

COMMISSIONERS: George W. Crook, Mayor • Thomas F. Corcoran, Vice Mayor • Gray O. Thornburg  
Tim Eads, Chief • Dottie Wheeler, City Recorder



NEWSLETTER TO RESIDENTS OF BELLE MEADE

October 2007

## From Building/Zoning - This is the first in a series of informational articles

### WHEN and WHY ARE BUILDING PERMITS REQUIRED?

The City has seen an increase in construction projects which are started without the homeowner or contractor obtaining the necessary approval and permit first. What constitutes the need for a permit has been misunderstood and misstated throughout the community. The City has four documents regulating permit requirements: the International Residential Code, the City's Municipal Code, the Stormwater Ordinance, and the Zoning Ordinance.

Belle Meade is primarily residential and recognizes the need for a modern, up-to-date code addressing the design and construction of single family dwellings. That is why the City has adopted the 2006 International Residential Code (IRC) for one and two family dwellings. Its purpose is to provide minimum requirements to safeguard the public safety, health, and general welfare through affordability, structural strength, and means of egress.

Under the IRC, a permit is required when "Any owner or authorized agent who intends to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, demolish, or change the occupancy of a building or structure, or to erect, install, enlarge, alter, repair, remove, convert or replace any electrical, gas, mechanical, or plumbing system, the installation of which is regulated by this code, or cause any such work to be done, shall first make application to the building official and obtain the required permit." Section 105.2.2, Repairs, states: "Repairs shall not include the cutting away of any wall, partition or portion thereof, the removal or cutting of any structural beam or load bearing support, or the removal or change of any required means of egress, or rearrangement of parts of a structure affecting the egress requirements."

When the City issues a building permit, one or more inspections are required to verify the work is being done according to the requirements of the code. Even repairs that seem to be simple have to be checked by the building inspector. One recent inspection of a repair job uncovered the fact that the contractor was not licensed for the type of work being done and the repair work was found to be improperly installed. In addition, a building permit had not been obtained as required. The homeowner secured the permit and the necessary corrections to the repair work were made. However,

left unchecked, this seemingly simple repair would have been a major problem for the homeowner in the near future.

The City's Zoning Ordinance requires permits for structures such as pools, pool houses, guest houses, detached garages, gazebos, tennis courts, walls, driveways, terraces, arbors, spas, fountains, and fences, as well as many types of interior renovations.

The City's Stormwater Ordinance places requirements on drainage, during and post construction, as well as a guide for detection and elimination of illicit discharge.

If you are planning to do construction or repair work on your house or other structure on the property, please check with the City first to see if you need a permit. You may contact Terry Franklin, Building Official, Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at 297-2364 or tfranklin@citybellemeade.org.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS TO NOTE FOR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2007

ALL MEETINGS HELD AT CITY HALL  
4705 HARDING ROAD

Municipal Planning Commission

Tuesday, November 20th at 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 18th at 5:00 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals

Tuesday, November 27th at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 18th at 7:30 p.m.

Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, November 28th at 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 19th at 4:00 p.m.

**NOTE:** City Hall offices will be closed November 22nd and 23rd in observance of *Thanksgiving* holidays.

Garbage pick-up days will remain as usual, with the exception of Thursday, November 22nd which will switch to Wednesday November 21st.

Please visit the City website for agendas and minutes:  
[www.citybellemeade.org](http://www.citybellemeade.org)

\* \* \* \* \*

## **RECAP OF REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS**

**August 29, September 19, and October 17, 2007**

The Commissioners took action on the following items:

- Approved the proposal from Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. to prepare engineering drawings and bid documents for the Sewer Forcemain Installation Project at Sunnyside Drive and Westhampton Place for a cost not to exceed \$9,900.00.
  - Approved the installation of a stop sign on Leake Avenue at Westover, pending approval by Metro Nashville.
  - Approved the recommendation to keep existing traffic-calming measures on Herbert Place, which include one set of speed bumps and stop signs at Georgian and Herbert Place.
  - Ratified the purchase of six radar units from Kustom Signals at the bid price of \$1,129.00 each, for a total of \$6,774.00.
  - Approved the Chief's request to connect the dispatch computer to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation for a fee totaling \$1,500.00
  - Approved the low bid for (16) police body armor vests from Law Enforcement Supply for a total cost of \$10,880.00. Chief Eads reported that about one half of this cost would be refunded through federal grants.
  - Approved a one-year extension to the Landscape Maintenance Contract for LSI, Inc.
  - Approved the purchase of (125) 28" balsam fir holiday wreaths from Boy Scouts of America, the low bidder, for a total cost of \$2,500.00
  - Approved the appointment of Dr. Michael Spaulding as an alternate to the Board of Zoning Appeals.
  - Approved the Historic Site Activity Permit submitted by Belle Meade Plantation.
  - Approved proposed Ordinance 2007-7, on second and final reading, amending Title 14, Chapter 2, Appendix C, Historic Zoning Code.
  - Approved proposed Ordinance 2007-8, on second and final reading, updating Belle Meade Building Code to 2006 International Residential Code.
- 



### **RECYCLING REMINDERS**



#### **DO**

- ALUMINUM: beverage cans (drained)
- PLASTIC: soda bottles, milk jugs, bleach containers (caps removed and rinsed)
- TIN/STEEL: cans (rinsed)
- GLASS: colored or clear food and beverage containers (rinsed, lids removed)
- NEWSPAPER: including slick advertisement sections

#### **DON'T**

- Paint cans, aerosol spray cans, broken glass, Styrofoam, magazines, phone books, or cardboard.

