



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

City Hall (615) 297-6041 / Police Dept. (615) 297-0241 / www.citybellemeade.org

NEWSLETTER TO RESIDENTS OF BELLE MEADE MAY 2014

FROM THE CITY MANAGER

IN REMEMBRANCE OF BRUCE I. CRABTREE, JR.

FORMER VICE-MAYOR, COMMISSIONER, AND CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS



Bruce Crabtree passed away on May 3, 2014. He served on the Board of Commissioners from 1988 until 1996 and served as Chairman of the Board

of Zoning Appeals from 1984 until 1996. Bruce loved the City of Belle Meade and its rich history, beautiful homes and park-like streets. He was steadfast in his desire to preserve the unique characteristics of Belle Meade through the Commissioners governance and the BZA's discretionary application of the City's zoning code. In 1996, Bruce led a team composed

of BZA members, commissioners and the city attorney, and for a year they reviewed and studied the zoning code, ultimately drafting an ordinance that he felt would maintain the qualities of the City he so loved. In his remarks at the public meeting in July 1997 where the new Zoning Ordinance was presented, he stated: "Belle Meade is unique because of the inconsistency of the City. There is no regular street grid. No regular geometric pattern. The large and small homes are pleasingly mixed together. This gives contrasts which offer pleasant relief from the regularity and monotony of other suburban cities. Add to this pleasing inconsistency the magnificent tree cover and open space of our City and you have Belle Meade – voted one of the 25 best places in the United States in which to live."

Bruce served the City well and he would be pleased to know that his legacy continues with the current Board of Zoning Appeals members, who approach their decision making much like he did, with the goal of retaining open space while preserving the diversity and charm of this unique City.

VIDEO CAMERA SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM MEETINGS



The commissioners held three public meetings earlier this month to discuss the possibility of installing a city-wide video surveillance system and hear questions and comments from citizens. Commissioner Gray Thornburg and Mayor Jim Hunt led the meetings and gave an overview of the system, which will include both hi-def surveillance cameras as well as License Plate Recognition (LPR) cameras at major inter-

sections and entry/exit points throughout the city. Why a camera system for the city? Residents have repeatedly stated that safety is one of, if not THE primary reason for living in Belle Meade. The commissioners feel this safety aspect will be enhanced by a video system that will further prevent crime from happening, and give the police department additional forensic tools to solve crimes if they do occur. This is an expensive system (estimated at \$700,000) and the commissioners may phase it in over several years. Chief Eads has applied for a federal grant and is researching other grant opportunities. Topics and questions discussed at the meetings are listed below. Please let us know your thoughts. Call city hall at 297-6041 or email Mayor Hunt, Commissioner Thornburg or City Manager Beth Reardon at: jhunt@citybellemeade.org; gray.thornburg@gmail.com; or breardon@citybellemeade.org

Comments/Questions from Meetings:

Maintain retention of data more than 30 days. A law was recently adopted that allows video data to be kept up to 90 days. The city may or may not keep video that long.

How will it look in City? Towers, poles, etc.? Cameras will be mounted on existing utility poles where possible; some additional poles will need to be added.

What will cameras look like? As technology advances, cameras continue to get smaller – one will easily fit in your open hand. The cameras will be housed in a weather/damage proof housing.

What will the system cost? The consultant estimates \$700,000. We truly will not know until an RFP is sent to vendors and the bids are opened.

Maintenance/support costs once system is installed? Estimated annually at 5–20 per cent of total cost.

Will vandalism to cameras be an issue? Unlikely – they will be mounted at an elevation difficult to access.

Will camera view include private property? No, cameras will be focused on the street view only, and can be factory set to "black out" peripheral views of private property.

Will cameras capture two different directions? Yes. They will capture the front and rear view of vehicles.

Will street lights need to be enhanced for night vision? No, these cameras are very sophisticated and will produce images that can be seen at night.

