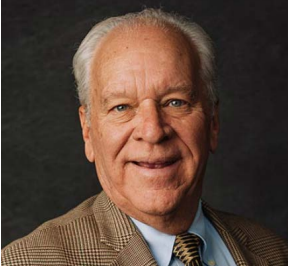
MAYOR • Rusty Moore VICE-MAYOR • Haley Dale COMMISSIONERS: Marty Dickens • Louise Bryan • Neal Clayton • Jennifer Moody, City Manager • Chuck Williams, Chief of Police

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



NEWSLETTER TO RESIDENTS OF BELLE MEADE AUGUST 2023

Long-time Commissioner leaves Lasting Impact



Jim V. Hunt, Sr., 82, passed away on Monday, July 24, 2023, leaving behind a legacy of community service and improving the quality of life of Belle Meade that will benefit generations to come. The City of Belle Meade made the following announcement, expressing the great sadness in the loss of one of our

city's great leaders and citizens. "Jim was a diligent steward and driving force in making important changes in our city while preserving its history and beauty," the city's statement said, in part. "Our video surveillance system, sidewalks on Harding Place, revitalization of our neighborhood watch and the Ceres Society were just a few of the projects Jim spearheaded."

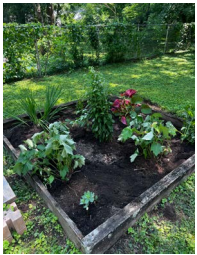
Prior to stepping down in May, Jim Hunt had served as a Com-

missioner of the City of Belle Meade since 2008 and as Mayor from 2012 to 2022. At a public reception held in May, the Board of Commissioners honored his vision and leadership, Mayor Rusty Moore commented at the event, "the City of Belle Meade is a better place because of his commitment and service to our community. Jim was beloved and respected."

Jim is a retired Captain in the US Navy and alum of Battle Ground Academy and Vanderbilt University. He and his wife Sally Beasley Hunt were married more than 50 years and have two sons, Jim Jr. and Allan. Jim Jr. lives in Belle Meade with his wife, Betsy, and their three children. Allan lives in Oak Hill.

A funeral service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 9th at the Cathedral of the Incarnation Catholic Church. There will be a reception at Belle Meade Country Club from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on the same day. An expression of sympathy from the entire Belle Meade community was offered to the Hunt family. Condolences may be left at Belle Meade City Hall, where they will be collected for the family.

New Garden New Chapter



My oh my what knowledge I have gained since last we spoke. This novice gardener has gathered a new garden with many spaces for growth! Sunlight abound makes it easy, but tricky shaded spots give me trouble! With a loss came gifts, with volunteering, and with kind friends came gifts. Let's see what I have learned this time.

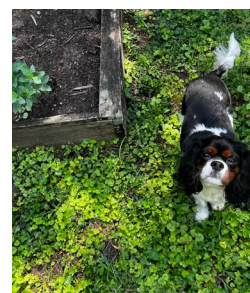
Direct sunlight longer than six hours makes gardening so easy. Immediately I knew where to start the rose, picking, and vegetable gardens. What made my experience tricky were the spots that are "partial sunlight." You cannot throw shaded plants in nor do direct sunlight plants thrive either. One might say "well duh," but this novice gardener must learn for himself. This lesson was spawned by the kindness of a friend who let me clear out her invasives. The Begonias and Japanese Anemones are in survival mode. I cut away the dead, and new growth has started; let's hope the roots are stabilizing, and next year will be hearty plants. With mistakes come surprises! I thought the Black Eyed Susans would be a shoo-in but alas they're all dead, I am excited for future newsletters to keep you all posted.

As the hot but rainy summer trucks on, I am eager about my new Dogwood planted in honor of my late Cavalier, Chloe. With

the love she gave me for ten years, I wanted her immortalized and, with the new found love of my Tripp, was surprised with a tree to plant in her memory. Along with the Chloe tree, I have planted Co-reopsis to brighten the walkway, been gifted Mandevilla to beautify a dark spot, and Phlox to give color to a budding cottage garden. An important mission for my garden is to give shelter to bees and butterflies. As those populations continue to be threatened, I would like to offer my garden as a safe space.