Remember, the City provides three dumpsters behind City Hall for the disposal of non-recyclable items, with the exception of household hazardous chemicals. Hazardous items can be taken to the Metro Nashville East Center facility, located off Trinity Lane at 941 Doctor Richard G. Adams Drive (862-8631).

## Two New Study Groups Appointed by Commissioners

The Commissioners recently initiated two new citizen groups to study the feasibility of a sidewalk program in the City and study the possibility of increasing the number of Commissioners from three to five. The Sidewalk Study Committee is chaired by Ed Freeman and includes Elizabeth Nichols and Breck Walker. They have been asked to research the viability of a sidewalk program, where it could be implemented, and possible sources of funding. The Commissioner Study Committee is chaired by Peggy Warner and includes Bob McNeilly, Bob Coleman, Al Whitson, Charlotte Atwood and

Emily Zerfoss. The Belle Meade charter permits the option of having a five-commissioner board. The Commissioners have asked this Committee to consider the pros and cons of changing to five commissioners. Both Study Committees will prepare a report with recommendation(s) for consideration by the Board of Commissioners. Comments or questions for either Study Committee may be submitted to the City Manager at 297-6041 or breardon@citybellemeade.org and they will be forwarded to the appropriate chairperson.

---

## FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT ALERT! SCAM ATTEMPT:

During the week of October 15th there was an attempted scam of a resident. The callers identified themselves as bank fraud investigators and asked for the resident's assistance in catching the suspected thief. As part of the scam, they requested a substantial sum of money be withdrawn from a bank branch near Belle Meade and then be delivered to them at a nearby location for investigation purposes. The resident became suspicious of the request and notified the Belle Meade police before the scam could be fully carried out.

If anyone receives a call similar to this or of a suspicious

nature, please contact Belle Meade police immediately and allow them to determine if the call is legitimate.

The police department would also like to remind citizens to please call in any type of activity that may seem suspicious, especially around properties that are vacant or under construction. An officer will promptly check into the matter to determine if the situation is legitimate. All calls are taken seriously and handled with professionalism and concern for the community. Please contact Chief Tim Eads at 297-0241 or Detective Tom Sexton at 297-9117.



## BEAUTIFICATION / LANDSCAPE

### Freeze and Drought Stress Opens Doors to Unwanted Wood-Boring Beetles

The spring freeze and summer drought of 2007 have weakened the immune system of many trees and shrubs and have allowed wood-boring insects such as the ambrosia beetle and the southern pine beetle to become more prevalent this year. The City's landscape maintenance contractor, LSI, Inc., recommends that homeowners inspect their landscaping for signs of infestation, such as new small holes and cracks in the bark. Another sign of plant stress due to wood-boring insects is premature change in fall color. The following links are great references for identification and recommended treatments for ambrosia and southern pine beetle infestation:

<http://msucare.com/pubs/publications/p2345.pdf>

[www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fidls/so\\_pine\\_beetle/so\\_pine.htm](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/fidls/so_pine_beetle/so_pine.htm)

If infestations are caught early enough, treatments can be applied to attempt to save the plants. These treatments include applying a chemical application of an insecticide. Always use contractors certified by the state, who have been trained in what to look for on plants and what types of and how much insecticide treatment to apply.

Many homeowners are able to determine that their plants are not suffering from infestation or disease, but are still wondering if their landscaping will survive after such a stressful growing season. Unless the plant is obviously lost, LSI, Inc. recommends waiting it out to see if the plant may flush out come springtime.





**PARENTS:** the Belle Meade Police Department is hosting a Safe Halloween Event on Tuesday, October 30th, 2007. The event will start at 4:30 p.m. and will end at 8:00 p.m. There will be hot dogs and refreshments for everyone. Have the kids dress up in their costumes and come to the police department to get their free trick-or treat bag and treat.

These reflective bags have safety tips so everyone will be ready for Halloween! We hope you can join us for this fun event.

## GOODWILL INDUSTRIES DONATION DRIVES 2007



Goodwill Industries will hold donation drives on Saturday, November 17 and December 15, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the City Hall parking lot. The Goodwill truck will have an attendant on site to collect usable household items and clothing.

CITY OF BELLE MEADE  
4705 Harding Road  
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED