



COMMISSIONERS: Gray O. Thornburg, *Mayor* • James V. Hunt, Sr., *Vice Mayor* • Cathy Altenbern, Stephen Rick, Ed Freeman • Beth Reardon, City Manager/Treasurer • Tim Eads, Chief of Police • Linda Berner, City Recorder

Belle Meade City Hall (615) 297-6041 / Belle Meade Police Department (615) 297-0241

NEWSLETTER TO RESIDENTS OF BELLE MEADE

June 2011

FROM THE COMMISSIONERS: Update on the Belle Meade Blvd. Re-Striping Plan

With the re-paving of the Boulevard, your commissioners have had several opportunities to experiment with ways to address the issues of increased traffic and pedestrian safety on Belle Meade Blvd., especially between Harding Place and the entrance to Percy Warner Park. This has created a great deal of constructive comments, both pro and con. While we may conduct trials on this section of the Boulevard, we will solicit the input of all our constituents before making any final or permanent decision.

In January, we engaged RPM Transportation Consultants to perform a traffic study and propose a recommendation. We listened to our citizens' concerns about how development around the City of Belle Meade has impacted the residential character of our city. Many wanted expensive sidewalks; some citizens desired to more fully enjoy the beauty and residential character of our city. As the commissioners have driven and walked the neighborhood streets, we are very aware of the inevitable conflict of preserving the residential character of our neighborhood and assuring our citizens that their pathway to their homes is not unduly disrupted. And, we have been reminded recently of the cost of change, which is also an important factor in our analysis.

Since our goal is to collect as much data and input as possible in order to make a fully informed decision, it is necessary

for us to collect more information through experimentation. Working from the RPM study, we initially considered installing temporary striping on the Boulevard between Harding Place and Warner Park to include designated bike and pedestrian lanes. Some opposed this experiment, even suggesting that the decision to do so was not transparent and perceiving it deceitful to conduct even a trial period. After additional deliberation, we plan to re-stripe Belle Meade Boulevard between Harding Place and the park with two lanes in each direction. We are considering an option beginning with weekends in June, to use cones or other temporary means to cordon off a more pedestrian friendly lane, reducing the traffic flow to one lane between Harding Place and the park. These cones will allow some additional flexibility in our experimentation, and will hopefully provide all with the actual experience needed to make a truly informed judgment about these matters.

We remain keenly interested at all times in our citizens' input, as well as suggestions as to how we might resolve these conflicts and achieve the initial goals. After we have given this experiment a fair chance to be experienced by our citizens, we will ask the citizens to complete a survey that will provide additional information and assist the commissioners in making a final decision.

Belle Meade Blvd. Crosswalks

All of you travelling Belle Meade Boulevard since May 17th have certainly noticed the new crosswalks.

We are hopeful that these new additions will increase safety for pedestrians and will help to calm our ever increasing automobile traffic through Belle Meade. The commissioners acknowledge that some of the locations, sizing and scale of these new crosswalks might not be what we had originally envisioned. After allowing time for citizens' feedback and for all to become more accustomed to the crosswalks, your commissioners will consider making appropriate modifications and adjustments.

The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) indicates that the pedestrian has the right-of-way when they are in the crosswalk. However, the code does prohibit a pedestrian from entering the crosswalk if a vehi-

cle is so close that it would be impossible for the driver to yield. All of this assumes that common sense is used by both driver and pedestrian. Drivers and pedestrians should use caution when approaching and using the crosswalks.

Important Safety Information From the Police Department

In April, Belle Meade police were able to apprehend a car burglar. He was arrested and remains in jail. During his arrest and the continuing investigation, he gave a full confession of his crimes both here in Belle Meade and the surrounding areas. While the majority of his many crimes were committed in the surrounding areas of West Nashville, he did provide some interesting information about his reasons for striking in Belle Meade.

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RECAP OF REGULAR & SPECIAL BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS

The Commissioners took action on the following items at the **May 9, 2011** special meeting:

- Approved the purchase of traffic & pedestrian safety signs from G & C Supply Co., Inc.
- Approved change Order # 1 to the Kerr Brothers Street Re-Striping Contract for the addition of striping on Belle Meade Blvd. from Harding Road to the Warner Park entrance in the amount of \$89,846.20.

The Commissioners took action on the following items at the **May 18, 2011** meeting:

- Approved the Application for Parade Permit – The Boulevard Bolt.
- Approved the estimate from Roy T. Goodwin Contractors for re-design of the intersection at Page Road & Belle Meade Boulevard for \$8,185.90.
- Approved the purchase of two laptops and accessories for the police department for \$1,477.82, to be reimbursed by a Highway Safety grant.
- Approved the re-appointment of Mrs. Alice Mathews to the Planning Commission, and the appointment of Mrs. Jeannette Whitson and Mrs. Kristen Taylor to the Board of Building Code Appeals.

- Deferred second reading of Ordinance 2011-1, amending Title 12-202(c) of the Belle Meade Municipal Code to adopt the 2006 Edition of the International Property Maintenance Code.
- Deferred second reading of Ordinance 2011-2, amending Title 12, Chapter 1 of the Belle Meade Municipal Code to adopt the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code.
- Deferred first reading of Ordinance 2011-3, amending Title 15-126 of the Belle Meade Municipal Code, regarding Baby Strollers.
- Approved on first reading, Ordinance 2011-4, Fix Tax Rate for 2011-2012.
- Approved on first reading, Ordinance 2011-5, 2011-2012 Budget Appropriations.

The Commissioners took action on the following items at the **May 23, 2011** special meeting:

- Approved the re-striping of Belle Meade Boulevard between Harding Place and Warner Park with two driving lanes in each direction.

Approved the estimate from Roy T. Goodwin Contractors to extend the island at Percy Warner park entrance in the amount of \$4,910.86, as part of the intersection improvements at Page Road and Belle Meade Blvd.

NOTICE – STORM DAMAGE DEBRIS NOT INCLUDED IN WEEKLY BRUSH & CHIPPER SERVICE

The City cannot pick up the large amounts of debris from the recent rain and wind storms that is being placed at the roadsides. The City's contract for chipper service, brush and leaf collection and disposal includes bagged leaves, bagged clippings, and tree and brush trimmings (normal yard waste) as described in our contract:

“The City of Belle Meade provides as a public service to its residents, chipper service and brush and leaf collection, transportation and disposal. Tree and brush clippings are defined as follows:

The accumulation of lawn, grass, shrubbery, cuttings, tree leaves, small tree branches, bushes, fruits or any other matter usually created as solid waste garbage and trash in the care of lawns, yards and gardens which have been placed at the curb. Tree trimmings shall have a trunk not to exceed three (3) inches in diameter, and shall be no more than eight (8) feet in length or six (6) feet across in the lap or crown. Twigs, leaves, small debris and grass clippings shall be bagged. Bags shall not weigh more than 50 pounds.”

Note: All privately contracted tree and brush cutting

shall be disposed of by the private contractor, and/or the homeowner.”

The brush & chipper contractor will notify the City of properties which have excessive brush at the street that does not fall within our contract definitions. George Bartlett, Public Works Director, will confirm with a site visit and attempt to speak with the homeowner to inform them of the City's requirements and that it will be their responsibility to remove the brush. If George is not able to talk with the homeowner, they will receive a letter of explanation from City Hall. Please note: the contractor will continue to chip and collect debris that falls within the contract requirements each week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

This spring has been much worse than normal and we have experienced at least 4 storm events since the first of April that have resulted in a good deal of tree damage throughout the city. Our contract does not allow for city-wide pickup of this much storm damage, and at this time there are no extra funds in the annual budget to provide for a city-wide cleanup. Please call City Hall if you have any questions about this – 297-6041.

New Trash & Recycling Program to Begin in July

The City has placed the order for 1,200 recycle containers and will be delivering them, one per household, around July 1. We encourage everyone to participate in the recycling program. PDQ and the City have tried to make it easy for everyone by expanding the list of acceptable recycle materials, providing a big 32-gallon container and back door pickup! Additional recycle containers may be purchased at cost from the city for \$18.50. Your current trash containers are still acceptable for use. However, PDQ requires trash to be put in **WHITE, CLEAR, or GREY** bags so as not to confuse it with the recycle waste in the BLACK bags.

PDQ will pick up trash and recycle on Thursdays and Fridays. Whichever is your second pick-up day now will be your once-a-week day after July 1st.

RECYCLING MATERIALS PREPARATION:

Your recycle container must be lined with a BLACK 32-gallon plastic bag.

You can put all accepted items as listed here in the recycle container together, unbagged, except glass. **Glass bottles and jars must be bagged separately. If put in loose, it will contaminate all recyclables.** Please rinse cans before putting them in your container, as some materials may sit in your container for a week. To maximize the use of your container, you will want to break down all large cardboard boxes and set them beside your container.

RECYCLING - Accepted Materials:

You can put all items in your container together – only glass is bagged separately!

ALL PAPER & BOXES: office paper, magazines, junk mail, newspaper, computer paper, notebook paper, phone books, paperback books, construction paper, brown paper bags, milk or juice cartons (empty), cardboard boxes, food boxes (clean - no food). All large boxes should be broken down and placed by your recycle container.

ALL PLASTIC BOTTLES & CONTAINERS: drink bottles and their caps, detergent & cleaner bottles and their caps, yogurt/cottage cheese and other dairy "tubs" and their lids (please empty containers) and plastic trays, such as the lunchable type containers (any color except black trays - optical sorting machines can't see them).

ALL METAL & ALUMINUM CANS: empty food and drink cans, empty aerosol cans, foils and trays.

ALL GLASS BOTTLES & JARS: rinse if needed. No ceramics, crystal, plates or other glass types.

CHILD SAFETY FAIR AND BIKE RODEO - Thank you to all those who were able to come out and join the Police Department for our annual event that was held on May 14th. We all got a little damp but we had fun and learned a few things!

Safety Information from p.1

He told us he especially liked this area because most of the time people left money and valuables in their vehicles, such as debit/credit cards, cell phones, GPS', I-pods, laptops and other things he could trade for drugs or use the credit/debit cards at locations that he knew did not have good surveillance equipment. He swears he never had to break a window because most people just left their vehicle unlocked. The majority of our reported thefts came from unlocked vehicles with valuables inside. He also said that if he was "working" an area and kept coming across vehicles that were consistently locked or had no loot, he would not waste his time coming back to that particular area.

Here are some quick tips to follow that will discourage this type of crime and help keep you from becoming a victim:

- **Lock your vehicle.** Always lock vehicle doors and windows when you exit a vehicle even for a few minutes.

- **Secure your valuables.** Your vehicle is a target any time purses or other valuables are visible to passersby. Take them inside with you or if you are out, secure them in a locked glove box or trunk.

- **Take your keys with you.** Never leave the key in the ignition or the motor running while you make a quick stop for coffee or mail.

Remember-It only takes seconds to Park Smart! Reporting the incident, getting any necessary repairs and replacing your valuables can be both time-consuming and expensive. Park Smart!

Please continue to call the Belle Meade Police Department 615-297-0241 to report anything that looks out of place, concerns you, or is suspicious. We are happy to come and check on the situation to determine if someone is legitimate, needs help or is up to no good.

*Society of Ceres Donations
January through April 2011*

Mr. John E. Cain, III
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Ray Caldwell
Mr. & Mrs. John P. Campbell, III
Dr. & Mrs. E. William Ewers *
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Fisher *
Dr. David M. Glassford
Dr. & Mrs. Fred Goldner
Mr. & Mrs. James T. Gunn
Dr. & Mrs. Michel McDonald *
Mr. & Mrs. Richard McKinney
Dr. & Mrs. Denis O'Day
Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Petroni
Mr. & Mrs. Victor Salvino
Mrs. Fred Tarkington
Mr. & Mrs. Blair J. Wilson
* **Represents New Members**

Memorial Contributions

Mr. & Mrs. George Crook
Carolyn Sarter

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Patterson
Mr. Josiah (Joe) Ewing Hutton

Mrs. Nants H. Reynolds
Dr. William Oliver
Mrs. Frank W. Blair, III (Florence)
Mr. Decatur Bostick Campbell, Jr.
Mr. Charles B. Whitworth, Jr.
Mr. Michael "Rick" Finney
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Mr. John Rooten "Ro" Cheadle, III
Mrs. Julian C. Scruggs, Jr. (Phillys)
Mrs. William C. Alford, Jr. (Helen)

**REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS
FOR JUNE & JULY 2011**

**ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT
BELLE MEADE CITY HALL,
4705 HARDING ROAD**

Municipal Planning Commission
Tuesday, June 21st at 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 19th at 5:00 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals
Tuesday, June 21st at 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, July 19th at 7:30 p.m.

Board of Commissioners
Wednesday, June 15th at 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, July 20th at 4:00 p.m.

Agendas are available online at www.citybellemeade.org

*Have a Safe
and
Happy Summer!*

CITY OF BELLE MEADE
4705 Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED