



COMMISSIONERS: George W. Crook, *Mayor* • Thomas F. Corcoran, *Vice Mayor* • Gray O. Thornburg
Beth Reardon, *City Manager/Treasurer* • Tim Eads, *Chief of Police* • Linda Sim, *City Recorder*

NEWSLETTER TO RESIDENTS OF BELLE MEADE

April 2008

FROM THE CITY MANAGER

2008 Board of Commissioner Elections

Ordinance 2008-2 was passed on first reading at the March meeting of the Board of Commissioners. This ordinance was drafted as a result of the recommendation by the 5-Commissioner Study Committee to allow the citizens of Belle Meade to decide if they wanted to increase the Board from three members to five. The Belle Meade Charter provides a process to increase the number of Commissioners. An ordinance must be adopted allowing Belle Meade citizens the opportunity to vote on the question of whether to increase the Board to five, and concurrently, to elect three commissioners, one to fill the existing expired term and two new seats. The Charter provides for this vote to take place on the regular election date for commissioners in November 2008. If the majority of citizens vote to approve an increase to the Board of Commissioners, then the three candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected. However, if a majority of citizens vote no on the question to increase the commissioners, the ordinance shall be null and void, and only the person receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to fill the expired term. It is important to note that the Charter states an ordinance approved by the voters may not be repealed or amended.

The Metro/Davidson County Election Commission has set deadlines for candidates in municipal elections. If any Belle Meade citizen wishes to run for the office of commissioner, they must first obtain a petition from the Election Commission beginning May 23, 2008. The qualifying deadline for municipal elections is August 21, 2008. Additional information may be obtained from Ray Barrett, Administrator of Elections, at 862-8813.

FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

May is Bicycle Safety Month



Get your bikes and helmets ready and come join us at the Belle Meade Police Department on May 17, 2008. We will be hosting our second Annual CHILD SAFETY FAIR this year from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We will have a bike safety course set up, along with DNA & child fingerprinting, child car seat installation and other fun and safe activities. The Nashville Fire Department will also have a fire engine on display. We will have special prizes for the kids and will be serving hot dogs, chips and drinks for everyone.

THIS IS A FREE EVENT!!
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ON MAY 17TH!



RECAP OF REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS February and March 2008

The Commissioners took action on the following items:

- Accepted the bid from Truckers Lighthouse in the amount of \$10,185.00 for emergency equipment and installation in three newly purchased police patrol cars.
- Approved the proposal from CEC for engineering services related to the annual creek maintenance project in the amount not to exceed \$3,900.00.
- Appointed Mr. Brian Smallwood to a three-year term on the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- Re-appointed Mrs. Alice Mathews as Vice-Chairman of the Municipal Planning Commission, and Mrs. Phyllis Alper and Mr. John Campbell as members of the Municipal Planning Commission.
- Approved the amendment to the historic site activity permit for Belle Meade Plantation, granting permission for horses on site and construction of a paddock and turn out shelter, subject to the Board of Zoning Appeals approval.
- Accepted proposals from Landscape Services Inc. for enhancements/maintenance in the amount of \$7,897.00 and tree removals/replacements for \$16,718.00, payable from the Beautification Fund.
- Approved on second reading Ordinance 2008-1, amending Title 5, Chapter 1, Section 5-109 Purchases and Public Contract.
- Passed on first reading Ordinance 2008-2, allowing a referendum on the November 2008 ballot for citizens to vote on whether to increase the Board of Commissioners from three to five members.
- Accepted the final report from the Sidewalk Study Committee
- Accepted the final report from the 5-Commissioner Study Committee

Belle Meade Court Clerk Retires



Dianne Borum, City Court Clerk for more than 20 years, officially retired on April 1, 2008. City Commissioners, Judges, staff members and family were present at her farewell luncheon to extend best wishes for a long and happy retirement. Dianne will be missed at City Hall. She was an experienced, knowledgeable and dedicated employee who handled the difficult job of collecting traffic fines from unhappy customers with grace and empathy. We wish her well and hope she remembers to slow down when driving through Belle Meade!

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REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS TO NOTE FOR APRIL & MAY

ALL MEETINGS HELD AT CITY HALL
4705 HARDING ROAD

Municipal Planning Commission
Tuesday, April 15th at 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 20th at 5:00 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals
Tuesday, April 15th at 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 20th at 7:30 p.m.

Board of Commissioners
Wednesday, April 16th at 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 21st at 4:00 p.m.

Agendas are available online at
www.citybellemeade.org

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FROM BUILDING/ZONING

MANY THANKS TO OUTGOING BZA CHAIRMAN LARRY WIECK.

For the last six years, Larry Wieck served as chairman of the Board of Zoning Appeals. The Commissioners, fellow members of the BZA, and city staff wish to express their deepest thanks to Larry for the countless hours he devoted to reviewing plans and agendas, meeting with the city building official and members of the BZA, and chairing the monthly meetings. Larry took his volunteer service to the City very seriously, and willingly took time to answer questions and offer advice about the zoning code, which he knew from beginning to end. We will miss him. As one BZA member so appropriately stated, Larry “raised the level of performance of the entire Board to do our difficult job better.” Larry “always understood that the most important aspect of our job was balancing the desires of the appellant (and their professional advisors) against the interests of adjacent property owners and the citizens of Belle Meade at large.” He “understood that if our Board does not do this job well, our citizens and the City will suffer adverse consequences in the long term.”



Mr. Ed Freeman will begin his term as the new BZA chairman at the April 15, 2008 meeting.

NATIONAL BUILDING SAFETY WEEK

May 5-11, 2008

BUILDING SAFETY WHERE YOU LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY

When you enter a house or a building, most likely you're not thinking about whether it is properly constructed and safe. Fortunately, your local safety experts think about building safety and fire prevention every day. To help raise awareness of building safety, the City of Belle Meade is celebrating Building Safety Week from May 5th through the 11th. Across the nation, communities will promote the use and understanding of building safety and fire prevention codes to protect lives and property.

Public safety is our number one concern. Building safety and fire prevention codes address all aspects of construction, such as structural soundness of buildings, reliability of fire prevention and suppression systems, plumbing and mechanical systems, and energy efficiency and sustainability. To ensure buildings are safe requires the active participation of building safety and fire prevention officials, architects, builders, engineers, and others in the construction industry, as well as property owners.

Building Safety Week was first observed in 1980. It is sponsored by the International Code Council (ICC), a membership organization dedicated to building safety and fire prevention, of which Belle Meade is an active member. The ICC develops the codes used to construct residential and commercial buildings.

POOL SAFETY

Every year, more than 250 children under the age of five drown in swimming pools and more than 2,700 children seek medical treatment for pool-related accidents. Follow these guidelines to make your pool and spa area safe:

- Supervise children when they are outside near a pool or spa.
 - Install a fence with a self-latching gate.
 - Spas and hot tubs should have a similar fence or lockable cover.
 - Install door/gate alarms and pool alarms.
 - Install pool safety covers.
 - Install covers or grates over drains or suction outlets.
 - Store cleaner and pool chemicals away from small children.
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FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - NES TREE TRIMMING

NES contract crews are in the City again performing tree trimming and removal near the electrical power lines. According to the *Municipal Electric Plant Law of 1935 and the Metro Charter, Appendix III, Article 42*, NES, operating as a public utility, has the right to trim and remove trees, both within and outside of the right-of-way. Homeowners should receive a notice in the mail before the contractors show up for tree trimming. In addition to this communication, NES work planners go door-to-door to meet with homeowners to explain the work to be done. If no one is at home, they will leave a door hanger with the tree trimming information and a phone number to call with questions. The City Public Works Director, George Bartlett, is also available to meet with a homeowner and NES representative if there are issues about a particular property marked for trimming or tree removal. Please call **City Hall at 297-6041** to request Mr. Bartlett's service. Please contact **NES at 695-7400** if you have specific questions about the tree trimming program or visit their website at www.nespower.com.

The following information about clearance regulations for trimming near power lines or poles is from the NES website:

High-voltage transmission lines; 15 feet or to the nearest lateral branch

High-voltage distribution lines; 12 ft. for fast-growing trees, 8 ft. for slow-growing trees, or to the nearest lateral branch

Low-voltage service lines; 1 to 3 feet of clearance

REMINDERS

The next GOODWILL INDUSTRIES Donation Drive is scheduled for
Saturday, June 21st from 9:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M.

Belle Meade Police Dept. CHILD SAFETY FAIR – Saturday, May 17th from 10 A.M. until 3 P.M.

CITY OF BELLE MEADE
4705 Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED