



**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 JUNE 2026

### PROPOSED ANNUAL CITY BUDGET FOR 2026-2027

The City's annual budget, broadly, is the City's operating plan for the 12-months from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. With approval of the budget document, City Commissioners are authorizing the spending priorities for the upcoming year and allocating tax dollars to various programs and projects. Additionally, the Belle Meade's 5-year capital improvement plan is included in the budget book.

Proposed capital improvement projects for the upcoming fiscal year include repaving of Belle Meade Boulevard, interior renovations to the Belle Meade Police Department, and scheduled vehicle and equipment replacements.

For the upcoming year, the proposed budget is presented with no property tax increase and no additions nor reductions in city personnel. No significant changes to any city services. The proposed budget anticipates significant growth in personnel costs due to a 10.5% increase premiums for the employee medical benefit. This year, the City relied upon recommendations from a compensation study that looked at the market rate for each of the City's positions and recommended a 3% adjustment to all employee salaries. Additionally, the City has increased expenditures to prepare for higher fuel costs, primarily impacting police patrols, and increasing renewal costs for contracted services, including garbage collection, cardboard recycling, and weekly brush and chipper services.

In addition to the city's tax supported services, the City budget funds the Belle Meade Sewer Collection System and Stormwater infrastructure. The funds for these programs are maintained separately from the City's General Fund. Along with consideration of the annual budget, Commissioners have been recommended to approve a 4% increase in the Belle Meade Sewer User Fee for the upcoming year and a 20% increase in the Belle Meade Stormwater

User Fee. The Sewer User Fee has been adjusted by small amounts annually for many years and keeps with the recommendations provided within independent rate studies conducted every five years. The City's stormwater fee is newer and has only been adjusted twice since its inception, with the last increase being in 2022. Stormwater User Fees are used to provide monthly street sweeping, annual creek debris removal services, and complete small drainage projects. The current stormwater fee is not sufficient to support any larger or more proactive stormwater improvement projects and has, in most of the prior years, required use of the City's general fund revenues to cover necessary program expenses. The City Manager is recommending an increase that would allow the program to be self-supporting in the upcoming year. The proposed budget includes a project to conduct a system-wide visual assessment, creating a digital map of the city's stormwater assets while also identifying needed repairs. The results of the assessment will be used to develop a 5-year capital improvement plan for the stormwater system and provide valuable actionable information to support planning for larger investments to address drainage concerns in public rights-of-way in Belle Meade.

City Commissioners have approved the annual budget on the 1st of 2 readings during their May board meeting. A public hearing will be held to hear resident comments on the budget prior to final consideration during the upcoming Board of Commissioners meeting at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, June 17, 2026.

The City of Belle Meade's proposed budget is available by request or on the City's homepage at [citybellemeade.org](http://citybellemeade.org). All residents are encouraged to review and comment on the proposed budget. Past budgets and audited financial reports for prior years are available on the Finance Department webpage at [Citybellemeade.org/Finance](http://Citybellemeade.org/Finance).

### NATIONAL HONORS FOR BELLE MEADE SEWER PROJECT



(Pictured: Taylor Hagood, LDA Engineering, and Nathan McVay, Belle Meade Director of Public Works) On May 5th, at the Grand Hyatt in Washington D.C., Public Works Director Nathan McVay accepted national recognition on behalf of the City of Belle Meade for the recent sewer system digital asset management plan with LDA Engineering. The awards from the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) celebrates the year's most transformative engineering achievements and the professionals who brought them to life. Belle Meade's project notably included digitizing all of the city's sewer assets; bringing the percentage of the City's system available for viewing on digital maps from 0% to 100%. Additionally, the City now has a web-based work order management system and all historical records and work order history for sewer assets can be accessed from tablets while in the

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# Belle Meade Newsletter

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field. This project was primarily funded by a grant award from the State of Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, with infrastructure investment funds available from the State's American Rescue Plan allocation.

Belle Meade was previously awarded with a "Grand" award by the Tennessee chapter of ACEC and Belle Meade was one of seven (7) projects from Tennessee receiving national recognition this year. For more information or to view the Engineering Excellence Award Gala program book, visit: [convention.acec.org/eea-gala/](http://convention.acec.org/eea-gala/)

## CERES SOCIETY DONATIONS – MAY 2026

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

Mr. & Mrs. David Arnholt  
Mr. Michael Dixon & Mr. Brian Setzer  
Mr. & Mrs. Justin Schmidt  
Mr. & Mrs. David Wilds

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

Mr. Russell Bates  
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Cahill  
Mr. & Mrs. John Chadwick  
Ms. Elizabeth Dennis  
Mr. & Mrs. Marty Dickens  
Mr. & Mrs. Erik Herbert

Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Houff  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas McDowell  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard McKinney  
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Noel  
Mr. & Mrs. John Pontius  
Dr. & Mrs. Craig Rutland

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

Mr. & Mrs. Julian Baker, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Chase  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Cruickshanks  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Echols  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Falk

Mr. R. Rick Hart  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Jackson  
Mr. & Mrs. French McKnight  
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Miller  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Overstreet  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Ripley  
Mr. & Mrs. John Rochford  
Mr. & Mrs. Seamus Ross  
Dr. & Mrs. Ashish Shah  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Taylor  
Ms. Jeannette Sloan Warner  
Mr. & Mrs. David Wiley, III  
Mr. & Mrs. William Wilson

### AMERICAN FLAG SPONSORSHIP

Ms. Nancy Schultz  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Lee Smith,  
In Memory Of:  
The Honorable Lewis "Lew" H. Conner  
& David Haston Smith

### DONATIONS

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Bright  
Ms. Glenda Emery

## NES STUDIES BURYING POWER LINES IN DAVIDSON COUNTY

In May, Belle Meade Mayor Rusty Moore and the City Manager met with Nashville Electric Service (NES) CEO Teresa Broyles-Aplin to discuss power infrastructure specifically in Belle Meade. Since the winter storm, communication between NES and city leaders within their service area has improved significantly. NES shared information on several initiatives that are intended to make

power supply in this area more resilient. We learned that NES is currently planning a \$10 million pilot program to study various methods for burying power lines in Davidson County. While no areas within Belle Meade were selected for the initial pilot, we expressed an interest in participating in the future program and will continue to track updates. NES estimates it will be at least six (6) months before they will have data and results from the new pilot program to share with city leaders.



## STEP BACK TO BEFORE BELLE MEADE article courtesy of Belle Meade Historic Site and Winery

Long before the mansion, the thoroughbreds, and the rolling estate that visitors know today, there was the Harding Cabin — a weathered log structure partially raised in the 1790s by Revolutionary War veteran Daniel Dunham. One of the earliest standing buildings in Davidson County and the oldest on the Belle Meade campus, the cabin has quietly watched more than two centuries of Tennessee history unfold. Now it's being lovingly restored to share that story with you.

This year, Belle Meade Historic Site & Winery is carefully renovating the Harding Cabin to house a new permanent exhibit, Before Belle Meade, exploring early Tennessee, frontier life, and the land's pre-mansion past. The work honors the building's historic character at every turn: original wood profiles are being matched, period-appropriate finishes restored, and windows and doors renovated to preserve the cabin's timeworn appearance. Behind the scenes, modern climate control and updated systems will protect the fragile artifacts on display for generations to come.

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When the cabin reopens, one loft will welcome guests into a hands-on educational space featuring genuine archaeological finds uncovered right here on the grounds, while a second secure loft safeguards the site's growing collection. Developed in partnership with the Metro Historical Commission and the Middle Tennessee Museum of Natural History, the exhibit invites you to discover the people and stories that shaped this land before Belle Meade became Belle Meade.

*Opening to the public in spring 2027.*



## FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHIEF CHUCK WILLIAMS ELECTRIC BICYCLE SAFETY



As warmer weather arrives, residents throughout Belle Meade are seeing an increase in the use of electric bicycles, commonly known as e-bikes. These bikes have become increasingly popular among both adults and children as a convenient and enjoyable way to travel through neighborhoods and enjoy the outdoors. While e-bikes provide many benefits, they also present important safety concerns that parents and riders should take seriously.

E-bikes can travel much faster than traditional bicycles, often reaching speeds that can create dangerous situations if riders are inexperienced or not paying attention to traffic, pedestrians, or roadway conditions. Many young riders may not fully understand traffic laws, stopping distances, or the importance of wearing protective equipment.

Parents are encouraged to speak with their children about bicycle and e-bike safety before allowing them to ride. Important

reminders include always wearing a properly fitted helmet, obeying traffic signs and signals, riding in the same direction as traffic, staying alert, and avoiding distractions such as cell phones or headphones while riding. Riders should also understand that sidewalks, driveways, and intersections can create unexpected hazards for motorists and pedestrians alike.

Motorists are also reminded to remain attentive and cautious when traveling through residential areas, especially in the afternoons, evenings, and on weekends, when children are most active outdoors.

Safety is a shared responsibility, and through education, awareness, and responsible riding habits, we can help ensure that everyone enjoys a safe summer in Belle Meade. The safety of our children and community remains a top priority, and a few simple conversations at home can make a significant difference.

Here is a link to all applicable laws in TN:

<https://www.tn.gov/tdot/local-programs-community-investments/community-investments-office/bicycle-and-pedestrian-program/resources11/tennesse-bicycle-laws.html>

## NEW MOBILE APP FROM NES



Belle Meade residents can now manage their NES electric accounts from their phones with a new mobile app. The app offers the same features as the My Account page on NESpower.com, so customers can pay bills, check account details, and get outage updates right from their phones. With this app, there's no need to log in through a desktop or mobile browser.

### App Features:

- **Access Key Info Quickly.** Customers can access their account information, including account balance, at the click of a button.
- **Make Convenient Payments.** Customers can pay their account balances and view their payment history at any time.

- **Get Instant Outage Updates.** Customers can report a power outage or check the real-time outage map.
- **Alter Service in Seconds.** Customers can start, stop, or transfer their service from their mobile device, without having to call our Customer Relations team.

“Our customers live in a digital world, and they deserve an experience that keeps pace with their lives.,” says Aleisha Johnson, Interim VP of NES Customer Relations. “This app isn’t just a new tool, it’s a commitment to convenience, flexibility, and easy access to the account information you need to stay connected and in control.”

Customers interested in downloading the app should first make sure their phone number and email are updated in our system. The application is free to download on Apple and Android smartphones and devices.



## RECAP OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS



The Commissioners took action on the following items at the **May 20, 2026** meeting:

- Special Presentation from Grace Design Studios on Police Department Enhanced Security and other Building Renovation recommendations.
- Adopted Resolution 2026-05 Recognizing and Applauding the Lasting Contributions of Bunny Blackburn (Chair, Belle Meade Historic Zoning Commission).
- Following a Public Hearing, adopted on the 1st of 2 readings, ORDINANCE 2026-03 to Amend Title 14 (Zoning Ordinance) to Reduce the Number of Municipal Planning Commission Members (reducing from 10 to 7 members).
- Adopted Ordinance 2026-4, on the 1st of 2 readings, Amending the current year’s Annual Budget.
- Adopted Ordinance 2026-5, on the 1st of 2 readings, Approving the FY 2026-2027 Annual Budget.
- Adopting Ordinance 2026-7, on the 1st of 2 readings, Amending Belle Meade Sewer User Charges, with a 4% increase, to take effect on July 1, 2026.
- Adopting Ordinance 2026-8, on the 1st of 2 readings, Amending the Belle Meade Stormwater User Fee from a rate of \$22.41 per ERU to \$26.89 per ERU and comparable increase for multiple dwelling unit residential properties (condos), to take effect on July 1, 2026.
- Adopting Ordinance 2026-9, on the 1st of 2 readings, Amending Title 15 to require Traffic Control when vehicles are blocking traffic due to loading and unloading, delivery, or similar activity.
- Approved a design proposal, not to exceed \$25,000, with Grace Design Studios for professional services to support renovation of the Belle Meade Police Department.
- Approved a purchase, totaling \$8,430, with SkyCop for video security equipment at Lynwood Blvd and Harding Pike, Lynwood Blvd and Westview Ave, and Walnut Drive.
- Approved \$4,407.50 in expenditures for legal services in special matters.
- Authorized the City Attorney to file suit for Declaratory Judgment to resolve a land use matter.
- Received monthly reports from all departments, including monthly financial reports, investment schedules, and reviewed the monthly check register for April.
- The City Board’s next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 17th at 4:00 p.m.

## *Belle Meade Newsletter*

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### **REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

**JUNE & JULY 2026**

**All Meetings Held at Belle Meade City Hall**

#### **Board of Commissioners**

Wednesday, June 17th at 4:00 pm

Wednesday, July 15th at 4:00 pm

Quarterly Work Session, July 15th at 2:00 pm

#### **Historic Zoning Commission**

Tuesday, June 9th at 3:00 pm

Tuesday, July 14th at 3:00 pm

#### **Municipal Planning Commission**

June Meeting is Cancelled due to lack of business

Tuesday, July 14th at 4:30 pm

#### **Board of Zoning Appeals**

Tuesday, June 16th at 4:30 pm

Tuesday, July 21st at 4:30 pm

#### **Board of Building Code Appeals**

Tuesday, June 9th at 4:00 pm

**Agendas are available online at**

**[www.citybellemeade.org](http://www.citybellemeade.org)**

### **Reminders:**

#### **REGISTER TO RECEIVE NOTICE OF CITY BIDS**

**City of Belle Meade is now using BidNet Direct, an on-line, centralized location, to post all bid opportunities. To register at no charge, simply follow the registration path and select the "Limited Access" option to receive automatic e-mail notices at no charge. Visit [www.bidnetdirect.com/tennessee/cityofbellemeade](http://www.bidnetdirect.com/tennessee/cityofbellemeade)**

CITY OF BELLE MEADE  
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return service requested