



COMMISSIONERS: George W. Crook, *Mayor* • Thomas F. Corcoran, *Vice Mayor* • Julia F. Landstreet
Beth Reardon, *City Manager/Treasurer* • Dottie Wheeler, *City Recorder* • Vance Berry, *City Attorney* • Jimmy Binkley, *Chief of Police*

NEWSLETTER TO RESIDENTS OF BELLE MEADE

March 2006

Update — Proposed Ordinance 2005-8 Adding Design Review Provisions

A public hearing for proposed Ordinance 2005-8 was held at the beginning of the regular monthly Commissioners' meeting on March 15, 2006 at the temporary City Hall location. Mayor George Crook announced that the public hearing would be limited to one hour because another group was scheduled to use the meeting room at 5:30 p.m. He also stated that the Commissioners would listen to all comments, but not engage in a debate with the speakers. Many residents from the crowd, which numbered more than fifty, spoke in opposition to the proposed Ordinance. Mayor Crook closed the public hearing at 5:00 p.m. The Commissioners then voted to defer Ordinance 2005-8 to a later date.

The Commissioners will give careful consideration to the comments made at the public hearing. If any amendments are made to the existing proposed Ordinance, then it must be referred to the Municipal Planning Commission for their

recommendation, after which the City will be required by law to hold a second public hearing, and advertise the same fifteen (15) days prior to its scheduled date. The City advertises the notice of public hearings in The City Paper. However, if there are no changes to the proposed Ordinance, a public hearing is not required.

All residents are encouraged to review the text of proposed Ordinance 2005-8 and share their comments and suggestions with the Commissioners. A printer-friendly copy of the Ordinance is posted on the City website at www.citybellemeade.org or a copy can be obtained at City Hall, 4525 Harding Road. Those wishing to send comments to the Commissioners can email the City Manager at breardon@citybellemeade.org or send correspondence to City Hall. All citizen comments will be promptly forwarded to the three Commissioners.

Police Chief to Retire



Chief Jimmy Binkley recently announced that he is retiring from the City, effective May 1, 2006. Chief Binkley is the one of the first City employees to take advantage of the newly adopted Early Retirement Plan, which offers payment of a lump sum incentive based on specific criteria related to salary, age, and years of service. The Early Retirement Plan is intended to supplement the benefits provided by the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System, the City's retirement plan for all employees.

Chief Binkley has served the City for almost three decades, and has seen many changes in policing and politics in Belle Meade. He leaves behind a legacy of hard work and dedication to his profession. The following are his parting words to the citizens:

"To the Residents of Belle Meade,

After 27 years of serving the citizens of Belle Meade, I have made the very difficult decision to retire. During the last five years, it has been an honor and privilege to serve as the Belle Meade Police Department Police Chief. I want to thank all the residents of Belle Meade for their support of the Police Department during my career.

Sincerely, Jimmy Binkley, Chief of Police"

RECAP OF REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS February 15, 2006 and March 15, 2006 and SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS' MEETING – March 1, 2006

The Commissioners took action on the following items:

- Approval was given to advertise and obtain bids for the resurfacing of Belle Meade Boulevard (see related article).
- Rejected estimates from street maintenance and landscape maintenance contractors for the construction of traffic-calming bulb-outs at 110 Lynwood Boulevard. The City Manager was directed to advertise and bid this project.
- Approved estimate for the new City Hall clerestory window shades, from Electro Shade for \$9,734.62, the higher of two bids received. It was recommended that their product be chosen due to the heavier construction and longer life of the shades.
- Approved a request from the Board of Zoning Appeals members to outsource the process of performing the required ratio and volume calculations for all plans submitted for appeal. The Commissioners requested the Building Official obtain proposals and cost estimates from several consultants capable of providing this service.
- Denied the request of homeowners to close 30' of right-of-way on "Old" Lynwood Boulevard.
- Approved a proposal from CEC, Inc. (engineers) to prepare the City's General-Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit (G-ARAP) and specifications for the 2006 Creek Debris Removal project in an amount not to exceed \$8,000.00.
- Approved the following change orders to the construction of City Hall, as follows:
 - a. Upgrade ceramic tile to granite floor in lobby - \$5,638.00
 - b. Change window blinds at the main level - \$2,197.00
 - c. Power to existing NES pole for Security - \$4,003.00
 - d. Additional Locksets and Strikes - \$2,086.00
- Approved a request from The Temple to display a 4' by 10' "Special Event" banner for a two-week period prior to their April 1, 2006 fund-raising event, with removal to occur within 48 hours after the event.
- Approved the proposal from Street Dixon Rick for additional professional fees related to furniture design, selection, and bid administration for the new City Hall in the amount of \$13,000.00
- Deferred proposed Ordinance 2005-8, relative to design review provisions, to a later date. (See lead article.)
- Proposed Ordinance 2006-1 relative to special event signs and Ordinance 2006-2 relative to pressure sewer regulations were approved and adopted.

From the Public Works Dept. Belle Meade Boulevard Paving

At their monthly meeting in February 2006, the Commissioners approved a request from the Public Works Director to re-bid the resurfacing of Belle Meade Boulevard from Harding Road to Page Road at the entrance to Warner Park. This project was previously bid at the beginning of the fiscal year, but the bids were rejected once Metro Water Services indicated that they would be replacing water lines on the Boulevard from Chickering Road to Gerald Place. However, Metro Water recently notified the City that they were postponing the water line rehabilitation project indefinitely until funding was obtained.

It is anticipated the milling and paving of the Boulevard will begin in late spring, after bids are received in April. Residents will be notified when a project start date has been set. Belle Meade Boulevard was last resurfaced more than ten years ago.

Beautification Committee News

Liz Bass, Chairman, along with Commissioner Julia Landstreet and City Manager Beth Reardon met recently with Metro Parks staff members Randall Lantz and Bob Parrish. The group finalized plans for landscape enhancements to Parmer Park, the Belle Meade Boulevard entrance to Warner Park, and the property at Page Road used for overflow parking. The various landscape projects will be a cooperative effort funded by Metro Parks and Recreation and the City of Belle Meade's Beautification Fund. At Parmer Park, grading work and new planting will improve drainage at the rear of the park near the walking path, the area in front of Parmer School will be re-landscaped, and a historical plaque about the School is to be designed and installed. The entrance to Warner Park will have various missing and dead plant material replaced. The overflow parking lot will be planted along the northeasterly property line with eight to ten native trees, such as cedars, magnolias, and tulip poplars, which will serve as a natural screen between the public and private properties.

From the Police Department

Identity Theft Concerns

Identity theft crimes are increasing at an alarming rate. This crime is overtaking the sale of drugs as the “crime of choice” for criminals. No one is exempt from having his or her identity stolen.

Often, the first notification that you will receive that your identity is being used improperly will be from a merchant calling to verify a transaction being made with your credit card. Receiving this type of call, day or night, is frightening and confusing.

The Belle Meade Police Department has put together a quick reference sheet on their web site (www.citybellemeade.org/police) to assist you in the event that your identity is being used without your permission.

Should you find that you are a victim of this type of crime, regardless of where the crime has been committed, please contact the Belle Meade Police Department immediately for assistance: 297-0241. A quick response may eliminate many problems in the future that this particular crime generates.

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**REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS
FOR
CITY OF BELLE MEADE
APRIL 2006**

Municipal Planning Commission
Tuesday, April 18th at 5:00 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals
Tuesday, April 18th at 7:30 p.m.

Board of Commissioners
Wednesday, April 19th at 4:00 p.m.

Garbage pickup days will remain the same during
the Passover and Easter holidays.

To view current and past agendas visit:
www.citybellemeade.org

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Artwork for New City Hall

The citizen Design Committee working with Street Dixon Rick Architects on finishes for the new City Hall would like to use historical pictures and maps of Belle Meade throughout the interior of the new building. The Committee would be delighted to hear from volunteers interested in researching archives for historical items about Belle Meade or citizens who may have historical pictures that can be re-produced. Please call City Hall at 297-6041 to offer assistance or donate items that can be used or duplicated.

Reminder – City Sign Ordinance

A section of Belle Meade’s Zoning Code prohibits the placement of promotional signs on City rights-of-way and residential properties. According to the Zoning Code, the only types of signs permitted in the City are exterior yard signs that identify schools, churches, and historic sites or advertise properties for sale or rent. The Code specifically prohibits the posting of any other sign with the exception of street and road signs. In recent years, the Commissioners have made an exception to the Code for political signs during a campaign period, allowing placement of one sign per candidate on residential property. Any signs installed on the City right-of-way are in violation of the Code and will be removed. Residents who place promotional signs in their yard will receive a letter from the City Manager requesting prompt removal.



SECOND ANNUAL TEMPLE ARTS FESTIVAL SET FOR APRIL 1 & 2, 2006

There’s something for everyone’s discriminating taste at the upcoming Temple Arts Festival, a juried exhibition and sale on April 1-2, 2006. The event will be held at The Temple, 5015 Harding Road, Nashville, Tenn., next door to the Belle Meade Mansion.

The Second Annual Temple Arts Festival will feature over 500 works of collectable art for sale from such well knowns as Dale Chihuly, David Huchthausen, Marvin Lipofsky, John Jordan and Victoria Martinez-Rodgers, as well as over 55 other internationally, nationally and regionally acclaimed professional artists who specialize in glass, sculpture, drawings and paintings, photography, tapestry and jewelry.

Grand opening is Saturday, April 1, 2006, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person with wine and cheese reception. Free general admission is Sunday, April 2, 2006, from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Advance Purchase Certificates are available for early entry.

The Temple Arts Festival has attracted artists and their works from 17 states as well as from Israel and Italy. To view featured artists and their works, go to www.templeartsfestival.com. For information or directions, call (615) 352-7620, or e-mail taf@templenashville.org.



Get Down and Dirty at Belle Meade Plantation

Come lend a hand in preserving a piece of Nashville and American history by volunteering for Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) Park Day 2006 at Belle Meade Plantation on Saturday April 1, 2006. A clean-up day for Civil War Parks and Sites, Park Day has a special recipe for success. This unique event is an excellent opportunity to bring Civil War enthusiasts and historians together in an effort to help keep our nation's heritage not just preserved, but also pristine, well kept and cared for. With the lean budgets historical sites have for maintenance, Park Day allows sites to undertake ambitious projects while creating community awareness and sharing the importance of the land volunteers are helping to preserve.

Belle Meade Plantation is looking for volunteers to help clean and paint iron entrance gates. Also needed are volunteers for yard work, gardening and general painting. Interested parties should contact Tina Tackett at (615) 356-0501 ext 40. Park Day volunteers will meet at the Belle Meade gift shop at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 1. For more information on CWPT Park Day 2006 visit www.civilwar.org.

CITY OF BELLE MEADE
4705 Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED