



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

## NEWSLETTER TO RESIDENTS OF BELLE MEADE MARCH 2026

*Amazing is the best word I can use to describe the response of the City of Belle Meade to the recent devastating winter storm. Our City Manager, Jennifer Moody, Police Chief, Chuck Williams, and our Public Works Director, Nathan McVay, were absolutely outstanding. City personnel, police officers and our Chief literally slept at City Hall. We should be proud the accomplishment of leading the City through this unprecedented event. Here are some key facts:*

*Our City Manager posted a Storm Update every single day (sometimes more than once a day) to provide residents with information and resources.*

*Despite the fact that phone service was down and City Hall had no power, our Police Department Dispatch was never down.*

*Within 48 hours of the storm, our main thoroughfares were open to traffic and open for emergency response vehicles . . . even NES trucks. Let me be clear that this was accomplished with the help of community volunteers with trucks, chainsaws and strong backs!*

*Within 4 days all homes were accessible by emergency response vehicles.*

*Our Police Officers continued to patrol the neighborhood with solid blue lights. We did not have one reported incident of home invasion or theft.*

*Our Police Officers conducted wellness checks for residents throughout the City.*

*By Wednesday morning our City Manager provided a location list to NES of all downed poles and trees with power lines on them.*

*Our officers and public works personnel assisted over 50*

*residents with water turn-off to help protect their homes.*

*Our Public Works Department pumped out over 65 grinder pump sewer tanks to prevent dangerous overfilling.*

*Our Belle Meade Commissioners met daily for a briefing from our City Manager, Police Chief and Public Works Director.*

*We worked with our State Representative, Caleb Hemmer, our State Senator, Heidi Campbell, and our Metro Council Member, Thom Druffel, to secure assistance from Tennessee Department of Transportation and the National Guard.*

*With all the successes, we were also "in the dark" as it relates to the city-wide power outage. We worked with the NES governmental affairs liaison to inform them of the unique nature of our sewer system and got that message to NES through a number of channels including Mayor O'Connell's office. The lack of information of any kind, much less detailed information from NES was a weakness. As one of the last residents to have power restored, I share the frustration with the response to this natural disaster.*

*Be assured, Belle Meade will internally evaluate our response and we will establish a pro-active communication with NES to "fix" the oddities in their system that make it so hard to restore power.*

*Again, I could not be more proud of our City's response. I hope residents will take the opportunity to thank our personnel for their outstanding work on our behalf.*

*Rusty Moore  
Mayor – City of Belle Meade*

### FREE COMMUNITY SHRED DAY –

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026** from 9am to Noon at Belle Meade City Hall. Bring all your paper documents for shredding at this community event. Individuals will be limited to no more than 8 boxes or bags. This event is only open to residents, please no 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 helps prevent identity theft and fraud by properly disposing of confidential paper records, such as credit card statements, old checks, tax returns.



### Native Plant Sale at Cheekwood

April 11 | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. or until plants are sold out



The Garden Club of Nashville's 19th Annual Native Plant Sale in the Frist Learning Center will feature a variety of native plants, flowers and shrubs, including the Garden Club of America's Native Plant of the Year, Vernonia lettermannii, or Iron Butterfly. Proceeds benefit The Howe Garden at Cheekwood. For the best selection of plants, guests are encouraged to arrive early.

**For more information Spring Events at Cheekwood, visit [cheekwood.org](http://cheekwood.org).** (Photo

by Warner Tidwell courtesy of Cheekwood Estate and Gardens)



## RESTORING BELLE MEADE

On Friday, January 23, and continuing into Monday, January 26, 2026, a widespread, major winter storm brought dangerous sleet, freezing rain, snow, and extreme cold temperatures. Twenty-four (24) state governors issued emergency declarations, including Tennessee. Estimates report nearly 1 inch of ice accumulation across the South causing many homes and businesses to lose power.

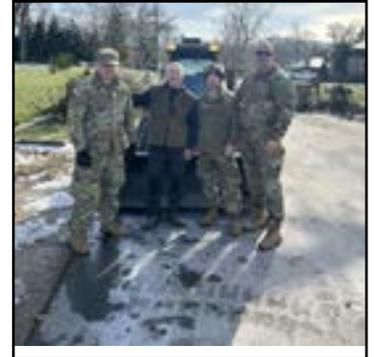
As a result of the storm, FEMA approved disaster assistance that may reimburse Davidson County for some qualifying disaster-related costs. In total, the government entities and certain nonprofit organizations that support response and recovery efforts in 23 counties in Tennessee are approved for FEMA assistance. At this time, FEMA has not approved assistance for individuals impacted by the storm.

Fully restoring Belle Meade's streets, public right-of-way areas, landscaping, irrigation systems, streetlights, and other public assets is likely to continue in the weeks and months ahead. To-date, the City has incurred nearly \$1 million in disaster related expenditures. The City Manager will present a budget amendment to Commissioners at their March meeting to consider use of city reserves or "rainy day

funds" to cover the unforeseen expenditures related to this natural disaster. It is unknown at this point whether any FEMA funding will reimburse a portion of these expenses.

This disaster brought about unprecedented coordination and communication with our neighboring cities and governmental agencies. We want to thank our State Senator Heidi Campbell, State Representative Caleb Hemmer, the Tennessee National Guard, the Metro Nashville Mayor's Office, Metro Water Services, Metro Parks Department, Metro Nashville's Department of Transportation, the City of Springfield, the City of Forest Hills, and City of Oak Hill for support and assistance during the event and recovery. Thank you most to our residents for your resilience and the generosity towards city staff and contractors during recovery efforts. We all look forward to services being back on regular schedule.

Beginning the week of March 2, 2026, brush and chipper services will attempt to run regular routes while the contracted vendor finishes up collection of the remaining large debris piles. Again, thank you for your patience as we intend for debris removal to be complete by end of March. Then, we can begin the final phase of our recovery efforts by repairing any remaining damage along streets, right-of-way areas, and Belle Meade Boulevard medians.



National Guard on Nichol Ln

## 2025 Year-In-Review: Ceres Society of Belle Meade



As the new year begins, it's a natural time for both reflection on the year past and anticipation for the year ahead. We do so in gratitude for all the contributors to the Society of Ceres have enabled in our community. This work has included the completion of the first phase of the Caldwell Meadow, a campaign to limb up evergreen trees along Belle Meade Boulevard in partnership with Public Works, the replacement of a dead tree in the Sunnyside landscaping island, organizing a Weed Wrangle in Caldwell Meadow, and hosting two Garden Walk days with four notable Belle Meade gardens.

Within Stroll this year, you have heard from many of us on the Society of Ceres Beautification Committee on several horticultural and

community topics. This year we also introduced a new article format titled "What's Blooming in Belle Meade" to bring you inspiration in the form of plants that are currently at their best in the community. We hope this inspires you to add some of these plants to your garden. We also answer gardener questions and provide a timely checklist of garden maintenance activities for the month.

Our committee looks forward to continuing to bring beauty to the City of Belle Meade through horticulture. In addition to our mainstay of seasonal plantings, we are excited to invite you to two separate days of Garden Walks, an inaugural Plant Swap, and more horticultural reading in Stroll.

Happy New Year 2026 from your Beautification Committee!!93

## GOOD NEIGHBOR REMINDERS:

### Benefiting our Creeks and Waterways

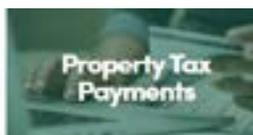
Stormwater runoff is water that runs off or flows over the ground after a rainstorm. This water picks up debris, chemicals, soil, yard waste, fertilizer, motor oil and other pollutants. Storm water is carried into retention ponds or directly into local waterways through storm drains that eventually reach our creeks and rivers.

### What Can You Do

Next column is a list of items you can do to help reduce stormwater pollution:

- ✓ Clean up after your pets.
- ✓ Use slow-release fertilizers and herbicides. Do not apply fertilizers near waterways or paved surfaces.
- ✓ Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids.
- ✓ Dispose of unwanted hazardous household chemicals properly. Take them to a hazardous waste drop off location.
- ✓ Keep stormwater curbs, swales and drains free of debris and trash.
- ✓ Clean up spilled fluids with kitty litter or sand. Don't rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain.
- ✓ Bag your grass clippings from your driveway, sidewalk and street.

## GREEN DROP BOX



Save your stamps and drop payments off any time using the green drop box to the left of the main entrance to Belle Meade City Hall. We have recently experienced several payments being delayed when traveling through the mail. The drop box is located outside the main doors for your convenience and is checked daily during business hours.



## FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF CHUCK WILLIAMS



### OUTSTANDING SERVICE DURING THE STORM

All employees who worked during Winter Storm Fern did an outstanding job. Several officers and dispatchers were recognized for going above and beyond on February 18th, 2026, at the Board of Commissioners Meeting. Below is part of the narrative for their nomination for Outstanding Service:

Dispatcher Jodi Stepp and Dispatcher Mason Cauthen demonstrated strong forethought and commitment by preparing to remain on duty throughout the entire weekend to maintain staffing and communications. Their decision to remain on-site ensured continuous response capabilities, swift coordination with field teams, and uninter-

rupted support for residents needing assistance.

MPO Mike Germany went door-to-door conducting welfare checks to ensure vulnerable residents were safe, warm, and had what they needed. His personal outreach provided critical reassurance to those isolated by ice, driveway blockages, and power outages.

Sgt. Keith Samol worked with Public Works for hours, cutting off residential water meters as needed to prevent flooding of unattended homes. His hands-on assistance helped minimize property loss and helped an already exhausted public works team.

Congratulations to these award winners, and great job to all involved!

### BELLE MEADE EXPANDS SECURITY CAMERA PROGRAM

Belle Meade Commissioners approved four new security camera locations for installations in 2026. The security camera program, initiated in 2018, has been the most impactful advancement in law enforcement for the City of Belle Meade. The system includes three different types of cameras: 1) License Plate Readers (LPR) capture vehicle tag information in high volume traffic areas; 2) License Plate Cameras (LPC) captures vehicle tag information in low volume traffic areas; and 3) Video Cameras providing continuous video feed of specific areas.

Residents may hear the system often referred to as “SkyCop” because it is controlled by a software program from the company, SkyCop. Most recently, over the past two budget years, the City replaced all of the cameras which had been in service since 2018. Following that project and based upon its proven usefulness at resolving cases, Belle Meade Police requested and were approved to expand the program and will be adding additional video cameras into the community. We are grateful for residents’ continued support for these valuable tools aiding in the City’s goal to protect, preserve and enhance Belle Meade.



## RECAP OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS’ MEETINGS



The Commissioners took action on the following items at the **January 21, 2026** meeting:

- Adopted on the first of two readings an ORDINANCE 2025-13 to Amend Title 14 of the Belle Meade Municipal Code to restrict the provisions for the Front Yard Setbacks
- Adopted on the first of two readings, an ORDINANCE 2025-14 to amend Title 12, Section 103 Modifications to Dwelling Code to require Security Fencing at Demolition and New Construction sites
- Adopted Resolution 2025-10 to Rescind Resolution 2018-02 establishing criteria for the construction of sidewalks at the request of property owners and neighborhood groups
- Received 2025 Annual Reports from the Police Chief and Planning Director
- Approved an Amendment to the Waste Collection Contract with Franklin Disposal, valued at \$4,068.75 for the fiscal year 2026, due to an increase in disposal fees
- Approved a bid award and contract with Nickell Company, LLC, not to exceed \$423,719.57, for construction of traffic calming islands on West Tyne Boulevard and Lynnwood Boulevard
- Received monthly reports from all departments, including monthly and quarterly financial reports, investment schedules, and reviewed monthly check registers for December.

The Commissioners took action on the following items at the **February 18, 2026** meeting:

- Special Presentation of Belle Meade Police Department’s Outstanding Service Awards Recognition for Dispatchers Mason Cauthen and Jodi Stepp, Master Patrol Officer Mike Germany, and Police Sergeant Keith Samol for their extraordinary service during Winter Storm Fern
- Postponed consideration on 2nd reading of an ORDINANCE

2025-13 to Amend Title 14 of the Belle Meade

Municipal Code to restrict the provisions for the Front Yard Setbacks and set a Public Hearing for 4:00 p.m. on March 25th prior to reconsideration of approval at final reading

- Adopted on the 2nd and final reading, an ORDINANCE 2025-14 to amend Title 12, Section 103 Modifications to Dwelling Code to require Security Fencing at Demolition and New Construction sites; the fencing must be black or green and opaque and between 6 feet and 8 feet in height
- Adopted Resolution 2026-01 to Authorize Assistance to Private Residential Property Owners Suffering Damages Due to Winter Storm Fern
- Postponed consideration of Resolution 2026-02 to Establish a Multi-way Stop at the intersection of Belle Meade Boulevard and Tyne Boulevard
- Approved a Permit for St. George’s Church to use Belle Meade Boulevard for overflow parking on Sunday, April 5, 2026
- Approved a bid award and purchase agreement, totaling \$45,347.84, with 10-8 Video for In-Car and Body-Worn Camera Systems for the Belle Meade Police Department
- Approved Amendment No. 4 to a Grant Contract with the State of Tennessee, reducing the amount available for recruitment and retention incentives from \$200,000 to \$50,000 total available during the term ending March 19, 2029.
- Received a 2025 annual report from the City Manager
- Received monthly reports from all departments, including monthly financial reports, investment schedules, and reviewed monthly check registers for January.
- The City Board’s next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 25th at 4:00 p.m.

## CERES SOCIETY DONATIONS – DEC. 2025/JAN. 2026

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

Mr. & Mrs. C. Dale Allen  
Mr. & Mrs. Todd Glisson

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

Mr. & Mrs. David Fitzgerald  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Riley  
Mr. & Mrs. Marc Stengel

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

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Kerr  
Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Ortale

### AMERICAN FLAG SPONSORSHIP

Mr. & Mrs. Marc Stengel

# *Belle Meade Newsletter*

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS

MARCH & APRIL 2026

All Meetings Held at Belle Meade City Hall

### Board of Commissioners

Wednesday, March 25th at 4:00 pm

Wednesday, April 15th at 4:00 pm

Wednesday, April 15th at 2:00 pm a quarterly work session will be held with City Commissioners

### Historic Zoning Commission

Tuesday, March 10th at 3:00 pm

Tuesday, April 14th at 3:00 pm

### Municipal Planning Commission

No Meeting in March

Tuesday, April 14th at 4:30 pm

### Board of Zoning Appeals

Tuesday, March 3rd at 4:30 pm\*

(\*rescheduled from February 17th)

Thursday, March 26th at 4:30 pm\*

(\*rescheduled from March 17th)

Tuesday, April 21st at 4:30 pm

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

## REMINDERS:

### New Schedule for City Boards in 2026

The Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) and Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) will follow new meeting schedules beginning in January 2026. Municipal Planning Commission will meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. and the Board of Zoning Appeals has moved their start time to 4:30 p.m., while it will continue meeting on the third Tuesday of each month. The Belle Meade Historic Zoning Commission (HZC) meets on the second Tuesday each month at 3:00 p.m. All meetings will be held at Belle Meade City Hall unless otherwise noticed.

**Property Taxes were due by February 28, 2024. On March 1st, taxes are considered delinquent and incur an additional 2% interest fine each month until paid. You may pay by e-check, credit card or PayPal utilizing our new online portal at [www.citybellemeade.org](http://www.citybellemeade.org) and, for assistance, contact Belle Meade City Recorder Rusty Terry, [rterry@citybellemeade.org](mailto:rterry@citybellemeade.org) or 615-297-6041.**

CITY OF BELLE MEADE  
4705 Harding Road  
Nashville, Tennessee 37205

return service requested