

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

January 2006

From the Commissioners

The Commissioners of the City of Belle Meade have found, as the city has grown and new residences have been constructed, that those structures which are visually offensive or inappropriate by reason of poor qualities of exterior design or striking visual discord in relation to their surroundings, mar the appearance of the area, impair both enjoyment and desirability, and reduce property values of surrounding properties. Thus they are detrimental to the character of their neighborhoods and adversely affect the general welfare of the entire community.

In response, proposed Ordinance 2005-8 was introduced at the December 21, 2005 Board of Commissioners meeting adding design review provisions to Chapter 2, Title 14 of the Belle Meade Code. Mayor Crook and Vice Mayor Corcoran voted aye and Commissioner Landstreet abstained, resulting in passage on first reading. Passage of this Ordinance on second reading will create a Residential Design Review Committee.

The proposed Residential Design Committee, RDC, will be composed of five (5) members and up to three (3) alternates to be appointed by the Board of Commissioners for staggered three-year terms. A licensed professional architect will advise the RDC throughout their review process. They will become the first step in the building permit process for all projects that involve the construction or reconstruction of residential structures and all significant renovation projects. Review would also be required if, in the joint opinion of the City Building Official and the Chairman of the RDC, the proposed modification of an existing residential structure and/or accompanying accessory structure would detrimentally change the overall character of the existing structures on the lot. Property owners will be encouraged first to submit preliminary plans for an informal, non-binding opinion.

Upon the City's receipt of a formal application for Design Review, the property owner can expect a response within fifteen (15) days. If the plans are approved and comply with all other provisions of the Belle Meade Zoning Code, the City Building Official may issue a building permit to the property owner. In some instances the RDC may make suggestions to the property owner of changes to the proposed plans in order

to bring the plans into compliance. The design review component will occur independent from compliance with other elements of the Zoning Code and does not preclude said compliance. Plans that do not comply must still follow the existing path through the Board of Zoning Appeals process to determine if a building permit can be issued.

The intent of this ordinance is to preserve and promote the character, appearance and attractiveness of our residences, the economic mainstay of our community. Also by providing procedures for architectural review of all significant future construction this ordinance will encourage good qualities of exterior building design, and prevent such designs and appearances that are unnecessarily offensive to visual sensibilities.

Before Ordinance 2005-8 can be passed on second (and final) reading, the Belle Meade Municipal Planning Commission must review it and make a recommendation to the Commissioners, and then a public hearing must be held. Copies of the proposed Ordinance are available at the City Offices (4525 Harding Road) or can be reviewed at www.citybellemeade.org. Citizens are encouraged to read the ordinance, contact the Commissioners, and attend the advertised public hearing. Please call City Hall at 297-6041 for information on the date and time of the public hearing.

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REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR CITY OF BELLE MEADE-FEBRUARY 2006

Board of Commissioners
Wednesday, February 15th at 4:00 p.m.

Municipal Planning Commission
Tuesday, February 21st at 5:00 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals
Tuesday, February 21st at 7:30 p.m.

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

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**RE-CAP OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS OF
November 16, 2005, December 21, 2005 and January 18, 2006
AND
SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS OF
December 9, 2005 and January 10, 2006**

The Commissioners took action on the following items:

- Approved the City of Belle Meade's annual gift to Friends of Warner Park in the amount of \$10,000.
- Approved the annual financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005. (see NOTE below)
- Awarded the contract for Drainage Improvements in the median at 609 Belle Meade Boulevard to the low bidder, Under-ground Pipe & Construction, in the amount of \$30,034.
- Withdrew proposed Ordinances 2005-2 and 2005-7, relative to design review matters. (see related article)
- Proposed Ordinance 2005-8, amending Zoning Code to add Design Review provisions was passed on first reading and de-ferred on second reading. (see related article)
- Passed on first reading, proposed Ordinance 2006-1, amending Zoning Code relative to special event signs.
- Ratified proposal from Beaver Engineering, Inc. in the amount of \$3,000 for Construction Observation and Testing Ser-vices necessary during site work and foundations phase of construction of City Hall.
- Ratified proposal from low bidder, Electronic Cable Installation, in the amount of \$1,458.10 to reconnect phone and elec-trical utilities to Police Department temporary building and Public Works garage.
- Approved the following change orders to the contract for the construction of City Hall:
 - a. Installation of underground electrical service to new City Hall\$9,636.00
 - b. Rework emergency power for emergency generator\$15,569.00
 - c. Installation of Geo Tech fabric to act as a subsurface stabilizing material\$6,633.00
 - d. Addition of clerestory\$171,168.00
 - e. Revision to window design (add mullions)\$12,227.00
 - f. Revision to storm drainage\$1,534.00

NOTE: Copies of the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ending June 30, 2005 are available for review at City Hall, 4525 Harding Road.

REMINDER – NES' VEGETATION MANAGEMENT POLICY

In their ongoing efforts to reduce the frequency and duration of power outages, NES contractors will routinely be in dif-ferent areas of Belle Meade to do tree trimming and in some cases, tree removal. Although the law clearly states that NES has the right to trim and remove trees within and outside of the right-of-way, NES does make efforts to communicate and work with homeowners to maintain the beauty and safety of their property. Smaller, low growing replacement plantings are offered when tree removal is necessary. Homeowners may hire arborists or tree trimmers at their own cost, as long as clearances are obtained from NES and the trimming is done in a timely manner. More information about tree trimming policies and procedures can be obtained by calling NES at 736-6900. If there are any problems with NES contractors doing work in Belle Meade, please call 297-6041 for assistance and ask for George Bartlett, Director of Public Works.

SOCIETY OF CERES

DONATIONS FOURTH QUARTER 2005

Renewals

Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Altenbern

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen E. Blackmon, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. John R. Cheadle, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Neely Coble, III

Mr. & Mrs. T. Scott Fillebrown

Mrs. Louise Frazer

Dr. & Mrs. Robert Frist

Mr. & Mrs. Gil Fuqua, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Hayes

Mrs. Ellen Warner Hudson

Mr. & Mrs. Granberry Jackson, III

Mr. Paul Kennerley

Mr. & Mrs. Fred W. Lazenby

Mr. & Mrs. John Lea, IV

Mrs. Ellen Martin

Mrs. Jack C. Massey

Mr. & Mrs. Richard G. McKinney

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Nelson

Mr. & Mrs. Mac Ozier

Mrs. Mary Hall Pirtle

Dr. & Mrs. A. W. Shean, III

Dr. & Mrs. John S. Warner

Mr. & Mrs. Earl W. Wendell

Mr. & Mrs. George Yowell

From the Building Official

Questions about building and zoning in Belle Meade?

Call Terry Franklin at 297-2364

Words of Advice: Fireplace Safety

During this time of year it is relaxing to sit by a fire and feel the heat or watch the flame, but before you start that fire, make sure you remember these safety tips:

- Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening.
- Keep flammable materials away from your mantle.
- Never discard hot ashes inside or near the house. Place them in a metal container well away from buildings.

Environmental Protection at Construction Sites

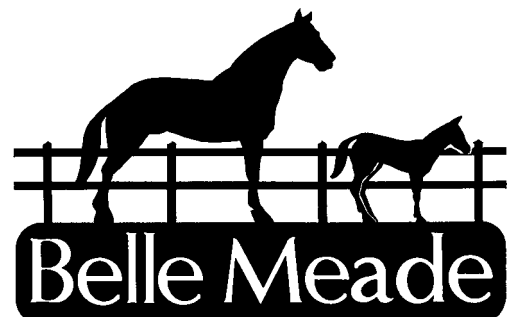
According to the state's 2002 305(b) water quality report, siltation is the largest cause of impairment to Tennessee's waterways. Siltation causes destruction by altering the water's physical, chemical, and biological properties that over time can cause significant economic impact.

To help protect our waterways, most residential construction sites are required to install silt fencing. This black woven material is designed to intercept small amounts of sediment and reduce the velocity of stormwater runoff.

Please contact Terry Franklin at the above number if you have questions about silt fencing requirements for your construction site.

PROPERTY TAX REMINDER

2005 Property Taxes are due by February 28, 2006. Beginning March 1, 2006, a 2% per month penalty will accrue on all unpaid property taxes. Please check your records, including mortgage statements, to be sure taxes have been paid to both Metro Nashville/Davidson County and the City of Belle Meade. Each government entity mails separate property tax statements to homeowners. If you are unsure of payment or have misplaced your Belle Meade tax statement, please call City Hall at 297-6041.



DISPATCHER RETIRES



Dispatcher Roy Rodgers, a ten-year veteran of the City, took advantage of the City's new Early Retirement Program on December 2, 2005. At the December Board of Commissioners meeting, he was recognized by the Chief of Police and City Manager for his dedication and distinct sense of humor. Roy was an excellent dispatcher who took pride in his work. The staff will miss him.

CITY OF BELLE MEADE
4705 Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

THANK YOU, CITIZENS!

The staff of City Hall and the Police Department wishes to thank all of the kind residents of Belle Meade who thought of us during the holiday season. We received many delicious treats and generous contributions to the Employee Fund, which helped to make the holidays special for us. It is a pleasure to continue to serve the citizens of Belle Meade and we extend our best wishes for a happy and healthy new year to all.

WASTE COLLECTION NEWS

Blue recycle bags can be picked up at the offices of the Police Department in the portable building located at 4705 Harding Road. Or, you can call City Hall at 297-6041 and the staff will notify PDQ to deliver the bags to you on your next trash pickup day.

THE DUMPSTERS ARE BACK!

PDQ dumpsters are temporarily located to the right of the Public Works garage as you pull into the City Hall property from Harding Road. Please remember that the dumpsters are not to be used for disposal of construction debris, large appliances, mattresses, or bags of leaves/brush.