

APRIL-JUNE
2021

City of Belle Isle, Florida

CONNECTION



City of Belle Isle
FLORIDA

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Government Police Departments Community Business

Watering Days
Know your Watering Days

Dog Park Survey Results
Survey – Converting Regal Park to a Dog Park

AGENDAS & MINUTES FORMS VACATION HOUSE WATCH FORM CALENDAR EMAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The City of Belle Isle officially launched its new website incorporating a fresh look and improved navigation.

Developed in partnership with the online government experts at Municode.com, the new site captures the City's spirit and puts detailed government information at the fingertips of residents and visitors. The website is the first impression many people have of our City. It is the portal that allows community members to connect with local government from any location, at any time of the day or night. We hope to continue updating an intuitive and mobile site and make it a powerful tool to keep the public engaged and informed.

Many key features of the new website can be accessed directly from the new homepage that includes a "Search" tab that takes community members directly to the information they need. Among the improved website features are:

- Navigation organization that is aligned with how community members would look for items.
- Home page reorganized to most frequently accessed topics.
- WCAG 2.1 ADA Accessibility
- A searchable calendar of community meetings and events can be easily added to personal Google, iPhone, and other calendars.

Visit our website, www.belleislefl.gov, and drop the City Clerk a note of what you would like to see on the website. ■

City of Belle Isle Newsletter

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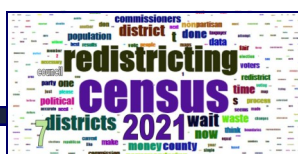
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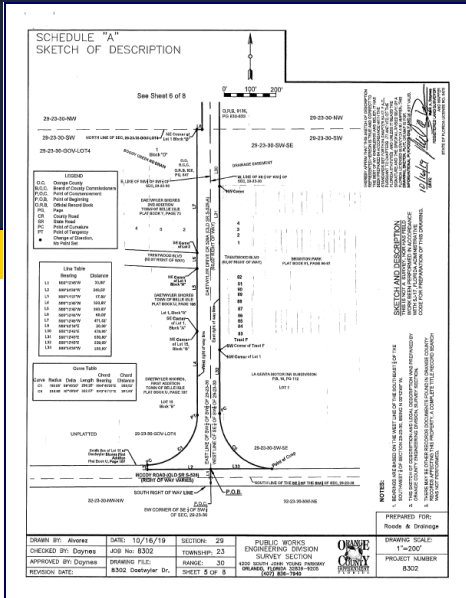


CITY ORDINANCES — 2020-2021

Belle Isle Code of Ordinance



https://library.municode.com/fl/belle_isle/codes/code_of_ordinances



ORDINANCE 21-03— AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA; AMENDING THE BELLE ISLE MUNICIPAL CODE, CHAPTER 30, ART I, SEC 30-3; HEAVY



TRUCKS PROHIBITED ON CERTAIN STREETS; PROVIDING FOR SCHOOL BUSES TO TRAVEL ON HOFFNER AVE FOR DROPOFF AND PICKUP OF STUDENTS, PROVIDING FOR CONDIFICATION, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE—Adopted

BIMC Section 30-3 states: Vehicles over six tons (12,000 GVWR—gross vehicle weight rating) are prohibited from traveling on Hoffner Avenue within the City unless a local delivery within the neighborhoods is abutting Hoffner Avenue within the City. This is to prevent large and heavy trucks from traveling on Hoffner and possibly damaging the bridge.

Orange County Public School Transportation Service Manager, Adam Zubritsky, contacted me to ask if the City could change the code to allow school buses to travel on Hoffner because they have a few stops to make to pick up students. The average school bus weighs more than 14,000 pounds, and therefore the City has restricted school buses from traveling on Hoffner Avenue.

According to DOT, the bridge is rated to 32 metric tons (35 US tons) in researching the bridge weight limits, and therefore, the school buses do not exceed this weight restriction. School buses also do not pose the same problems that the City has with larger trucks.

This change would also be beneficial if Cornerstone Charter Academy were to provide transportation to its students.

The City Council read this ordinance for the first time at the March 2, 2021 meeting and discussed the ordinance. Council directed that the ordinance have the following language: "to allow for student drop off and pick up." ■

What to put in your Recycling Bin – THINK 5

- PLASTIC. Bottles, jugs, and tubs labeled #1 - #5 [Leave the LID on].
- METAL CANS. Tin, aluminum, and steel.
- GLASS. Bottles and jars [Take the LID off].
- CARDBOARD. Flattened corrugated boxes.
- PAPER. Newspapers and advertisements. Paper bags. Junk mail. Magazines and catalogs. Office/notepaper.

NO plastic bags!!!
NO plastic bags!!!
NO plastic bags!!!

ORDINANCE 21-05—Annexation of County Roads To City—Adopted

In 2020, the subject rights-of-way were transferred to the City of Belle Isle for maintenance and operation through an interlocal agreement with Orange County. These roads are Seminole Drive, Judge Road, Daetwyler Driver (including the Frontage Road along Daetwyler Drive); and McCoy Road between Via Flora and Daetwyler Drive. The City filed the deeds to these roads; however, at that time, the City did not annex the streets into the City.

This voluntary annexation is consistent with this transfer of roadway. In addition, it will further enable the City to set desired speed limits along these roads and provide police public safety and enforcement services.

Staff recommended that City Council adopt an ordinance annexing the rights-of-way. This recommendation is based on the proposed annexation complying with Section 171.044, Florida Statutes, which governs the voluntary annexation process. The road segments are developed for urban purposes and surrounded by urban development. The proposed annexation meets the requirements of voluntary annexation in the following ways:

- The property owner is the City of Belle Isle (as the roadways were previously transferred by interlocal agreement).
- The subject property is contiguous to the City of Belle Isle.
- The annexation does not create an enclave. ■

Let's Talk Trash

City Manager Bob Francis

Recently, there was a Facebook post about trash along the City streets. Most of our streets are clean; however, those streets that act as "cut through" streets have the most problem. Conway, Hoffner, Daetwyler, and Judge have a problem with litter, which is mostly food wrappers, soft drinks, water bottles, and plastic bags, not to mention those cigarette butts that we don't see because they get down in the grass.

Why are these streets a problem, and why do people litter? Mostly because people's behavior is inconvenience and laziness, absence of ownership or pride for the area. They pass through, feeling that someone else will pick it up, and lack social pressure (your friend doesn't care as long as you don't leave garbage in their car). Summing it up, they are inconsiderate people who don't care where they throw their trash.

The response on Facebook to the post was, "it's the City's responsibility to clean it up; that's what you pay taxes for." That answer, like litter, is also garbage! Litter is EVERYONE'S responsibility. Yes, the City will send a crew out but remember our public works department consists of 3 employees (now two since one left our employment). In addition to picking up litter, they also maintain our parks, all of our stormwater pipes, basins, and outfalls, maintain our streets (33 miles), care for city trees, cut grass, maintain city buildings, and various other jobs. These employees do an exemplary job, and yes, your taxes are well spent on this crew.

The problem is that the crew will go out on a Monday, clean up litter, and then some lazy and irresponsible slobbs cutting through the City that night will throw out a fast-food bag or drink container, and it's back on Tuesday.

The City needs help with this constant problem. Some individuals and organizations might want to help with the litter problem but don't know what to do. The City's Solid Waste Committee is preparing to release an "Adopt-a-Street" program, similar to FDOT's Adopt-a-Highway Program. Individuals and organizations can sign up to volunteer to pick up litter in these areas and other city areas. Details will be forthcoming in a future eAlert. At a later time, the Committee will look at Community cleanup days to encourage people to take pride in their neighborhood by picking up trash in front of their property. They've already had a very successful Electronic Recycling Event and will soon hold another.

If you walk for exercise, especially on Hoffner, please consider taking a bag with you and help pick up trash until you pass one of the new garbage cans that the City installed on Hoffner. As our budget allows, we will install trash containers on the other major roads to help control litter.

Let us set an example for others, especially children, by not littering and carrying a litter bag in our vehicle or walking. When visiting our parks and ramps, make sure to leave the area clean for the next person to enjoy. ■

People can make a difference.

Thank you.

CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL

SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

New Member Request

The Waste and Recycling Committee is looking to fill an open seat on the committee.

Please contact Yolanda Quiceno at City Hall 407-851-7730 or via email at yquiceno@belleislefl.gov if interested.

Save-the-date

Any item with an electronic motherboard. Batteries – Rechargeable and Non-rechargeable, Fluorescent bulbs and Old TVs

**Electronics Recycling Day:
August 21st (a Saturday) 9am–1pm**

Important Numbers

City Hall (407) 851-7730
Bob Francis
City Manager
bfrancis@belleislefl.gov

Belle Isle Police Department
Office: Mon-Fri (407) 240-2473
Non-Emergency (407) 836-4357
Police Emergencies 9-1-1

Universal Engineering
Building Permits
(407) 581-8161

Zoning Permit Review
April Fisher, Planner
aprilfisher73@gmail.com

Nicholas Fouraker
mayer@belleislefl.gov
407-717-7868

Council Members

District 1
Ed Gold
egold@belleislefl.gov
407-717-6772

District 2
Anthony Carugno
acarugno@belleislefl.gov
407-717-6947

District 3
Karl Shuck
district3@belleislefl.gov
407-717-7846

District 4
Mike Sims
district4@belleislefl.gov
407-717-7855

District 5
Rick Miller
district5@belleislefl.gov
407-457-2427

District 6
Jim Partin
district6@belleislefl.gov
407-717-6545

District 7
Sue Nielsen
snielsen@belleislefl.gov
407-717-8017

Roadside Clean-up

Chairman, Richard Weinsier

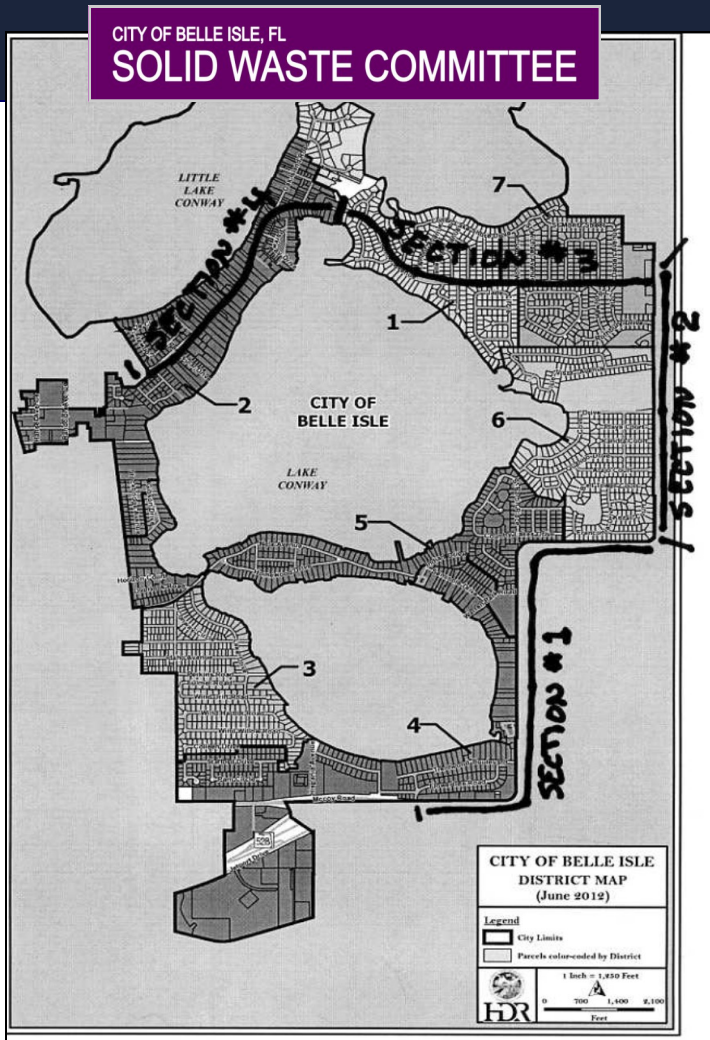
Volunteers

The Waste and Recycling committee has created a Roadside Cleanup program around Belle Isle. If you, or your group, are interested in volunteering to be part of this program, please contact Yolanda Quiceno at City Hall 407-851-7730 or via email at yquiceno@belleislefl.gov for additional information.

Following are **four (4) sections** for volunteers to consider adopting (see map).

- **Section #1:** Via Flora (North side only) – Daetwyler Drive (Both sides) – Judge Road (Both sides)
- **Section #2:** Conway Road (Both sides between Judge Road and Hoffner Avenue)
- **Section #3:** Hoffner Avenue (Both sides between Conway Road and the Bridge)
- **Section #4:** Hoffner Avenue (Both sides between Marinell Drive and the Bridge)

You will be provided with all the equipment for working the cleanup, and your group will be given a road plaque of recognition. Cleanup will be quarterly. Please check out the DOT information on procedures at: <https://www.fdot.gov/maintenance/aaahinfo.shtm> ■



Important Deadlines

(By Admin Assistant, Heidi Peacock)

Rental License renewals: Due July 31, 2021

Rental License renewals are sent via email to property owners by July 1. These renewals may be paid in person at City Hall or emailed to hpeacock@belleislefl.gov.

Section 7-26 of the Belle Isle Municipal Code states an annual license issued by the City Clerk shall be required for any owner of residential property to rent or lease, or offer to rent or lease, any residential dwelling in the city, a copy of which is to be available at the dwelling unit and attached to the lease. (Ord. No. 08-03, § 1, 3-4-2008).

The Rental License Application can be found on our website at www.belleislefl.gov. The cost to register a property and the recurring annual fee after that is \$50.00. Payments received after July 31 will incur a flat late fee of \$50.00.

Failure to register a rental unit, failure to comply with the Ordinance, or to provide false information regarding the use of non-homesteaded property, may result in violation before the City's Code Enforcement Board, and fines may be levied up to \$250.00 per day for non-compliance.

Occupational Licenses: Due September 30, 2021

Occupational License renewals are sent via email to business owners by September 1. These renewals may be paid in person at City Hall or emailed to hpeacock@belleislefl.gov.

Section 28-91 of the Belle Isle Municipal Code states an occupational license is required for the privilege of engaging in or managing any business, profession, or occupation within the corporate limits of the city. (Ord. No. 04-02, § 1(13-32), 3-2-2004)

The Occupational License Application can be found on our website at www.belleislefl.gov. The cost to register a residential business is \$25.00 and the cost to register a commercial company is \$30.00 (plus a fee for additional parking). The recurring annual fee is \$25.00 and \$30.00 (plus an additional fee for additional parking), respectively. Payments received after September 30 will incur a 10% late fee (late fee increases each month after that).

Boat Ramp Decals expired May 31, 2021

Boat Ramp Decals allow parking a vehicle with a trailer within the fence at the Perkins Boat Ramp. The decals are issued to Belle Isle residents annually and expire on May 31 of each year. The Boat Ramp Decal Application can be found on our website at www.belleislefl.gov. The cost is \$25. Applicants must provide their driver's license confirming their Belle Isle residence at the time of receipt. Vehicles carrying their watercraft without a trailer (ex. kayak, canoe) are not permitted to park at the Perkins Ramp. These vehicles can park outside of the ramp and along the lakeside of the road, posted "No Parking with trailer." They are not permitted to park on the opposite side of the road posted "No Parking."

Please be a courteous neighbor and be mindful of the residents' homes surrounding Perkins Ramp. Please keep off their grass, take your trash with you, and keep noise to a minimum. ■

Tree Advisory Board Member, Emily Wakley

Spring has sprung, and we're moving into summer. Maybe you've been working from home this last year and have stared out your window wondering what bird or butterfly flew by and how you can attract more of them with your landscaping choices. If you're thinking about planting a new tree or other plants, the Tree Advisory Board would like to encourage planting Florida native plantings practicing Florida-Friendly Landscaping Principles. It is important to plant the "right plant in the right place" and understand that just because it is native does not mean it will perform well in all locations. A little bit of research can help guide you to selecting the right plant for your place!

Planting native trees (and plants) in the "right place" can have the following benefits:

- **Wildlife value** – Birds, butterflies, and insects have adapted to living with native plants and trees. If you are looking to encourage more butterflies, remember that larval host plants are just as important to providing nectar sources. Nectar plants will attract butterflies, and larval plants will enable them to stay. Many birds (including but not limited to painted buntings, cardinals, screech owls, woodpeckers, warblers, chickadees, purple martins, hummingbirds, eastern bluebirds, and mockingbirds) require insects, including caterpillars, to feed themselves and their babies. Encouraging caterpillars, pollinators, and other insects will encourage birds to visit your yard. For more information on butterfly gardening from IFAS: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw057>
- **Low maintenance** – Native plants are considered resistant to pests and diseases in Florida and have evolved under their pressure. Having the "right plant in the right place" can reduce the need for chemical pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. Reduced use of pesticides will also encourage a balance of insects to feed birds (see above). It's ok to let that caterpillar defoliate the leaves of a plant because that means your butterfly garden is being productive. Most plants will recover and be able to support another set of new caterpillars. In addition to reduced chemical and fertilizer use, native plants planted in the "right place" can conserve water because they are adapted to survive on local rainfall after establishment. This can also lead to less runoff and chemicals/fertilizers entering our lakes.
- **Ecological-educational factor** – Using native trees and plants in the landscape can help preserve the state's natural resources. Increases in population place pressure on native vegetation and wildlife. There are educational benefits with using native plants in the landscape to teach people of all ages about the state's (and Belle Isles) natural beauty and wildlife. Native plants are beautiful and can increase scenic values.

Here are some examples of some small to medium-sized native trees to consider to add some diversity to your yard:

- **Fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)** – 12 to 20 feet tall, white flowers February – May, attracts birds
- **Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)** – 20 to 30 feet tall, pink flowers February – April, attracts butterflies and birds
- **Dahoon Holly (*Ilex cassine*)** – 20 to 30 feet tall, white/cream flowers March-May, red or yellow fruit, high wind resistance, attracts butterflies and birds
- **Wild Olive (*Osmanthus americanus*)** – 15 to 25 feet tall, white, fragrant flowers from March-May, provides food for wildlife/attracts birds
- **Chicksaw Plum (*Prunus angustifolia*)** – 12 to 20 feet tall, white flowers from March-May, medium to high wind resistance, attracts butterflies
- **Walter's viburnum (*Viburnum obovatum*)** – 8 to 25 feet tall (large shrub or small tree), white flowers December – April, attracts birds, provides nesting cover
- **Southern Red Cedar (*Juniperus silicicola*)** – 30 to 45 feet tall, green/yellow flowers February – April, provides food, cover, and nesting for birds, attracts butterflies

Native plants are those that occur naturally within a geographic region or area. **Non-native/exotic plants** have been introduced to a geographic region (Florida) either intentionally or accidentally. **Non-native invasive plants** are species that grow so profusely that it takes over. Not all non-native plants are invasive.

Other benefits of trees in general:

- Trees clean the air
- Trees absorb water and can reduce stormwater runoff and erosion
- Trees cool the air through the shade they provide and transpiration (water evaporating from the leaves, similar to sweat)

While Belle Isle has many grand and beautiful oak trees, not everyone has the space to plant one.

How did we find some of these tree suggestions?

Visit the websites below and filter for native plants.

<https://fl.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/>

<http://floridayards.org/fyplants/>



Eastern redbud tree in bloom



TREE CITY USA®

4 years
Tree City USA

Help redraw Belle Isle's City Council Districts

The last appointed Districting Commission was in 2001. The commission is composed of eight members whose term is composed of the time they are appointed until the dissolution of the commission.

Shape Belle Isle's Future as a City Redistricting Committee Member

Why do we need to redistrict?

