



## **Announcing the Relaunch of the Belle Meade Society of Ceres Beautification Committee**

The Society of Ceres is pleased to announce that we have relaunched our Beautification Committee! This Committee was put together in late 2019 at the request of City Commissioners Cathy Altenbern, Gray Thornburg and Jim Hunt with the help of City Manager Beth Reardon. The Committee will make recommendations to the Belle Meade Board of Commissioners for decisions such as tree ordinance support, flowering annual plantings and maintenance for all city pocket parks and greenways. We will also be responsible for fundraising, grant reviews and applications, Weed Wrangle®, and the American flag sponsorship for Belle Meade Boulevard. In the future, we hope to add annual events to provide an opportunity for our residents to come together to celebrate our beautiful City.

At the first meeting, the Society of Ceres Beautification Committee set forth our vision to build community by means of preservation, education and beautification of the flora of the City of Belle Meade. Our focus will be on sustainability, education, community and, of course beautification. To paraphrase one of our members, Michael Dixon, "The beauty we enjoy can only remain perpetual with thoughtful volunteerism." We are grateful to our members for the donation of their time and expertise.

The new Society of Ceres Beautification Committee Members are: Cathy Altenbern, City Commissioner; Caroline Stevens, a horticultural enthusiast who is an expert in invasive and native plant species; Carolyn Sorenson, a 30-year resident of Belle Meade and Executive Director of the Nashville Tree Foundation; Carter Dawson, Volunteer Coordinator for Weed Wrangle® Nashville, Gavin Duke, Principal Landscape Architect at Page Duke Landscape Architects; Jill Debona, a 16-year resident of Belle Meade with a passion for organic and pesticide-free vegetable gardening and neighborhood gardens; Laura Katherine Wood, Chair, a Six Sigma Blackbelt and Project Manager; Lisa Ellis, a 12-year resident of Belle Meade who enjoys the challenges and rewards of perennial gardening; Martha Phipps, a passionate gardener with an interest in the gardens that surround our beautiful city; Michael Dixon, an enthusiastic, lifelong gardener and fortunate owner of a historically significant and recently refreshed Belle Meade home and Seth Stewart, a 15-year resident of Belle Meade who enjoys gardening. We are honored to have as our advisor Peter Grimaldi, who is Vice-President of Gardens and Facilities at Cheekwood.

Throughout the upcoming year, our members will be writing articles for the *Belle Meade Living* magazine and the City newsletter around each of their specialties, as well as articles about the history of the Society of Ceres. If you have any past Ceres

publications, old copies of Nashville Seasons, or historical information around the organization, please email [SocietyofCeres@gmail.com](mailto:SocietyofCeres@gmail.com). We would love to hear from you!

We are thrilled to have a Beautification Committee with such knowledge and passion for our City!

*-- Laura Katherine Wood, Beautification Committee Chair*