



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

March 2011

Hall Income Tax

Every year Tennessee's Hall income tax is a target for the State Legislature. Considerations have ranged from the State retaining 100 percent of the tax without sharing with cities/municipalities to the total elimination of the tax. This year is no different. With the political shift in the State House and Senate, there is a move to lower taxes. At least nine bills are being proposed that would either phase out or curtail the amount of money collected on the State's income tax on investments. To register our concerns and learn more about the proposals, Mayor Thornburg and Vice-Mayor Hunt recently met with Beth Harwell, new Speaker of the House, Senator Douglas Henry and Representative Cameron Sexton from Crossville, sponsor of several of the bills.

While there is support for this legislation, it is unlikely anything significant will happen this year. The consensus is that the state cannot afford to lose the revenues

as they are already facing a significant deficit. Of course, implementation of any of these proposals would affect the City of Belle Meade finances. The City of Belle Meade receives more than one-third of its annual revenue from the Hall Tax. If and when this source of revenue is reduced or eliminated, decisions will need to be made to increase property taxes and/or reduce services to citizens.

Unlike most governments today, Belle Meade continues to remain financially strong. The City operates very conservatively but does depend upon the revenues from the Belle Meade property tax and our City's portion of the Hall income tax. Your commissioners remain committed to financial conservatism and will continue to keep citizens informed through the website, email blasts and newsletters. Do not hesitate to contact us if we can answer any of your questions.

RECAP OF REGULAR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

The Commissioners took action on the following items at the February, 2011 meeting:

- Belle Meade Plantation's Application for Activity Permit:
 1. Approved the scheduled hours of operation for the Planation, gift shop, restaurant, and winery
 2. Approved scheduled activities for Mardi Party, Kentucky Derby Party, and Annual Fall Fest
 3. Deferred request to extend length of time for horses to be on plantation property
- Deferred action on the appointment/reappointment of a member to the Municipal Planning Commission.
- Deferred action on the second reading of Ordinance 2010-8, which amends the zoning code to expand the Board of Zoning Appeals ability to grant "conditional uses" within the City of Belle Meade. The ordinance is currently in front of the Municipal Planning Commission for review.
- Approved on first reading, 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.
- Approved on first reading, Ordinance 2011-2, amending Title 12, Chapter 1 of the Belle Meade Municipal Code to adopt the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code.

**REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS
FOR MARCH & APRIL 2011**

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

Municipal Planning Commission
Tuesday, April 19th at 5:00 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals
Tuesday, March 22nd at 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 19th at 7:30 p.m.

Board of Commissioners
Wednesday, March 23rd at 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 20th at 4:00 p.m.

Agendas are available online at www.citybellemeade.org

Please Note: City Hall offices will be closed in observance of the Good Friday holiday on April 22.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT TIPS:

Try these tips and help the streams and the environment.

When the snow melts and the rains come it all ends up in the same place, our streams and rivers. Rain and snow have a big influence on the amount of water and the quality of water in our streams. Smart uses of the water in our home can also have a big impact on those same streams. Using water wisely helps to reduce the negative effects on our streams and rivers.

Did you know that a toilet on average uses 26.7 % of the water in the home, followed by washing machines at 21.3 %, showers at 16.9%, and faucets 15.7%. A leak can use as much as 13.7 %.

So how do you reduce the amount of water usage in the home?

1. Check for leaks in your plumbing system.
2. Replace old toilets made before 1992. Toilets manufactured after that date use only 1.6 gallons per flush as compared to older models that can use anywhere from 3.5 to over 7 gallons.
3. Replace your washing machine with one that has a water factor at or lower than a 9.5 rating which will use 35-50% less water. Operate washer with full loads.
4. Proper landscaping design. Select plants and turf that are appropriate to your area and climate.
5. Proper irrigation system design. Water plants only when

**FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF TIM EADS:**

Hopefully, winter is about gone and we will have a nice calm spring! The City is still experiencing an occasional car burglary, so please remember to lock your vehicles and secure any valuables. We ask that you continue to call in any suspicious activity immediately so we can send an officer to check it out. While we're on the topic of crime prevention it is a good idea to complete a comprehensive home inventory of your belongings in the event of fire or theft. If you have questions about this subject please contact Detective Sexton or me at the police department. 615-297-0241.

Upcoming events: We will be having a Neighborhood Watch outreach meeting at Belle Meade City Hall on Thursday, April 7, 2011 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the public meeting room. If you are interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch Program and want to get more information on the subject then please join us. Officer Dee Howell is the program director for our watch program. If you have any questions prior to the meeting please give her a call at the police department Wednesday through Sunday after 2:00 p.m. at 615-297-0241.



Chief Eads rides in Mayberry-era police car in Mardi Gras Parade at Plantation. Pictured with him is Larry Montgomery, unofficial Sheriff of Liepers Fork.

they need it or consider upgrading to an internet monitored irrigation system that uses smart controllers to adjust the irrigation on a daily basis, which can reduce water usage up to 30% or more.

6. Fill the bathtub with only as much water as you need. Filling a tub uses a fixed volume of water, and reducing the flow rate has no impact on the amount of water used. Make sure the tub drain doesn't leak and don't overflow the tub so that unneeded water is forced into the overflow drain.

This article is provided as part of the City's BMP for public education under its state Stormwater Permit.

FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

STREET PAVING TO BEGIN!

The final phase of the Water Main Replacement Project is repaving and re-striping the streets that were torn up during the construction, which include Belle Meade Boulevard, Glen Eden Drive, Jackson Boulevard, and Harding Place. Metro Water Services and its contractor, LoJac, intend to begin work during the week of March 21st and are planning to work on Belle Meade Boulevard first. The contractor will raise all valve boxes and manholes, then mill the streets before paving. The paving project is expected to be complete in six weeks.

City Solicits Proposals for Trash & Recycle Collection -

The City recently issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Residential Solid Waste, Trash and Recycle Collection Service Contract. The current contract with PDQ Disposal Services, Inc. will expire on June 30, 2011 and cannot be extended any longer. PDQ has been the City's contractor for many years and has done an excellent job in providing this service to Belle Meade residents.

The RFP is set up so contractors can submit pricing on several different options for trash and recycle collection and disposal. This service, which also includes providing the 3 dumpsters behind city hall, has cost the City about \$420,000 per year. The commissioners and staff are committed to looking at all options and vendors so that the City can continue to provide an appropriate level of service within its budget limitations.

USER INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR GRINDER PUMP

General Information

In order to provide you with suitable wastewater disposal, your home is served by a low-pressure sewer system. The key element in this system is a Grinder Pump. The tank collects all effluent from the house. The solid materials are then ground to a small size suitable for pumping as slurry with the effluent water. The Grinder Pump generates sufficient pressure to pump this slurry from your home to the wastewater treatment receiving line and/or disposal plant.

Care and use of your Grinder Pump

The Grinder Pump is capable of accepting and pumping a wide range of materials. Regulatory agencies advise the following items should NOT be introduced into any sewer either directly or through a kitchen waste disposal unit:

- Cooking oil or grease; glass; metal; seafood shells; diapers, socks, rags, or cloth; plastic objects such as toys or utensils; sanitary napkins or tampons.

In addition, you must NEVER introduce into any sewer:

- Explosives; flammable material; paint; lubricating oil and/or grease; strong chemicals; gasoline.

Weekly Maintenance

Homeowner can provide weekly maintenance by applying ½ cup of bleach once a week to the garbage disposal/sink in the late evening after all use. This eliminates failures due to grease in the Grinder Pump, and will also deodorize and clear laterals in the internal plumbing.

Quarterly Maintenance

Add 1 pack of bread yeast or 1 tablespoon of yeast per each toilet every three (3) months for natural maintenance of the lines within your house.

Periods of Disuse

If your home or building is left unoccupied for longer than a couple of weeks, use the following procedures:

1. Purge the system - Run clean water into the unit until the pump activates. Immediately turn off the water and allow the Grinder Pump to run until it shuts off automatically.
2. Duplex Units - Special attention must be taken to make certain that both pumps turn on when clean water is added to the tank.

CAUTION: DO NOT DISCONNECT POWER TO THE UNIT

Power Failure

Your Grinder Pump cannot dispose of wastewater without electrical power. If electrical power service is interrupted, keep water usage to a minimum!

Pump Failure Alarm

If you are having a problem with internal plumbing, call the City first as this could save you unnecessary plumbing charges.

Your pump has been manufactured to produce an alarm signal (120 volt) in the event of a high water level in the basin. The homeowner must see the alarm signal (red light) and notify the City in a prompt manner. The visual alarm is to provide adequate warning to the user that service is required. During the interim period prior to the arrival of an authorized service technician, water usage must be limited to the reserve capacity of the tank.

To report sewer grinder pump emergencies, call city hall at 297-6041, anytime night or day. During non-business hours the police dispatcher will answer and contact service personnel, if necessary, or write a service ticket for next-day response.

Get Ready for Spring Cleaning!

GOODWILL INDUSTRIES DONATION DRIVE



Please make a note that Goodwill will have a truck at the Belle Meade City Hall parking lot on Saturday, April 16, 2011 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

FREE SHRED DAY!!!

A local company, Shred On The Run, will have its truck at the City Hall parking lot on Saturday, April 23, 2011 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.