Section 6.06 of the City Charter requires that by the first day of the month following official certification of the decennial census of the state, the city council shall appoint eight (8) city electors, determined from the registration for the last statewide general election, who shall comprise the districting commission. Also, the equal protection clause of the United States Constitution requires that where electoral districts are used, they must be substantially equal in population so that each person's vote counts about the same.

Purpose of the Redistricting Committee?

The purpose of the Districting Commission is to recommend to the City Council adjustments to the boundaries of those districts, created by the previous Districting Commission, based on Federal Decennial Census information. Since the 2010 Census, areas such as Brighton Park and Royal Palm Condominiums, Belle Vista have been added to the City of Belle Isle; therefore, it may be necessary to adjust the District boundaries.

We have two spots remaining.

If you or someone you know is passionate about the City of Belle Isle and wants to represent their neighborhood—encourage them to apply. Being a part of the Redistricting Committee is an important civic opportunity to influence the next decade of city decisions—make sure your neighborhood counts.

Submit your letter of interest, name, and address to yquiceno@belleislefl.gov for consideration.

Lake Levels and City Boat Ramps

The lake level is continuing to fall. As of June 8th, the lake's level as measured from the Hoffner Bridge Gauge is 84 feet.

With the weather forecast, it doesn't look like we will have much rain shortly, which will continue to cause the lake level to drop.

Following the County permit issued to the City for Perkins Ramp, when the water level falls to 83.5 feet, the ramp must be closed to all motorized vessels. This includes any resident who uses the ramps to remove their vessels from the water for maintenance or servicing. The City Council also orders the Venetian Ramp closed when Perkins Ramp is closed since Venetian Ramp's area is shallower than at Perkins Ramp. When these ramps are closed, residents can still use the Randolph Ramp off Hoffner or the Fern Creek Ramp.

During this closure, non-motorized vessels (kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards) can be launched from Perkins or Venetian as the man-gate will still be open.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the City at 407-851-7730, or email the City Manager at bfrancis@belleislefl.gov

Thank you for your cooperation and patience.

Call for Members: Redistricting Committee

City Council is looking to fill Two (2) seats .

Please contact City Hall at 407-851-7730 or email a letter of interest to bfrancis@belleislefl.gov

CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL

TREE ADVISORY BOARD

Additional resources are used for this article and for those interested in finding out more!

<https://fl.ifas.ufl.edu/resources/publications/>

<http://fnpsblog.blogspot.com/2014/01/plant-native-tree-to-celebrate-floridas.html>

https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_native_plants

<https://www.audubon.org/content/why-native-plants-matter>

<https://nwdistrict.ifas.ufl.edu/hort/2018/12/17/importance-of-native-plants-for-wildlife/>

The City of Belle Isle
1600 Nela Avenue
Belle Isle, FL 32809
407-851-7730
www.belleislefl.gov

Robyn Winters
Code Enforcement Officer
rwinters@belleislefl.gov

MORE DETAILS

Any severe storm can be deadly and destructive. If you've been through past hurricanes, you know the inconvenience and distress they can cause. One of the best tips to be prepared is knowing the hurricane approach cycle, Arrival & Aftermath. Prepare ahead of time and listen to the directions of officials for the approach. Then, secure your home, or find a safe shelter for its arrival and know-how to proceed safely during the aftermath.

Secure your home:

- Trim trees around your house to be more wind resistant and remove loose debris from your yard.
- Check for loose roofing materials and make any necessary repairs.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts
- Reinforce your garage doors.
- Bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans, and anything else not tied down.
- Determine how and where to secure your boat
- Cover all of your home's windows—permanent storm shutters offer the best protection. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8" exterior grade or marine plywood. Tape can prevent the glass from shattering everywhere, but it does not control the window from breaking.
- Ensure the gas tanks in your vehicles are full far in advance of an approaching storm. Most people wait until the last minute and rush to get extra gas for cars and generators, and subsequently, gas stations can run out early

Code Enforcement Update



BEFORE THE STORM

Have a hurricane kit on hand. The kit should contain:

- Non-perishable food (enough to last three days)
- Water (enough to last three days)
- First aid kit and include any prescription medication you may need
- Personal hygiene items
- Flashlights, Battery operated radio and Extra batteries
- Waterproof container with cash and important documents
- Manual can opener, Lighter or matches and Cooler and ice packs
- Pet supplies and baby supplies, if applicable
- If family members are separated, you should have a plan for evacuation and a place to meet.
- Check on elderly neighbors or those with special needs and find out if they need assistance.

DURING THE STORM

- Listen to the radio or TV for information
- Turn off utilities if instructed to do so. Otherwise, turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed.
- Turn off propane tanks, Avoid using the phone, except for serious emergencies
- Stay away from windows and glass doors
- Close all interior doors – secure and brace external doors
- Take refuge in a small interior room, closet, or hallway on the lowest level
- Don't be fooled if there is a lull; it could be the eye of the storm – winds will pick up again

AFTER THE STORM

- Continue listening to an NOAA weather radio or the local news for the latest updates.

- **Do not** go near or try to touch/move downed power lines even if you think they are harmless.
- **NEVER** use a generator inside homes, garages, crawlspaces, sheds, or similar areas, even when using fans or opening doors and windows for ventilation. Deadly levels of carbon monoxide can quickly build up in these areas and can linger for hours, even after the generator has shut off.
- **A/C:** This can be the most uncomfortable side effect of losing power during a storm. Try to prevent as much light from entering and warming the house by covering up windows on the inside.
- **Fans:** If you have a backup or battery-operated fans, don't run them unless you are in the room. Fans create a difference in perceived temperature but do not cool the room; instead, they create a cooling effect by dispersing the heat off of your skin. It is said they can add warmth to a room just by running
- **Water:** Fill the bathtub and large containers with water for washing and flushing only.
- Have a cooler with ice packs prepared to cool your drinks and snacks after power has been out for more than 4 hours. And check out this food safety guide for when to discard your perishable food: <https://www.foodsafety.gov/food-safety-charts/food-safety-during-power-outage>
- Stay alert for extended rainfall and subsequent flooding even after the hurricane or tropical storm has ended.
- Watch your pets closely and keep them under your direct control.
- Drive only if necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges.
- Avoid after the storm SCAMS (tree removal, contractors, etc.).
- And check on your elderly or special needs neighbors after the storm to make sure they are ok. ■



New smartphone app that allows users to photograph, pinpoint and report problems from Orange County

PREPARE YOUR HOUSE FOR A HURRICANE



Orange County's 3-1-1 has been overloaded with calls. In order to best serve citizens, *we are encouraging residents to download the 3-1-1 app.*

OCFL 311 assists Orange County, Florida residents in reporting local non-emergency community issues conveniently and efficiently by submitting reports regarding animals, traffic signs, potholes, graffiti, sidewalk repair, and many other common issues. Many of these reports can be submitted quickly and anonymously. Residents who provide their contact information can view the status of their reports to ensure proper resolution.

OCFL 311 conveniently maps locations of important community issues so residents can be aware of events that may impact their neighborhood.

Download on



ORANGE COUNTY'S EMERGENCY ALERTING SYSTEM



OC ALERT is an alert system that allows Orange County Government to contact you via email or cell phone text message during an emergency affecting Orange County. Register Free Of Charge. <https://member.everbridge.net/892807736724792/login>

A message from
Marine Patrol

Safety Is Top Priority!



CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL
POLICE ADVISORY BOARD

On May 19, the Belle Isle Police Advisory Board held a public forum at City Hall. More than 30 Belle Isle residents attended what turned out to be a wealth of information on topics of concern to our citizens. Topics covered were Lake Conway Marine Patrol issues, jurisdictional boundaries, and traffic enforcement.



Chief Houston and Deputy Chief Grimm made the presentations and answered questions. The attendees were enthusiastic about learning how the police respond to different community concerns and our police department's challenges. For example, did you know that Belle Isle's jurisdictional boundaries are very complex and limited? Residents in many areas of the City will complain about disruptive behaviors that are out of the City's jurisdiction? The jurisdictions may be City of Edgewood, Orange County, or City of Orlando.

