



**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 MAY 2025

### BELLE MEADE POLICE GIVE OUTSTANDING RESPONSE DURING APRIL FLOODING



Chief Williams photo from flooding

#### **Police, Dispatchers, and Public Works honored for their service with David and Cindy Wilds Awards**

On April 3, 2025, the City of Belle Meade experienced massive flooding, which caused many streets to experience dangerous rising water. Belle Meade Police Officers and Public Works had to close roadways and assist people who had tried to drive through these flooded streets. Officers went door to door on Forsythe Place to alert homeowners of the rising creek and encourage evacuation. Several officers were called in with a moment's notice to assist with this flooding event.

At 5:35 a.m., a call came into dispatch about a man trapped on the roof of his vehicle in the floodwaters calling for help. Chief Williams was out surveying the roadways in his vehicle and heard the call over the radio. With a life potentially in danger, he immediately responded to the area near the indoor tennis courts on Harding Place. Additionally, a Belle Meade resident, George Hetzel, was present offering help when Chief arrived on the scene. They worked together to use Hetzel's larger SUV to get closer to the stranded man. Chief Williams threw a life vest to Mr. Pishko Tofiq, instructed him how to put it on, and then was able to pull

him to safety. The man remarked that he had survived civil war in his home country and never expected to find himself in danger like this while expressing how grateful he was that his life was saved from these floodwaters. Thankfully, all police vehicles have been equipped with water rescue kits since the 2010 floods.

Again, on April 5, 2025, the City of Belle Meade experienced a severe storm that caused many trees to fall, leaving much of the city without power and many streets unpassable. Belle Meade Officers and Public Works responded to many locations in the city, blocking roadways, cutting down fallen trees, and reporting downed wires that were still live to NES. The ability of our officers, dispatchers, and public works staff to work cooperatively, including with NES and Tennessee Highway Patrol, was critical to ensuring the safety of Belle Meade residents and enabled quick and successful response to these storms.

#### **COMMISSIONERS SEEKING MEMBERS FOR A SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CITY COMMUNICATIONS**

City leaders are seeking volunteers to serve on a special committee tasked with reviewing all methods of distributing notices to Belle Meade residents to make recommendations to the Commissioners for improvement. Committee members will work directly with the City Manager. If you have particular expertise and interest in this effort, please provide your name and a brief description of background to City Manager Jennifer Moody at [jmoody@citybellemeade.org](mailto:jmoody@citybellemeade.org) or 615-297-6041.

### FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF CHUCK WILLIAMS



#### **AED NOW IN LOBBY AT CITY HALL**

We recently moved an AED from the Police Department into the main lobby of City Hall. This allows the AED to be accessed by any person in the building in the event of an emergency. It is located immediately outside the Board Room at City Hall and will be on your right as you enter the building. Commissioners recommended this improvement during their annual retreat in February.



AED in lobby

#### **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ALERT: Beware Scammers Falsely Claiming to be Belle Meade Officers**

Recently, a Bellevue resident contacted Belle Meade to verify whether a call was legitimate. Someone had left her a voicemail saying they

were one of Belle Meade's officers. The name given was an active employee; however, they had not made the call. It was a scam.

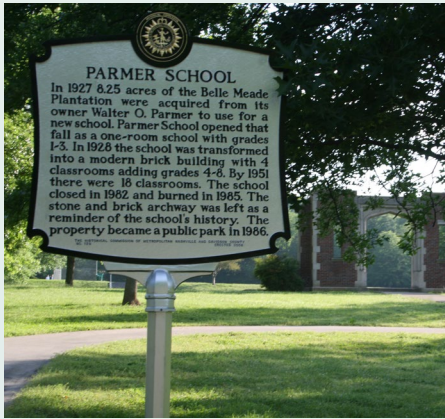
Scam artists often impersonate police officers on the phone to trick individuals into providing personal information or paying fake fines. These scams typically involve threats of arrest or legal consequences if payments aren't made immediately. Scammers may use caller ID spoofing to make it appear they're calling from a legitimate law enforcement agency. They may demand payment through various methods, including money orders, gift cards, or cryptocurrency. Actual Police Officers do not take any form of payment.

If you ever need to confirm that the call is legitimate, please call our 24/7/365 dispatch at 615-297-0241, and the dispatcher will assist you in that confirmation.



AED close up

## EXPLORING BELLE MEADE HISTORY: A History of Parmer Park



Parmer Park, located at the corner of Leake Avenue and Park Hill Drive in Belle Meade, is named in honor of Walter Oliver Parmer (1855–1932). A prominent figure in Tennessee’s agricultural and business history, Parmer purchased the Belle Meade Plantation in 1916, relocating his thoroughbred horse breeding operation from Gallatin Road. He lived there until his death in 1932.

Born in Greenville, Alabama, Parmer moved to Williamson County in 1883. There he operated a 107-acre livestock farm and co-owned Parmer & Lyle, a mule business in downtown Nashville, from 1885 to 1910. He also played a role in establishing a horse racetrack in Windsor, Ontario, alongside George M. Hendrie and John W. Price. In his business career, Parmer served as a director for both the North Carolina & St. Louis Railroad and the Fort Myers–Southern Railroad and was a finance committee member at the American National Bank of Nashville. From 1916 to 1932, he also owned Palm Cottage in Naples, Florida.

In 1927, after Belle Meade residents petitioned the Davidson County School Board, a one-room clapboard schoolhouse was opened on land donated by Walter Parmer. The school initially served grades one through three, taught by Mrs. Mary B. Smith. In 1928, a modern brick building was constructed, expanding to four classrooms for grades one through eight under the leadership of Miss Lucille Talley. By 1952, enrollment had grown to 507 students, and the school featured a library, clinic, office, and a lunchroom with a stage. The Bill Waterfield Library, founded by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Waterfield in memory of their son, housed 2,000 books and served as a vital resource for the school. The Parmer School was also a hub of neighborhood activity, hosting events like a Talent Show, Field Day, and the traditional May Pole Dance. Fundraisers—including a Spaghetti Supper, Spring Carnival, Cake Walks, and the Red, White, and Blue Elephant Sale—helped support the school's sports teams and library.

As enrollment declined to just over 80 students, the school closed in 1982. In 1985, the building was destroyed in a suspected arson fire. That same year, the Parmer School Park Association was formed to preserve the property. In 1986, the land was officially designated Parmer Park. The stone and brick archway that still stands today once served as the school’s entrance. In 2008, a historical marker was installed to commemorate the site’s rich history.

## INAUGURAL CHEEKWOOD COMMUNITY CELEBRATION – Summer Celebration from June 3-7, 2025



Cheekwood’s new event will feature half-price admission, music, a movie night and more for all to enjoy. Each day of the celebration has a theme and is filled with special programming for guests of all ages. Iconic Nashville cultural institutions will offer activities, Grammy

Award winner Rodney Crowell will perform, a movie night in the gardens will feature "The Princess Bride," a Beatles tribute band will take the stage, Cheekwood Gardening School Classes will be offered for just \$5, and much more.

Cheekwood’s blockbuster summer exhibition Enchanted Castles is happening concurrently and invites the young and young at heart to discover five stunning, locally crafted playhouses nestled among lush summer blooms. Members will receive free daytime admission and discounted evening special event tickets. Non-members receive half-price admission. For more information, visit [cheekwood.org](http://cheekwood.org).

Cheekwood summer



## CREWS AT WORK IN BELLE MEADE REPLACING STREET SIGN POSTS – All Stop and Yield Sign Posts to be Replaced

Belle Meade residents will see a crew with Jarvis Sign removing and replacing the stop signs and yield signs at all intersections in the City of Belle Meade with new black metal posts and black

back plates framing the signs. This upgrade creates consistency and matches with the City’s existing streetname signs and posts, the black iron on the city’s bridges, and light fixtures. The total value of this project, inclusive of both labor and materials, is approximately \$88,000. The City is considering replacing the posts for all speed limit signs as a potential capital project for the next fiscal year. The proposed annual budget for next year, July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025, is currently under review by City Commissioners.

Cheekwood summer

## CERES SOCIETY DONATIONS – APRIL 2025

### OAK SOCIETY-\$1,000 or more

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Taylor

### MAGNOLIA SOCIETY-\$500-\$999

Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Crumbo

Mrs. Kay Horrell

In Memory of Steve Horrell

### TULIP SOCIETY-\$250-\$499

Mr. & Mrs. J. Banks Link

### AMERICAN FLAG SPONSORSHIP

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Lee Smith

### *In Memory of:*

*Thomas Gayleon Andrews, Jr*

*Clark Thomas Reed*

*Robert Weeks Kitchel*

*William R. Wills, II*



## ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH HOSTS ANNUAL FARMERS MARKET EACH THURSDAY, May - August 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm OPENING DAY MAY 8TH!

## CERES SOCIETY HOSTS 3RD ANNUAL GARDEN VISITS MAY 17, 2025

Belle Meade garden enthusiasts are cordially invited to meander through luscious gardens and verdant vignettes in Belle Meade and meet the owners whose thumbprints are beautifully reflected in a variety of plants and designs.

Garden Visits are open to Belle Meade residents

and their guests. For descriptions of this year's host gardens, please visit the city's website, scan the QR code with your phone or follow links for Ceres Society from your phone using the Belle Meade Connect app (the app's icon looks like the City's logo).



**3RD ANNUAL**  
CITY OF BELLE MEADE'S SOCIETY OF CERES PRESENTS  
**2025**  
**GARDEN Visits**  
APRIL 26 FROM 1-3PM  
GARDENS OF JOELLYN AND ERIC HELMAN AND VICKI AND KERRY MCCLUGGAGE  
MAY 17 FROM 10AM - 12PM  
GARDENS OF ASHLEY AND JOE HOWELL AND JEANNE AND GINO MARCHETTI  
Garden Visits are open to Belle Meade residents and their guests.  
Information and registration at <https://citybellemeade.org/ceres-society/ceres-events/> or scan the code.  
A donation of \$20 is requested per person for each Garden Visits event.



## GOOD NEIGHBOR REMINDER

Lawn care and landscaping services should be reminded not to block access to the street with their vehicles and equipment while working. Grass clippings and other yard debris should not be blown into the street. Littering of our city streets in this way will be enforced as a violation of Belle Meade Municipal Code § 16-107. Lawn trimmings and grass blown into the roadway can create a safety hazard and block or clog storm drains. Please keep grass clippings on your property for mulching or consider bagging them for collection and disposal.

Specifically for our residents with a sewer grinder pump, we ask to please make your lawn or landscaping crews aware of the location of the green grinder tank lid to so they may avoid causing any damage from mowing equipment.

The City provides a weekly brush and chipper service that is contracted for roadside collection of bagged leaves and clippings, small limbs and normal yard debris. The service contract does not

include the pickup or removal of large trees that have been cut down on private properties, which is the homeowner's responsibility. Please do not dispose of yard waste with your household garbage and it is not accepted in the dumpsters behind City Hall.



## TREE REMOVAL PERMITS REQUIRED

With the warm weather finally here, residents may be considering removal of a tree close to the house or utility lines. The City of Belle Meade adopted a "[TREE ORDINANCE](#)", Ordinance 2019-11, establishing tree management and protection standards for all private properties. **A Tree Removal Permit Application is required prior to the removal of any tree.** In many instances, based on the type and size of the tree, replacement trees may be required to be planted. Please make local tree service companies that are unfamiliar with the Belle Meade aware of this tree removal permit requirement. For questions or additional information, contact Mary Samaniego - Planning Director at Belle Meade City Hall 615-297-6041.

## RECAP OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS

The Commissioners took action on the following items at the, **April 16, 2025** meeting:

- Approved a Permit for Cheekwood's annual Classic Car Parade for Sunday, June 15, 2025.
- Received special presentations of Outstanding Service Awards to Officer Tyler Parrish for his actions to quickly address a fire at St. George's Church; to all officers, dispatchers, and public works staff for their actions in response to the April flooding; and to Police Chief Charles Williams for his actions to rescue a stranded motorist during the April flooding.
- Received a special presentation on the proposed design of intersection and signal improvements at Harding Place and Belle Meade Boulevard and approved design subject to a list of changes and additional information to be considered in the development of a final design.
- Approved a proposal with Gibbs Brothers, totaling \$21,436, for parking area improvements to support the addition of a new shop door at Public Works Garage.
- Approved Task Order no.1 with Neel-Schaffer, Inc. to support the city's annual street paving and stripping program in a total amount not to exceed \$12,000.
- Commissioners confirmed the mayoral appointments to an ad hoc advisory committee on the Belle Meade Boulevard beautification and pedestrian safety project.
- Approved six (6) surplus patrol vehicles to be sold online via public auction.
- Approved a grant application to the Tennessee Highway Safety Office (THSO) for traffic safety support for FY 2026 in a total amount of \$55,000 for Belle Meade Police Department.
- Received a monthly report from the City Manager, including a review of the status of all capital and grant projects.
- Received a presentation of financial statements and investment schedules from Finance Director Leigh Mills, reviewed all checks issued in February, and approved all invoices over \$5,000.
- Approved a request for the City of Belle Meade to sponsor an application to the Tennessee Historical Commission and financially support a Historic Marker for the Jackson Boulevard bridge.
- Approved rescheduling the May board meeting to Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.
- The Board of Commissioners' next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 14th at 4:00 p.m.

# *Belle Meade Newsletter*

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS MAY & JUNE 2025

All Meetings Held at Belle Meade City Hall

### Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, May 14th at 4:00 pm  
\*\*\*please note rescheduled date\*\*\*  
Wednesday, June 18th at 4:00 pm

### Historic Zoning Commission

Tuesday, May 13th at 3:00 pm  
Tuesday, June 10th at 3:00 pm

### Municipal Planning Commission

Tuesday, May 20th at 4:00 pm  
Tuesday, June 17th at 4:00 pm

### Board of Zoning Appeals

Tuesday, May 20th at 5:00 pm  
Tuesday, June 17th at 5:00 pm

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

## REMINDERS:

### CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED FOR A CITY HOLIDAY ON MONDAY, MAY 26, 2025

**Are Your Taxes Paid?** If you operate a business out of your home or use your home address for business purposes you received a Personal Property Tax Invoice in October. There are currently 3 outstanding Personal Property Tax Invoices.

**Real Property Tax** Invoice payments were due on February 28, 2025, for the 2024 Property Taxes. Currently we still have 21 outstanding payments, if you have not paid the property tax bill on your home please take advantage of our E-Check payment option on our website.

CITY OF BELLE MEADE  
4705 Harding Road  
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

return service requested