



**MAYOR • Rusty Moore VICE-MAYOR • Haley Dale COMMISSIONERS:**  
**Louise Bryan • Neal Clayton • Tom Starkey • Jennifer Moody, City Manager • Chuck Williams, Chief of Police**

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

## NEWSLETTER TO RESIDENTS OF BELLE MEADE FEBRUARY 2025

### HARDING PIKE SIDEWALK UPDATE



With 95% project funding from a grant award under the Tennessee Department of Transportation, the City of Belle Meade is currently working with engineers to complete a new portion of sidewalk that will be on the east side of Harding Pike connecting pedestrians from the intersection with Belle Meade Blvd into existing sidewalk just past the Hillwood Blvd/Lynwood Blvd intersection. The new sidewalk will be 5 feet in width and comply with the Americans for Disabilities Act, including providing a new crosswalk at

the Lynwood Blvd intersection with pedestrian signals and push buttons that provide audible tones to alert pedestrians when it is safe to cross. The project has recently completed the first of four project phases, environmental, cultural, and historic reviews. During that process, the final result is that the city's project is not expected to have any adverse or harmful impacts on surrounding environment, such as Richland Creek, nor the cultural assets, including Belle Meade's stone walls, St. George's and City Hall. The City should receive notice to proceed with engineering design in the very near future. Construction is anticipated for 2026.



**Safely Dispose of Unwanted or Expired Prescriptions** Residents may conveniently and safely discard any unused, unwanted or expired medicines at the Belle Meade Police Department. This drug take-back box is part of a nationwide program to help make sure that prescriptions stay out of the hands of children and that they are not flushed or poured down drains where they could contribute to contaminating drinking water. Currently, there are 355 take-back boxes throughout the state of Tennessee and all 95 counties are participating in this program.

**HOURS:** The lobby at Belle Meade Police Department is open to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days each week. The medicine drop box (see photo) is located inside the Police Department's lobby at 4705 Harding Pike, immediately next door to Belle Meade City Hall.

Accepted Items:	Items Not Accepted:
Prescriptions	Illegal drugs and narcotics
Over the counter medications	Sharps/needles
Pet medications	Thermometers
Medicated ointment, lotions or drops	IV bags
Liquid Medications (in leak-proof containers)	Bloody or Infectious waste
Inhalers	Personal Care products (shampoo, lotions, etc.)
Pills in any packaging (glass or plastic bottles, plastic bags, or other)	



community event. Individuals will be limited to no more than 8 boxes

**FREE COMMUNITY SHRED DAY – SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025 from 9am to 12 noon at City Hall.** Bring all your paper documents for shredding at this

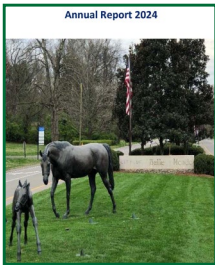
or bags as this event is open only to residents, not businesses. Boxes will not be shredded, only their paper contents. You do not need to remove paperclips or staples. PAPER ONLY - absolutely no batteries, no computers, no tablets will be accepted. This service is for the shredding of confidential paper records, such as credit card statements, old checks, tax returns, to help prevent identity theft or fraud.

# Belle Meade Newsletter



**BEAUTIFICATION CONTINUES AT NEW “CALDWELL MEADOW”** Many residents have commented on how nice, clean and open the newly cleared land looks just below the bridge at Hillwood Blvd. This work has been made possible due to the combined generosity of the Caldwell family, who donated nearly 2 acres for conservation of greenspace in Belle Meade, and to the generosity of our residents who continue to support and make

contributions to our city’s Beautification Fund (Society of Ceres). After soliciting bids, Landscape Services Inc. (LSI) has been hard at work cutting vines, trimming out vegetation, and carefully keeping all larger caliper trees. In the next phase, the City intends to continue clearing out the remaining length of the property with road frontage along Harding Pike. Then, in the spring, the City intends to work with landscape architect Gavin Duke, who provided the design concept for this property in-kind as a member of the City’s Beautification Committee, to select magnolia trees that will be planted on the property to help create a consistent landscaping pattern that both matches existing areas along Richland Creek and the beautiful grounds of the Belle Meade Historic Site. Additionally, the intent behind having a consistent landscaping pattern for our community is that it can serve to help identify the city limits with landscaping elements providing the visual cues for where the City of Belle Meade begins and ends.



**2024 ANNUAL REPORTS** Now that we have successfully wrapped up the end of 2024, the City staff would like to invite you to review our annual reports. We have a 2024 year-in-review that summarizes all of the major legislative actions taken by the Board of Commissioners as well as lists all major projects of each service area of the City of Belle Meade. For

instance, City Commissioners had a landmark year passing fifteen Ordinances in 2024, with a major highlight being the adoption of a new Zoning Code and Zoning Map for the City of Belle Meade. Additionally, the Belle Meade Police Chief has provided an annual report highlighting the year’s successes in police operations and our city’s Planning Director provided a year-in-review summary of all building activities. These documents are available for your review on the city’s homepage at [www.citybellemeade.org](http://www.citybellemeade.org).

## Volunteers Needed! WEED WRANGLE AT BELLE MEADE’S CALDWELL MEADOW

Mark your calendars. Weed Wrangle® 2025 is coming to Nashville on Saturday March 1st! This year, Belle Meade’s newly minted Caldwell Meadow will be an official Weed Wrangle® site, which means you have the opportunity to join other volunteers in improving a special piece of our community.

What is Weed Wrangle® you ask? Weed Wrangle® is a grassroots, volunteer initiative which started 10 years ago by the Garden Club of Nashville, a member of the Garden Club of America. Their mission is “to establish partnerships that connect volunteers and public lands for the purpose of education and eradication of non-native invasive plant species followed with the planned restoration of native plant communities.”

**SIGN UP at [HandsOn.UnitedWayGreaterNashville.org](http://HandsOn.UnitedWayGreaterNashville.org)**

Over the past five years in Tennessee alone, Weed Wrangle® has averaged over 60 sites per year and has logged over 30,000 volunteer hours, removed approximately 150,300 invasive plants and replanted 2,200 native plants and trees! WOW! Volunteers register through Hands On Nashville and select a Weed Wrangle® site anywhere in the city. It is a wonderful opportunity for community involvement, while giving back to our city and our environment!

Many invasive plant species, such as privet and bush honeysuckle, have taken hold in Middle Tennessee and are harming our native ecosystems. Invasive plants choke out our native plant

species which also affects animal and insect populations and increasing the risk of wildfire. Invasives alter the appearance of public spaces, including those set aside for the enjoyment and recreation of all Nashville residents. Invasive plants introduced in this region decades ago for agricultural or landscaping purposes are now a serious concern for our parks, our public green spaces and even our own backyards.

The objective is not just to remove these invasive species from our public lands, but also to educate volunteers as to the importance of this mission so they in turn will use these practices when managing their own yards and properties. We are so fortunate to have Invasive Plant Control, LLC, a world-renown leader in invasive plant management, headquartered here in Nashville! IPC has been a wonderful professional resource to host sites and help to take the Weed Wrangle® movement to a national level. While Weed Wrangle® was started just ten years ago, the mission has spread nationally to 27 states! Many other cities like Washington, D.C., New Orleans, Dallas and Houston are joining in the fight against invasive plants through Weed Wrangle®.

Want to participate in the 2025 Weed Wrangle® Belle Meade site? Mark your Calendar for Saturday March 1st, 9-11am and go to Hands on Nashville to officially register. All you need to do on March 1st is show up at City Hall with a pair of clippers or loppers. There will be extra clippers, if you forget your own. We will walk across Harding Pike as a group for safety. Peter Grimaldi, Advisor to the Belle Meade Beautification Committee and Vice President of Gardens at Cheekwood Gardens, will teach us how to identify invasive species and lead our group effort. This is a wonderful way to take care of the environment and give back to the community. We hope you join us!

## GOOD NEIGHBOR REMINDERS – STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION TIPS

The City of Belle Meade has two drainage systems—the sanitary sewer system and storm drain system. The storm drain system is designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from streets and residences. Storm water flows through the storm drain system carrying water and debris straight from the residences, streets, and parking lots to our streams and rivers. Because storm water is not treated, it has the unintended function of carrying pollution into our streams and rivers. Polluted storm water contaminates our streams and rivers, harms aquatic life, and increases the risk of flooding. Sediment, yard wastes, over watering yards, pet wastes, and garden chemicals mixed with storm water pollutes our streams and rivers. Specifically, when it rains fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides are washed off of lawns and landscaped areas and enter our waterways. These chemicals not only kill garden pests but can also harm useful insects, poison fish, and contaminate ground and surface waters. Leaves, grass clippings, and tree trimmings that are swept or blown

into the streets and gutters also cause storm water pollution. These wastes clog catch basins, causing flooding of roads and streets.

### The following are some tips that Belle Meade residents can use to prevent stormwater pollution:

- Do not overwater the lawns. Conserve water by using irrigation practices such as drip irrigation, soaked hoses, or micro-spray systems.
- Leaves and other yard clippings should be placed in paper bags and set at the road edge for pickup during your designated collection day.
- Compost clippings at home and use compost around plants.
- Do not blow or rake leaves into streets, gutters or storm drains.
- Use organic or non-toxic fertilizers.
- Do not over-fertilize. Do not fertilize near ditches, streams, or other bodies of water.



## RECAP OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS

The Commissioners took action on the following items at the, **January 15, 2025** meeting:



- Chief Williams presented Officer David Read with an Outstanding Service Award in recognition of his exemplary commitment to deterring unsafe driving. In 2024, he issued 1,268 citations in Belle Meade and was recognized by the Tennessee Highway Safety Office with the top speed enforcement award for all of Middle Tennessee.
- Chief Williams presented the Police Department's 2024 Annual Report.
- Approved an annual service agreement with SkyCop, Inc. totalling \$29,042.99 to support the law enforcement camera system.
- Approved Task Order No.1, not to exceed \$7,500, with LDA Engineering for evaluation of the city's sewer odor and erosion control program.
- Planning Director Mary Samaniego presented the 2024 Annual Report on building activities in the City of Belle Meade.
- Approved Resolution No. 2025-01 amending Resolution No. 2022-05 Establishing Amounts of Fees to be Charged to the City of Belle Meade for Permit Applications and other Fees. This Resolution effectively added a new fee for a new, voluntary inspection service that will give residents the option to use the City of Belle Meade's Building Inspector to conduct required annual maintenance inspections of the stormwater control measures on their properties. The intent is to assist out residents in keeping compliant with recorded long-term maintenance agreements on their lots.
- Received a presentation of financial statements and investment schedules from Finance Director Leigh Mills, reviewed all checks issued in December, and approved all invoices over \$5,000.
- The Board of Commissioners' next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 19th at 4:00 p.m.

## FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF CHUCK WILLIAMS



**OFFICER DALE CORTER** retired from the Belle Meade Police Department on January 20, 2025, after over 38 years in law enforcement. He began his career at the Belle Meade Police Department on September 22, 2008, and worked for the Vanderbilt Police Department from 1986 to 2008. We wish Dale a very happy retirement!

**WHAT TO DO WITH UNWANTED FIREARMS?** Recently, we had a family member of a resident call to ask what could be done with unwanted firearms after their loved one passed. One way to properly dispose of them is to bring them to the Belle Meade Police Department. The Belle Meade Police Department can accept these as donations to the police department and use them to trade for other firearms for our officers. If you are interested or have questions, don't hesitate to contact Chief Williams at [cwilliams@citybellemead.org](mailto:cwilliams@citybellemead.org) for more detail on what steps can be taken to complete this process.

## CERES SOCIETY DONATIONS – JANUARY 2025

**OAK SOCIETY-\$1,000 or more**  
Mr. & Mrs. Rusty Moore

**MAGNOLIA SOCIETY-\$500-\$999**  
Mr. Thomas Chapman  
Mr. & Mrs. Todd Glisson  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Riley

Mr. & Mrs. Blair Wilson

**TULIP SOCIETY-\$250-\$499**  
Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Vaughn

# *Belle Meade Newsletter*

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS FEBRUARY & MARCH 2025 All Meetings Held at Belle Meade City Hall

### Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, February 19th at 4:00 pm  
Wednesday, March 19th at 4:00 pm

### Historic Zoning Commission

Tuesday, February 11th at 3:00 pm  
Tuesday, March 11th at 3:00 pm

### Municipal Planning Commission

Tuesday, February 18th at 4:00 pm  
Tuesday, March 18th at 4:00 pm

### Board of Zoning Appeals

Tuesday, February 18th at 5:00 pm  
Tuesday, March 18th at 5:00 pm

**Agendas are available online at  
[www.citybellemeade.org](http://www.citybellemeade.org)**

## REMINDERS:

**CITY HALL will be CLOSED Monday, February 17 for  
PRESIDENTS' DAY**

**JOIN THE "NO SOLICITORS" LIST** Belle Meade residents may sign up to add their address to a "No Knock" list to stop door-to-door solicitations from businesses. To sign up online, please visit the Belle Meade Police Department's webpage at [citybellemeade.org/police-department/](http://citybellemeade.org/police-department/) and scroll to the bottom, where you may submit your name and address to join the registry. If you prefer, please call to be added to the list at Belle Meade City Hall, 615-297-6041, Monday through Friday, 8am to 4pm.

Remember that your **Property Tax Bill, both Real and Personal**, personal property taxes are paid on businesses on which you use your home address as the base of operation, are due by February 28. If you mail by the US Postal Service you will need to make sure it is post marked no later than **February 28**. All tax bills received after February 28 will incur a 2% penalty beginning March 1, and the first of every month an additional 2% will be added until the bill is paid. You may pay online at [https://paycitybellemeade.us/payTaxes.html#/\\_](https://paycitybellemeade.us/payTaxes.html#/) by echeck or credit card; you may also drop your payment in the green drop box located by the main entrance to City Hall. Please note, if you pay late and do not pay the penalty you will remain delinquent until the penalty fee is paid. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our City Recorder, Rusty Terry, at 615-491-1645 or by email at [rterry@citybellemeade.org](mailto:rterry@citybellemeade.org).

CITY OF BELLE MEADE  
4705 Harding Road  
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

return service requested