



COMMISSIONERS: Gray O. Thornburg, Mayor • James V. Hunt, Sr., Vice Mayor • Cathy Altenbern, Thomas F. Corcoran, George W. Crook, 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

March 2010

FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

From Mayor Thornburg

SNOW!!!!!!

We all are counting on the arrival of spring and welcome it wholeheartedly. Our favorite family winter song/chant "Snow, Snow, Arapahoe" has been banned for quite awhile, maybe years.

The City spent \$96,583 in snow removal and that is well over the budgeted amount as you can imagine. Fortunately, the City Commissioners have been frugal through the years so that we have funds to cover the needed expense. Not every city has this luxury. I continue to thank the new Budget and Finance Committee for the job it is doing in planning for the best use of our resources.

A huge "thank you" goes to George Bartlett who determines when and how to put snow removal plans into effect. During the "big weekend of snow", he personally spent all day Friday, well into Friday night and all day Saturday as well as Sunday overseeing the snow removal and road treatment. With the wet snow continuing and freezing, it was a huge job and a tough one to manage. GREAT JOB, George!

STORMWATER BASICS

From the desk of Terry Franklin

A few weeks ago, everyone was wondering when the snow would melt and warmer weather would be here. With spring around the corner, the last thing you want to think about is snow and rain. As the City's stormwater coordinator, I must think about what happens to all the rain and snow that Belle Meade gets, and what to do with it. While most people go indoors and stay out of the rain, I go out into the City and look at how the water is flowing into the storm sewer. Why? Because stormwater runoff is a major cause of water pollution in the United States. Previously undeveloped areas that allowed water to soak into the ground are now covered with pavement and other impermeable surfaces. Erosion and contaminates like oil, grease, lawn chemicals, and heavy metals

Budget and Finance Committee News

The Budget and Finance Committee held its organizational meeting on January 26, 2010. This meeting concluded with agreement on the next steps. The main issues of concentration will be (1) the development of a capital improvements budgeting process (identifying those capital items and estimating the cost and useful years of service before necessary replacement) and (2) allocation of the City's cash reserves (automobiles, sewer system, roads, stormwater, sidewalks, pension liability, engineering surveys, rainy day fund, sinking fund, etc.) so the commission can make capital and other significant expenditure projections.

The Committee met again on March 2, 2010 to develop a financial management policy document. This document contains *Financial Philosophy*, *Operating Budget* and *Capital Improvement* policies as well as *Revenue*, *Investment* and *Debt Management* policies with initial emphasis being placed upon *Reserve Funds*...for unanticipated emergencies and changing economic conditions, replacement value of vehicles and the pressure sewer system depreciation.

The next meeting will focus on completion of the policy document.

are carried into the streams. The impact of stormwater runoff has become such an environmental issue that EPA has developed standards and rules for development. That's why when you put an addition on your existing home or build a new house, a stormwater plan must be submitted and reviewed for compliance with the City's stormwater ordinance regulations.

Some of the ways that runoff from hard surfaces can be handled is by disconnecting your roof drains so the stormwater is able to flow over vegetation before entering a storm sewer pipe or road side ditch. Rain barrels can be retrofitted to downspouts to capture stormwater for later use. Stormwater that flows out of a pipe can be directed to spread the flow out and help water plants and gardens. Remember, it's going to rain again, and the stormwater from that rain can be seen as a resource rather than a nuisance.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR APRIL & MAY 2010

ALL MEETINGS HELD AT CITY HALL
4705 HARDING ROAD

Municipal Planning Commission
Tuesday, April 20th at 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 18th at 5:00 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals
Tuesday, April 20th at 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 18th at 7:30 p.m.

Board of Commissioners
Wednesday, April 21st at 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 19th at 4:00 p.m.

Agendas are available online at
www.citybellemeade.org

PLANTING IN THE CITY RIGHT-OF-WAY

Did you know that permission is required before a property owner can put landscaping in the right-of-way? Belle Meade City Code section 16-104 (1) states: "It shall be unlawful for any person to plant trees or shrubs as follows, without approval of the board of commissioners or its designee: (a) within a recorded sewer or water easement, (b) within any recorded easement for overhead electric or telephone lines, and (c) on any public lands or right-of-way." The right-of-way extends from the middle of the street and usually includes the shoulder of the road and any drainage ditches. On many Belle Meade streets, the right-of-way often extends from the middle of the road up to the point where the water meter box is located on the abutting property.

If you are unsure about where to install landscaping or where the right-of-way is on your property, please call George Bartlett, Public Works Director, at 297-6041.

RECAP OF REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS

The Commissioners took action on the following items at their regular monthly meetings:

January 20, 2010

- Appointed Pete Zabaski to a three-year term on the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- Re-appointed Mark Beveridge to a three-year term on the Municipal Planning Commission.
- Approved the purchase of new digital recording software from Exhibit One for \$2,113.30, the lowest of three estimates submitted.
- Announced the formation of the new Finance/Budget Committee and members:
Vice Mayor Jim Hunt Bill Blaufuss
Bill Cammack Brian Reames
Tom Corcoran Peggy Warner
Larry Wieck Blair Wilson
- Passed on first reading, with referral to the Municipal Planning Commission, Ordinance 2010-1; amending the description of Special Impact Area A.

February 24, 2010

- Re-appointed Charlie Atwood to a three-year term on the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- Appointed Lisa McDaniel as an alternate member of the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- Re-appointed Bob Moses to a three-year term on the Municipal Planning Commission.
- Approved The Temple's request for a special events sign for the annual Arts Festival.
- Deferred Belle Meade Plantation's application for its annual activity permit until a neighborhood meeting is held regarding the length of time horses/ponies are permitted on the property.
- Deferred Ordinance 2010-1, on second reading, amending the description of Special Impact Area A, while the Municipal Planning Commission performs a study on all special impact areas in the City.
- Passed Ordinance 2010-2 on first reading, amending Title 11-602 of the Belle Meade Municipal Code entitled "Weapons and firearms generally".

From Chief of Police Tim Eads:

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Child Safety Fair & Bike Rodeo on May 22, 2010 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., located in the parking lot between the Police Department and St. George's Episcopal Church. We will have information on child safety issues, car seat installations, and a bike safety rodeo. A hotdog lunch will be provided.

In Case of Emergency Tip (I.C.E.):

With the ever growing ownership of cell phones in our society, our friends across the Pond started a novel idea a few years ago for storing emergency information in a cell phone, thus making it easier for first responders to contact one's family in the case of an emergency.

The idea is that you store the I.C.E. information in your

mobile phone address book, and enter the phone number of the person you would want as a contact "In Case of Emergency". In an emergency situation, first responders or hospital staff will then be able to quickly find who your next of kin are and be able to contact them. For more than one contact name, use ICE1, ICE2, ICE3, etc. I.C.E. entries in a cell phone address book should be used **in addition** to (not in place of) more standard forms of identification such as affixing contact information near your official photo identification you carry in your wallet.

It is recommended you list emergency contacts that are familiar with your medical history. Putting ICE in your cell phone does not put your phone at risk of viruses, random malicious text messages, or additional charges. Remember when traveling to disable any password locks on your phone so emergency personnel can access your contact information.

GET READY FOR SPRING CLEANING!

PREVENT IDENTITY THEFT!



A local company, Shred On The Run, will have its truck at the City Hall parking lot on Saturday, March 27th from 9 a.m. until 12 Noon to shred your paper documents. Suggested documents to

bring to the shredder truck would be credit card statements, cancelled checks, bank statements, tax returns, medical bills and any other papers that could provide information for identity theft.



GOODWILL INDUSTRIES
DONATION DRIVE

Please make a note that Goodwill will have a truck at the Belle Meade City Hall parking lot on **Saturday, May 15, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** All donations of usable clothing and household goods are greatly appreciated.

CITY OF BELLE MEADE
4705 Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED