



COMMISSIONERS: James V. Hunt, Sr., *Mayor* • Bob Weigel, *Vice Mayor* • Gray O. Thornburg,
Cathy Altenbern, Boyd Bogle • Beth Reardon, City Manager • Tim Eads, Chief of Police

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

NEWSLETTER TO RESIDENTS OF BELLE MEADE MARCH 2017

*Daylight Saving Time begins March 12th.
Spring begins March 20th.*



SPRING REMINDERS

BRUSH & CHIPPER SERVICE

It's time to clean up the winter debris in your yard and welcome the green of spring. The weekly brush and chipper service includes roadside pickup of bagged leaves and clippings, as well as small limbs. It does not cover the removal of large limbs and trees, root balls and stumps – that is the homeowner's responsibility. If you set out a large quantity of brush, please understand that the contractor can only spend a limited amount of time at each address (about 15-20 min.) in order to complete their route.

The contractor recommends putting your leaves and clippings in wet-strength brown paper bags rather than plastic. The paper bags will compost, while plastic bags never compost and must be opened and emptied by the contractor (time-consuming process) before composting can even begin.

GARAGE/ESTATE SALES

If you are planning to have a garage or estate sale, you must first obtain a permit from the City. You may either stop by City Hall and complete the form or obtain it from the website, www.citybellemeade.org, under "Download & Print Forms".

There is no charge for this permit. You are allowed ONE sign to be posted at the property where the sale is being held.

WALK, JOG, BIKE SAFELY

Warmer weather brings increased activity on our streets. Please remember to walk, jog and bike single file: walkers and joggers against traffic and cyclists with the traffic flow. Reflective clothing must be worn dusk to dawn and bicycles must have warning lights on the front and rear. Enjoy the beautiful weather and surroundings, but please be SAFE!

DOGS RUNNING LOOSE

Dogs enjoy the warmer weather too! However, it is illegal to allow your dog to run loose and not be under the direct control of the owner. Be a responsible pet owner and make sure your dog is safe when outside – either within a fenced area or on a leash.

FREE SHRED DAY – SATURDAY APRIL 1ST

A truck from Shred on the Run will be at city hall from 9am to 12 noon on April 1st. Prevent identity theft and bring your sensitive documents for safe and secure disposal. Limit of 8 boxes or bags per person.



weed wrangle®
NASHVILLE

Belle Meade held its first Weed Wrangle® event in the pocket park at Deer Park Circle and Jackson

Boulevard on Saturday March 4th. Volunteers spent several hours on a beautiful sunny day uprooting destructive invasive plant material from the small park. The City is excited to participate in this annual event and hopes to have several more locations next year!

CERES Society

In ancient Roman religion, Ceres (Mythology) was a goddess of agriculture, grain crops, fertility and motherly relationships. She was originally the central deity in Rome's so-called plebeian or Aventine Triad, then was paired with her daughter Proserpina in what Romans described as "the Greek rites of Ceres".

In astronomy, Ceres is the largest object in the asteroid belt that lies between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. Its diameter is approximately 945 kilometers, making it the largest of the minor planets within the orbit of Neptune.

The Ceres Society of Belle Meade is our City's beautification fund that encourages residents to make tax deductible contributions over and above property taxes to help maintain enormous landscaping responsibilities. The fund was established in 1983 to bring more awareness to the beauty of the City. It

quickly found favor among the residents as a way to show appreciation in the form of a subsidy to assure long range support of the Belle Meade Boulevard median and the parks and other landscaping throughout the City.

Only 25% of our current residents support this fund. Letters will go out shortly to encourage this year's participation. We hope to increase participation to at least 50%. We thank all of the current and past donors and want to make sure that our new residents, especially, are aware of the importance of participating. Many of our 300+ donors honor their friends and/or relatives with contributions. There is no need to wait for the letter to make your 2017 gift. Make your check payable to Ceres Society and mail to Belle Meade City Hall at 4705 Harding Road, Nashville, TN 37205

Ceres Society Donations – January 2017

Hunt, Mr. & Mrs. James V.

McKinney, Mr. & Mrs. Richard

American Flag Sponsorship

Blackburn, Mr. & Mrs. Michael

(In Memory: Robert J. Burns)



FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF TIM EADS:



- Leaving town for spring break? Please utilize our Close Home Watch Program while you are gone. If you have used the program before, just give us a call at 615-297-0241 to update and activate the service. If you are new, get the form to sign up at www.citybellemeade.org under the Police tab, House Check Services.
- Park Smart by removing or hiding valuables in your vehicle and locking it at all times. Know your home alarm and how to utilize all features of your system. Verify that Belle Meade Police are listed as the first law enforcement responders to prevent a delay in police response.
- We currently have twelve Volkswagen Diesel Passat's in our police fleet. As a result of the emissions settlement program, we opted to participate in the Volkswagen buyback program. The City will replace the Volkswagen fleet with the 2017 Dodge Charger all-wheel-drive. We are currently have three of the Chargers on the road.
- Please call in suspicious activity to us immediately at 615-297-0241. Phone scams are still very active. We recently had a vic-

tim that received e-mail from a family member requesting money be transferred to an account. The e-mail had been hacked and was not from a family member. If you receive this type of request, please follow up and verify the validity before sending funds.



NEW POLICY FOR MAINTENANCE OF GRINDER PUMP SYSTEM

All properties that are serviced by the City's pressure sewer system and have a grinder pump station will receive a copy of the newly adopted Policy for Maintenance of Grinder Pump -Pressure Sewer Systems and Customer Agreement. This Policy formalizes into one document all the practices and

communications that the City established over many years. If you have any questions or did not receive the Policy, please contact Public Works staff Larry Smith or Nathan McVay at 615-297-6041 or lsmith@citybellemeade.org and nmcvay@citybellemeade.org.

RECAP OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS



The Commissioners took action on the following items at the **February 15, 2017** meeting:

- Approved the kick-off meeting/ site review and the schematic plan for Harding Place sidewalks.
- Awarded the bid for Gravity Sewer Line Cleaning & Televising to Sani-Tech for the amount of \$20,959.13.
- Approved the purchase of five (5) air relief valves from Hayes Pipe for \$4,060.00.
- Approved three invoices over \$5,000:
Information Technologies-\$5,442.00, Kraft CPAs-\$7,000.00, and Wascon-\$8,802.00



- Rejected the bid for interior/ exterior painting of City Hall and the Public works building.
- Approved Ordinance 2017-1, Amending Title 14 of the City Code to replace volume with “floor area ratio”, on second and final reading.
- Approved Resolution 2017-01, Policy for Maintenance of Grinder Pumps-Pressure Sewer Systems.

The Commissioners took action on the following item at the **February 17, 2017** Special meeting:

- Approved the request by St. George’s Episcopal Church for a permit to host a weekly Farmers Market.

Spring Break with the Cheeks



Leslie Sr., Huldah and Mabel Cheek aboard the SS Leviathan in spring 1929, en route to Great Britain | Cheekwood Cheek Family Archives

In spring 1929, the Cheek family took what can only be described as a “trip of a lifetime.” For an estimated three months, Leslie Sr., Mabel, and Huldah Cheek journeyed across the Atlantic by boat, arriving in Great Britain on a quest to seek and find inspiration for the development of their new home, “Cheekwood.” The family, along with their newly hired architect Bryant Fleming, wasted no time with their site-seeing plans and high-level shopping.

By March 21, signs of Mrs. Cheek’s shopping activity began to show as invoices and receipts were delivered to

her room at London’s Mayfair Hotel. Fortunately, the family saved many of these receipts, providing us a glimpse into the art galleries and antique stores Mr. and Mrs. Cheek frequented on the trip. Items purchased ranged from decorative furnishings to historic, architectural elements from well-known, recently demolished estates and homes. Every purchase was used to shape the Cheek’s vision for Cheekwood.

Pasted into the pages of family scrapbooks are postcards and souvenir photographs from Canterbury Cathedral, Rockingham Castle, and Chatsworth House, suggesting that while buying for their own home, perhaps Mabel and Leslie were also finding inspiration in the historic sites they visited. One photo of Chatsworth House shows a clear connection between the Grand Staircase located at the English estate and the hand-wrought iron railing the Cheeks sourced on this very trip for the First Floor staircase.

NO MORE VOLUME CALCULATIONS—FLOOR AREA RATIO (F.A.R.) APPROVED

Ordinance 2017-1 amended Title 14 of the City code to change the manner in which the City regulates the size of residential structures so that we now will rely upon the standard of “Floor Area Ratio” rather than volume. The Commissioners passed this Ordinance on February 22nd, which means the City will no longer use volume to regulate the size of houses being built.

With F.A.R., you will now use the total square footage of a lot in your calculations. If the lot is under 40,000 sq. ft., you multiply by .225. If the lot is over 40,000 sq. ft., you will multiply by .196. The resulting total is the square feet allowed on that property for all structures. This new FAR square foot number will include the floor area in attic at a wall height of 5’6” and above whether it’s accessible or not, but not include basements or garages under the house. It will include all heated and cooled spaces and garage. It will not include screened porches and porch overhangs. These will now fall under hardscape. The hardscape percentages have been changed to help simplify calculations. They are now 8% of the total of the lot square footage. The 8% will include any pools (2% of lot) and all hardscape, walks, porches second floor terraces and covered structures open to the elements.

The new applications for Building and Board of Zoning Appeal are available online at www.citybellemeade.org and can be a guide in helping to figure what you may be able to do on your property. Basically, all you need to get started is the square footage of your property and the rest is simple math.

This does not necessarily mean more square footage for a house, but it does mean more latitude for a second story addition, dormers, taller ceilings, screened porches, daylight basements and hardscape. The allowed footprint per lot (in residence B) including all structures on the property is still 12%. Homes will still be held to the current requirements for building envelope and rear setback distances. Once scaled drawings are submitted to the Codes Department, square feet can be calculated quickly with no fee, compared to the volume regulations which took 4-5 weeks at a cost of \$500.

Adoption of the FAR does not alter the fact that some homeowners may still need to go before the Planning Commission or the Board of Zoning Appeals.

For further questions please call the office of the Building Official, Lyle Patterson 615-297-2364

Email: lpatterson@citybellemeade.org

Belle Meade Newsletter

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS FOR APRIL AND MAY 2017

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

Municipal Planning Commission

Tuesday, Apr 18th at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, May 16th at 4:00 pm

Board of Building Code Appeals

Tuesday, Apr 11th at 4:00 pm

Tuesday, May 9th at 4:00 pm

Board of Zoning Appeals

Tuesday, Apr 18th at 5:00 pm

Tuesday, May 16th at 5:00 pm

Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, Apr 19th at 4:00 pm

Wednesday, May 17th at 4:00 pm

Agendas are available online at www.citybellemeade.org

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING will be held Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. at Belle Meade City Hall, for consideration of proposed Ordinance 2017-2, with caption as follows:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 14 OF THE CITY CODE REGULATING DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF BELLE MEADE, TENNESSEE, TO MINIMIZE DANGER TO LIFE AND PROPERTY DUE TO FLOODING, AND TO MAINTAIN ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM, BY ADOPTING THE NEW FEMA FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP ("FIRM") DATED APRIL 5, 2017.



**FREE SHRED DAY – SATURDAY,
APRIL 1, 2017** from 9am to 12 noon
at city hall. Start gathering your

paperwork! Bring your sensitive documents for a secure and safe disposal. (Service provided by Shred On The Run.)

CITY OF BELLE MEADE
4705 Harding Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

return service requested