Which intersections are top priority for initial installation? No decision has been made yet. It will be determined by accessibility to the wireless network as well as traffic data that has been collected. A list of 14 POSSIBLE intersections is included in this article, but that may change as the RFP is developed.

Why Belle Meade? Has crime increased? Not necessarily in Belle Meade, but crime is increasing all around us. This system is a deterrent to crime – we want to stop it before it gets to us.

Can citizens pay for a camera focused on their property, hooked to City's network? That will likely be a possibility once the system has been installed.

Can video records be used for private/civil purposes? Most likely – "No". That is not the purpose of this system.

Will there be an employee who constantly monitors the video camera output? No. Video data will be maintained for a period not to exceed 90 days, and when there is probable cause, the video records will be reviewed as needed.

Can camera view can be accessed "real time"? Yes. For instance, the LPR system can alert the dispatcher if a vehicle listed as stolen is driving on a Belle Meade street.

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Belle Meade Newsletter

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Why not implement the system all at once? \$700,000 is not too expensive for this city. The commissioners must take into account all the needs of the city and the current revenue stream when considering any significant capital purchase like this. With the prospect of the Hall Tax being abolished, the commissioners want input from the citizens as to what services and projects are most important.

Vendor should provide detail on how secure system is – how easily can it be hacked? That will be a topic for vendors to describe and disclose in the RFP.

Concerns with personal privacy. (Several residents expressed this) The city will adopt a policy for the use of this system. State and federal laws define how information that is collected can be accessed, and general “snooping” without connection to a crime or open investigation is a criminal offense. The city is not interested in becoming “Big Brother” and documenting private activities or using the system to generate traffic tickets. The purpose of this system is to deter crime, be an additional tool for our police department to use in solving crime, and to make Belle Meade a safer community.

Talk to insurance companies about the installation of this system – will it lead to reduced rates for homeowners? That may be something each resident needs to ask their insurer.

The consultants proposed the following 14 intersections as ones the city should consider for initial installation of cameras. However, the commissioners have made no decisions on the priority for installation and will need to have further discussions as the criteria for the RFP is developed.

1. Harding Road and Leake Avenue
2. Harding Road and Belle Meade Boulevard
3. Harding Place and Lynwood Boulevard
4. Lynwood Boulevard and Trimble Road
5. Belle Meade Boulevard and Page Road
6. Tyne Boulevard and Lynwood Boulevard
7. Lynwood Boulevard and Glen Eden Drive
8. Lynwood Boulevard and Walnut Drive
9. Harding Pike and Jackson Boulevard
10. Belle Meade Boulevard and Harding Place
11. Lynwood Boulevard and Harding Road
12. Nichol Lane and West Tyne Drive
13. Tyne Boulevard and Belle Meade Boulevard
14. Chickering Road and Belle Meade Boulevard

FROM THE DESK OF MAYOR JIM HUNT

COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS - On Tuesday, November 4th, the City will have its election for commissioners. There will be three positions for commissioner to be elected. (There are five commissioners, including the mayor. The commissioners elect the mayor). Commissioners whose terms expire in November 2014 are Ed Freeman, Gray Thornburg and Steve Rick. Steve Rick has decided not to seek re-election. If you are interested in becoming a candidate for commissioner, email Mayor Jim Hunt (jhunt@citybellemeadede.org) who will provide you with the necessary information to become qualified and placed on the ballot.



BATTLE OF NASHVILLE MONUMENT - The City of Belle Meade has been approached by an historical association member to relocate the Battle of Nashville monument, currently on the corner of Granny White Pike and Clifton Lane to Belle Meade. We are interested in your opinion, so please email Mayor Hunt (jhunt@citybellemeadede.org or breardon@citybellemeadede.org) and let us know how you feel about your city becoming the new site for this beautiful monument.

CITY COMMUNICATIONS WITH CITIZENS - In our desire to continue improvement in the communications with residents of Belle Meade, your commissioners have or will be implementing soon the following methods of communications.

- Newsletter
- email and email blasts
- Website (www.citybellemeadede.org)
- Facebook page (City of Belle Meade)
- Emma - better control and utilization of email in addition to surveys and analytics on users
- Belle Meade mobile app for Apple and Android
- Automatic telephone calls to those residents without email access or those pre-

ferred an automated call. This would be used in emergency or very important circumstances.

We will keep you informed as the newer methods are brought online.

CRIME DETERRENTS IN BELLE MEADE

- Alarm System ARMED
- Belle Meade Police
- Home Video System
- Effective and vigilant Neighborhood Watch Program
- Dogs

(More on how to buy a home video system next month)

HALL TAX – Talk of abolishing the Hall Tax was active again in the most recent legislative session, and we are sure it will resurface next year, with the possibility of “the end” becoming a reality. Whether the vote will be to do away with the tax all at once or phase it out over several years is anyone’s guess. You need only look to articles from the Tennessean to see that the push to eliminate the Hall Tax was very strong in this legislative session: (1) “Anti-tax activist plans push in Tennessee,” Jan. 19, 2014 (<http://www.tennessean.com/story/news/2014/01/20/anti-tax-activist-plans-push-in-tennessee/4680499/>); (2) “Status of Hall income tax puts TN cities’ budgets in limbo,” Feb. 7, 2014 (<http://www.tennessean.com/story/news/2014/02/07/status-of-hall-income-tax-puts-tn-cities-budgets-in-limbo/5275123/>); (3) “Grover Norquist joins push to roll back Hall tax in TN,” Mar. 4, 2014 (<http://www.tennessean.com/story/news/2014/03/04/grover-norquist-joins-push-to-roll-back-hall-tax-in-tennessee/6021421/>); (4) “Hall tax cut gets new push,” Apr. 7, 2014 (<http://www.tennessean.com/story/news/politics/2014/04/07/hall-tax-cut-gets-new-push/7438035/>).

The Hall Tax currently provides Belle Meade with 40-60 percent of its operating income. The commissioners and staff are mindful of controlling expenses and operating efficiently. However, drastic reductions or elimination of the Hall Tax will require the consideration of a property tax increase. The city has been fortunate in that there have been no property tax increases in decades.

FROM PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Letter from Metro Water Services – recently many of our residents received a letter from Metro Water Services recommending the purchase of a water and sewer line protection (insurance) program. Several residents have called city hall asking if they are required to do this. **THIS IS AN OPTIONAL PROGRAM AND NO ONE IS REQUIRED TO PURCHASE THIS PLAN.** Some residents may feel better by having such a protection plan, but others may be satisfied to “pay as you go” and absorb the cost of repairs if and when they occur.

IMPORTANT! Changes to Glen Eden & Jackson Boulevard Intersection – to improve the safety of this intersection and to correct some stormwater issues, this intersection will change to a 3-way stop with enhanced signage and road striping and have small curb cuts added to direct the flow of water off the

pavement and reduce ponding. At the time of this newsletter’s publication, the signage and striping was underway. Please be cautious when approaching and driving through this re-designed intersection!

Proposed Street Paving for 2014-2015 – The budget for next fiscal year contains the first phase of the street resurfacing program that was designed by Barge Cauthen & Associates. They analyzed every street in the city, rated their condition and estimated the cost to repave. The average life span for our streets was set at 10-15 years, depending on traffic volume. Of course, there are some streets that will exceed this life span, and the city will take this into consideration each year when budgeting for paving. The proposed streets to be resurfaced F/Y 2014-15 are: Abbott Martin, Chickering Lane, Lynwood Lane, Royal Oaks Drive, Warner Place, and Webster Lane.

Stormwater Corner PESTICIDES, HERBICIDES AND AUTOMOTIVE FLUIDS

Pesticides, herbicides and fungicides – These are important products for landscaping and horticulture. However, their toxicity and persistence can pose serious environmental and occupational hazards if handled improperly. Various federal and state regulations govern the storage, handling and application of these compounds. The following guidelines will help reduce the risk of problems associated with these products.

First, recognize that pesticides and herbicides are toxic substances that must be used properly and according to manufacturer's label recommendations. Store pesticides and herbicides in an area protected from the elements. The area should have impervious flooring, and locked when not in use. Chemical containers should be kept off the floor and on a tray to prevent the spread of product from broken or leaking containers. Protect from temperature extremes if noted on the manufacturer's label.

Mix products according to the manufacturer's label instructions. Prepare only the amount needed for your application, you can always mix more if needed. This will help to eliminate the "What to do with the left over factor"? Always work over an impermeable surface (concrete pad, large drip pan, heavy plastic sheeting) to contain any spills or overflows. Never spray or spread pesticides or herbicides just before rain as they can enter and pollute our streams and rivers.

Spills, leaks or splashes involving pesticides or herbicides must be attend-

ed to immediately. Small, incidental spills of liquids may be cleaned up with paper toweling, vermiculite or other absorbent materials; small spills of dry powder or granular formations can be collected with a dust pan.

Empty product containers and residual materials must be managed and disposed of properly. Follow procedures according to the manufacture suggested disposal method listed on product. Empty rinsed product containers may be discarded as ordinary trash once the container is made non-reusable (i.e., cut or punch holes in it).

Automotive Fluids - There are around 750 million gallons of used motor oil recycled in this country every year, and it takes only 1 gallon of improperly disposed oil to contaminate a million gallons of groundwater. The days of using your old motor oil or antifreeze to kill weeds in the cracks of your drive are long gone!

Oil, antifreeze, brake fluid, battery acid and transmission fluid are the main hazardous waste fluids found in automobiles. So, how do I dispose of these? Oil can be taken to a local car parts store like AutoZone, O'Reilly and Advanced Auto where they can dispose of properly. Brake fluid is alcohol based and can be poured into a pan with kitty litter to evaporate then discarded in trash.

Batteries can be recycled; the vendor will charge you a small fee that's refunded when you return your old battery. Antifreeze can also be recycled at many of the larger automotive repair shops.

Just remember, what spills on the ground makes its way to the storm drain which makes its way to the creek, which makes its way to the river, and to our drinking water, which makes its way into us!



FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF TIM EADS:



With the upcoming Memorial Day weekend and summer vacation right around the corner, I encourage you to utilize our House Watch program when you are going to be away on vacation. Even if you are only away for a day or two, please put your house on the close watch list. If you are not familiar with the program you can get information at www.citybellemeade.org under the Police tab or you can call us at 615-297-0241 and we will be happy to assist you.

Belle Meade Living Magazine is hosting an Ice Cream Social on May 31, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Parmer Park. Ben & Jerry's will be there with many flavors of ice cream. They will be creating tie dye shirts during the event and our police department will have a booth set up with Neighborhood Watch information as well as information on how to conduct home inventories to catalog personal property and other tips to discourage theft and make personal property traceable.

Proper Alarm usage is vital to crime prevention. Please continue to set your alarms consistently. Learn how to use your alarm and take advantage of all the features that come with it. Consider a home video surveillance camera system. There are many vendors that offer good systems that are very affordable and easy to operate. Having video of the crime often shortens the investigation time and aids us in making an arrest sooner.

We have taken a proactive approach by reaching out to the many alarm vendors that service Belle Meade to verify that we are the primary responder to alarm calls. If you purchase a new alarm or change vendors, make certain they have Belle Meade Police listed as the primary responder. This will insure that we are contacted directly and can respond quickly.

If you have an emergency and call 911, tell the call-taker you are in Belle Meade and request that they notify us as well, even if it is a medical or fire

emergency. Please continue to call in anything that seems suspicious immediately to us at 615-297-0241.

For many years we have assisted people who have fallen and needed assistance getting back up. We will continue to quickly respond to these types of requests. Your well-being and health is our number one priority and concern. When responding to these types of calls, we will be requesting that the Fire Department come to assist us. It is crucial that a person be checked by a highly trained Paramedic before being moved in case there is an injury that is not immediately apparent. We will also stand-by with the person until a family member can respond and assist us with the situation.

On April 15th we went live with our new Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management System. This system allows us to operate more efficiently and effectively. The CAD allows our dispatchers to quickly enter any call information by utilizing auto-fill for streets and addresses. It allows for call history information to be stored such as alarm information and emergency contact information that is associated with an address. If a report is needed as the result of the call, the information is automatically transferred into the records management side of the software, decreasing the time an officer has to spend making a report. There are many features that allow us to search the system, create reports that help us identify any trends that may be occurring, track and inventory city property, manage training and fleet records and other great features, such as the ability to attach photographs of stolen property. We can also attach audio and video information or evidence to the report creating a complete virtual case file that is easily accessible and searchable both in-house and in the field, not to mention saving a lot of paper in the process. We really appreciate the Belle Meade Commissioners for funding and supporting this new law enforcement tool.

RECAP OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

The Commissioners took action on the following items at the April 2014 regular meeting:

- Approved the bid proposal from Jarrett Builders, in the amount of \$3,075, for street pothole repairs in the City.
- Approved the final design plans for stormwater runoff issues for the Jackson Blvd/Glen Eden intersection. The project will be completed under the City's Street Maintenance Contract with Gibbs Brothers Construction.
- Approved the proposal from CEC for additional survey and design work for the Signal Hill/Lynwood Blvd stormwater project for a not-to-exceed fee cost of \$36,650.
- Deferred action on the proposal from The Sextant Group for city wide video surveillance. Three public meetings will be scheduled to give the residents a question/answer session with the commissioners.

- Re-appointed Jeannette Whitson and Kristin Taylor to serve another three year term on the Board of Building Code Appeals.
- Extended the Waste/Recycle Collection & Disposal Contract with Waste Industries for a one year period with a price increase in accordance with the contract terms, which is the annual percentage increase in the CPI Index. The annual CPI increase this year is 1.13%.
- Received an update on the Richland Creek Corridor Project from Commissioner Ed Freeman.
- Deferred on second reading Ordinance 2014-3; amend the code to include religious and commercial properties as subject to payment of stormwater user fees.
- Approved on second reading Ordinance 2014-4; adding appendix G to the Zoning Code to regulate existing multi-family housing.

**REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS
FOR JUNE & JULY 2014**

**ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT
BELLE MEADE CITY HALL**

Municipal Planning Commission

Tuesday, Jun 17th at 5:00 pm

Tuesday, Jul 15th at 5:00 pm

Board of Building Code Appeals

Tuesday Jun 17th at 6:00 pm

Tuesday, Jul 15th at 6:00 pm

Board of Zoning Appeals

Tuesday, Jun 17th at 7:00 pm

Tuesday, Jul 15th at 7:00 pm

Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, Jun 18th at 4:00 pm

Wednesday, Jul 16th at 4:00 pm

Agendas are available online at www.citybellemeade.org

REMINDERS



City Hall will be closed on Monday, May 26th for Memorial Day. In case of a sewer, traffic, or other emergency, please call the Police Dept. at 297-0241 and the dispatcher will contact city staff.

WASTE/RECYCLE COLLECTION:

REMEMBER:

WHITE BAGS = garbage

BLACK BAGS = recycle

ThriftSmart Donation Box — behind city hall. Acceptable donations include clothing, shoes, linens, CDs, DVDs, books, toys and other non-breakable houseware items. Call 833-8200 for pickup of large items.



SATURDAY, May 31st at 2pm in Parmer Park, BEN & JERRY'S ICE CREAM AND TIE DYE PARTY! Sponsored by Belle Meade Living Magazine. Please RSVP to Jessica. Ayala@n2pub.com or call 953-9446.

CITY OF BELLE MEADE
4705 Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

return service requested