Much more is ahead for this novice gardener as we approach dreadful August and September. Though I see it will hopefully be a rainy couple of months, Tennessee loves to surprise. I have more goals of landscaping, autumn and winter plantings, and much much more. Stay tuned and I hope to run into you all at a nursery or in your garden! Happy planting.

Sincerely Yours,
Chip Wilkison



Belle Meade Newsletter



Planning Director Mary Samaniego Starts on August 2nd

The City of Belle Meade is pleased to announce the hiring of a new staff member. Mary Samaniego brings significant knowledge and experience to the role of Planning Director and will be responsible for overseeing enforcement of all land use regulations, implementation of long-range plans and studies, and will support the beautification and historic preservation activities of the city.

Mary Samaniego most recently served as Planning Director in Tullahoma, and previously worked in Indiana, Alaska, and the Florida communities of Tampa and Temple Terrace, bringing with her more than 25 years of experience in planning and zoning, particularly in small towns. She holds a Master of Urban Planning, with a specialization in small town planning, from Ball State University. City Manager Moody shared her thoughts on the candidate with a citizen panel formed to assist with the interview process, "I am confident that you will find her technically knowledgeable, approachable, and very responsive".

Mary will be the staff liaison to the Municipal Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Board of Building Code Appeals, and

Historic Zoning Commission. She will be working full-time and will be responsible for assisting all customers with questions about the City's property/land use, zoning, and related regulations, permits and reviews. She will assist with implementation of the Belle Meade Together Plan and have direct oversight and enforcement of property maintenance codes, the city's tree ordinance, flood plain management, and assist with stormwater permit compliance. Mary will be an asset helping, most immediately, with revisions to the Zoning Ordinance and will support development of any new policies necessary to strengthen our historic preservation, tree preservation and beautification efforts.

Samaniego fills the position formerly held by Lyle Patterson with the exception that the Planning Director will not also be the Building Official. She will not be responsible for enforcement of commercial and residential building codes nor their related inspections. Currently, the City intends to continue to utilize the contracted services of Municipal Inspection Partners and Mr. Andrew Pieri for building code enforcement and inspections. Mr. Pieri currently reviews building plans and answers questions related to construction and building codes within the City.

To discuss any land use concerns or construction projects within the City, please contact Mary at Msamaniego@citybellemeade.org and Andrew at Inspector@citybellemeade.org or call Belle Meade City Hall at (615) 297-6041.



FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF CHUCK WILLIAMS

CALL FOR CHRISTMAS PARADE FLOATS

The City of Belle Meade will host a Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at 2 PM. The parade will start on Belle Meade Blvd at Percy Warner Park,

travel northbound on Belle Meade Blvd, and end at Belle Meade Blvd at Harding Place. We are currently reserving spots for businesses, political candidates, etcetera.

If you know anyone interested in being in the parade, please encourage them to contact me by email at cwilliams@citybellemeade.org.

WHERE DO I STOP? On the road, when you see a STOP signed

intersection drivers must come to a complete stop. Front tires should stop just before the stop line, crosswalk line or sidewalk lines. Drivers must come to a complete stop even when there is not a STOP line. If there isn't a line, sidewalk or crosswalk line, then drivers should stop at the edge where the two roads meet. One can feel whether a complete stop has been made, as the vehicle will settle back over the chassis of the vehicle when coming to a complete stop. If you stop at the correct position at the STOP signed intersection and you cannot see oncoming traffic, stop in the correct position then treat it as a yield. Move slowly forward so you can see and then when its clear you can proceed. Use these tips to drive responsibly and be safe!



SIGN UP FOR "BELLE MEADE CONNECT" NOTIFICATIONS APP FOR ANDROID AND APPLE PHONES. SCAN QR CODE, ABOVE.



RECAP OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS

The Commissioners took action on the following items at the, **July 12, 2023** meeting:

- Approved a contract with Gibbs Bros. Construction for a stormwater culvert replacement at Sutherland Avenue and Belle Meade Blvd (The project will utilize American Rescue Plan funds).
- Approved a state grant award of up to \$200,000 to support recruitment and retention efforts of the Belle Meade Police Department; with no local match required.
- Approved the purchase of vehicle tracking equipment from StarChase for the Belle Meade Police Department (100% funded by a state grant award)
- Approved the trade-in purchase of new duty weapons and holsters for the Belle Meade Police Department (total net expense to the City of \$3,596.30)
- Approved the reappointment of Nina Davidson to the Municipal Planning Commission for a new three-year term
- Confirmed the Mayor's reappointment of all current members of the Board of Building Code Appeals for new three-year terms
- Approved the appointment of Commissioner Haley Dale to serve on the Board of Building Code Appeals for the remainder of her term of office
- Authorized the City Manager to purchase a land survey of donated land along Harding Pike in an amount not to exceed \$3,500
- Approved the following invoices over \$5,000:

o Burris, Thompson & Associates	\$ 6,030.00
o Municipal Inspection Partners	\$ 6,000.00
o Public Entity Partners	\$ 17,845.00
o Public Entity Partners	\$ 59,467.00
o Public Entity Partners	\$ 64,472.00
- Deferred adoption of Ordinance 2023-6 on second and final reading to clarify the number for a quorum of BZA members due to the recent change from 5 to 7 members; and set a public hearing on the matter for August 16, 2023
- Deferred adoption of Ordinance 2023-7 on second and final reading to adopt plumbing and mechanical code and the interna-

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tional gas and mechanical code and provide for enforcement by the City of Belle Meade rather than Metro Nashville Codes; and advised the City Manager to conduct a survey of the method of calculating and rates of such fees collected in peer communities

- Adopted Ordinance 2023-8 on second and final reading to amend the Building Code for Buildings other than one- and two- family dwellings and provide for enforcement by the City Building Official independent of the State Fire Marshal
- Adopted Ordinance 2023-9 on second and final reading to amend the Stormwater Ordinance to renumber sections that have previ-

ously been mis-numbered and amend provisions concerning billing, delinquencies, and collections

- Adopted a Resolution 2023-06 to Establish a Speed Limit of 25 mph on Enquirer Avenue and Gerald Place
- In other matters, a discussion was held among the Board members regarding strengthening the city's property maintenance code enforcement and related policies, in response to several long-standing unresolved matters and/or reoccurring violations in the community
- The Board of Commissioners next meeting will be held Wednesday, August 16th at 4:00 p.m.

NEW REDUCED SPEED LIMITS FOR ENQUIRER AVENUE AND GERALD PLACE

In response to new traffic data collected last month, citizen concerns, and support from the recommendations of transportation engineers in the Belle Meade Together Plan, the Board of Commissioners supported a Resolution to reduce the posted speed limits on Gerald Place and Enquirer Avenue to 25 miles per hour. The Belle Meade Together Plan specifically identified these streets as having target speeds of 20-25 mph "to promote an environment that feels

safe for people and pedestrians to move about". New speed limit signs will be installed as soon as practical. Please note that under the current municipal code (Section 15-301), it is unlawful to exceed 30 miles per hour on any street where speed limit signs are not posted. On streets with speed limits posted, those speed limits shall apply.

ANNUAL STORMWATER BILLS DUE

All Belle Meade Residents are assessed an annual stormwater fee to support existing needs and anticipated stormwater infrastructure system management and capital projects. The stormwater infrastructure helps to address flooding concerns and improve the quality of the water making its way back into our local creeks, streams and rivers. A stormwater user fee is a financial charge for stormwater services and is not a tax. Similar to water and sewer user fees, stormwater fees are based on a property's use of, or demand on, the public drainage system and stormwater management services.

This year's annual stormwater fees are due by August 25th and will be considered late if unpaid 60 days after the mailing date on the bills. Late payments received after September 25th will be assessed a late charge upon the unpaid balance with interest at the maximum legal rate published annually in the Tennessee Administrative Register. For 2023, the maximum effective formula rate of interest in Tennessee is 12.25 percent.

Below are sample late payment fees based upon various fee amounts.

Stormwater Invoice Amount	Late Charge, per month, on Payments after September 25th
\$134.41	\$16.47
\$268.92	\$32.94
\$537.84	\$65.89

Stormwater Fees may be paid online at citybellemeade.org, by mail or in person at Belle Meade City Hall, 4705 Harding Road, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday – Friday. For after hours payments, please use the green drop box outside the main entrance of City Hall. Questions? Contact City Recorder Rusty Terry at 615-297-6041 or terry@citybellemeade.org

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

The Belle Meade Building and Zoning Department enforces Belle Meade's property maintenance regulations, Title 13 of the Belle Meade Municipal Code. These regulations are intended to preserve the health, sanitation, safety and quality of life for Belle Meade residents. This includes prohibiting the accumulation of stagnant or standing water, trash and litter, or weeds, trees, or other vegetation. All plant growth (grass, weeds, landscaping) should be well-maintained and must not be allowed to become overgrown in excess of twelve inches (12"). The burning or setting fire to grassy, wooded areas, or to piles of dead leaves, tree limbs, grass clippings, trash, waste, or refuse of any kind is prohibited. Landscaping, when necessary, shall be replaced.

Also, residents are prohibited from permitting their residence or any other buildings or structures on their property from becoming so dilapidated or neglected in appearance as to become offensive or injurious to the comfort or safety of the residents and the general public. Residents are required to meet minimum responsibilities for maintenance. The general standard is that the premises must be in clean, sanitary and safe condition. This includes vacant dwellings and structures. The exterior of a structure should be kept in good condition and good repair. This includes all exterior surfaces, including but not limited to doors, door and window frames, cornices, porches, trim, balconies, decks and fences, which all shall be maintained in good condition. Peeling, flaking and chipped painting shall be eliminated, and surfaces repaired. All siding and masonry joints, as well as those between the building envelope

and the perimeter of windows, doors, and skylights must be maintained weather resistant and watertight. All metal surfaces shall be coated to inhibit rust and corrosion and all surfaces with rust or corrosion shall be stabilized and coated to inhibit future rust and corrosion. All exterior walls must be free from holes, loose or rotting materials and maintained weatherproof and properly surface coated. The roof and flashing shall be sound, tight, and not have defects that admit rain. Roof drains and down spouts shall be maintained in good repair and free from obstructions. Additionally, roof water shall not be discharged in a manner that creates a public nuisance.

Owners or tenants that are in violation of any of the property maintenance regulations will receive notices regarding the specific violations of the property maintenance regulations and advising them of the time frame to bring the property in compliance by making necessary repairs and remedies. Any person who fails to comply with a notice shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and the city shall institute the appropriate proceeding at law as may be necessary to correct or abate the violations. In certain circumstances, the City may terminate the unlawful occupancy of a premises in violation of the provisions of the Belle Meade Maintenance Code.

Belle Meade residents should report specific addresses and their concerns or possible violations to the Building and Zoning Department, City Building Inspector Andrew Pieri at inspector@citybellemeade.org or to City Manager Jennifer Moody at jmoody@citybellemeade.org.

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REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2023

Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, September 20th at 4:00 pm*
Wednesday, October 18th at 4:00 pm

Historic Zoning Commission

Tuesday, September 19th at 3:00 pm
Tuesday, October 17th at 3:00 pm

Municipal Planning Commission

Tuesday, September 12th at 4:00 pm
Tuesday, October 10th at 4:00 pm

Board of Zoning Appeals

Tuesday, September 12th at 5:00 pm
Tuesday, October 10th at 5:00 pm

Agendas are available online at
www.citybellemeade.org

*Meeting date or location may change due to Elections;
please check the City's website for updates

CERES SOCIETY DONATIONS – JULY 2023

CERES SOCIETY DONATIONS – JULY 2023

TULIP SOCIETY-\$250-\$499

Mr. & Mrs. John Campbell, III
Ms. Katherine Follin
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Guy, Jr.

CERES SOCIETY – UNDER \$250

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Bright, III

CERES DONATIONS IN HONOR OF:

Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Trella
In Honor of: Mr. Alex Wade



REMINDERS:



St. George's Farmers Market – each Thursday
from 3:30 to 6:00 pm in the parking lot along
Harding Road.

ELECTION DAY AUGUST 3rd
Metro-Nashville General Election
Voting at Belle Meade City Hall
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

CITY OF BELLE MEADE
4705 Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

return service requested