The feedback from those who attended was very positive. The crowd also enjoyed hearing about activities that the police department does to benefit our community – above and beyond their regular enforcement duties – such as collecting and distributing needed household items to the Palm Square apartment residents.

The Advisory Board will schedule more community forums soon. We look forward to seeing you at the next one. ■

*By Woody Johnson
Chairman, Belle Isle Police Advisory Board*

As the summer months start to heat up, so does the activity on Lake Conway. The Belle Isle Police Department (BIPD), and our residents, expect everyone to be safe and courteous of others. However, BIPD receives multiple complaints about excessive noise at the Sandbar and PWC's with modified exhausts.

Under Belle Isle City Ordinance 10-65, if BIPD gets a noise complaint, the violator can be issued a fine of \$150.00. Vessels with modified exhaust violate FSS 327.65, and the Fine amount is \$93.00.

As of April 1, a new boating safety law went into effect, requiring the use of an engine cut-off switch (ECOS) in ALL recreational boats under 26' long. By having an ESOL, boat operators can shut off the engine if displaced from the helm. However, low-speed activities such as trolling or docking are exempt, and so are boaters with a helm in an enclosed cabin.

Anyone born after January 1, 1998, who operates a vessel powered by ten horsepower or more, must pass an approved boater safety course and have in their possession photographic identification and a boater safety identification card issued by the Florida and Wildlife Conservation Commission. FSS 327.395(1); the Fine amount is \$76.00. No one under the age of 14 can operate a PWC. FSS 327.39(5), and the Fine amount is \$93.00. ■

By BIPD Marine Patrol

**SOUTH ORLANDO
FAMILY FUN DAY**

JUNE 19TH | 10AM-2PM | AT ACTION CHURCH

FREE EVENT
with food, inflatables, games, and prizes

HOSTED BY ACTION CHURCH WITH THE BELLE ISLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Vision for the City

Comm Ed Gold, District 1

Somewhere in my decades of martial arts training, I came across the ancient Chinese saying, "If you do nothing to change the path you're on, you'll end up where you are headed." I reflect on this when I think about the challenges and opportunities our City faces. Crime surrounds us in all directions and strikes whenever and wherever we drop our guard. As Central Florida's population increases, the traffic flow of cut-through drivers and the number of nonresidents recreating on our lakes and in our parks will ever increase.

Opportunities arise when neighboring property seeks to annex our City, as was the case when Mattamy Homes requested annexation into Belle Isle. Strengthening the Belle Isle Police Department (BIPD) and skillful negotiations with Orange County brought us increased jurisdiction to enforce the law in Warren Park. The City now has responsibility for Judge and Daetwyler roads. When a property becomes available for purchase, as was the case when we bought the field on Wallace Street and the Bank of America property, this too creates opportunity.

Your vision for the City is valuable, and I encourage you to give voice to your vision! I think each elected official and each candidate for elected office should be prepared to discuss their goals for the City, as each voter has a right to know how closely their vision is aligned with his or her own. So, as you look at voting records and public statements, please be thinking, "Is this where we should be heading?"

Reflecting on the vision, I presented to you in 2014 when I first ran for office, nothing has changed. I still consider **public safety, preventing tax increases, and maintaining property values** to be our highest priorities – in that order. But, occasionally, one comes in direct conflict with the others, and I'd like to reflect on some of the past few votes to explain where I thought I was right and where I now realize I was wrong.

Back in 2014 – 2015, another commissioner suggested that if we want to be more like Winter Park, we need to be prepared to pay Winter Park taxes. I studied ad valorem rates and discovered that Winter Park's ad valorem was 4.5% cheaper than ours! At the time, ours was 18.4 versus their 17.6 mills. They afford a lower millage rate primarily because they have significantly more property, and a larger percentage of that is commercial and industrial. Economies of scale bring costs down tremendously when the number of contributors increases.

After that exercise, I realized that public safety and maintaining lower taxes could only come about through strategic growth while maintaining property values directly results from achieving the other two. We can quickly strengthen our traffic enforcement, put more officers on the lakes, and increase patrols in our neighborhoods if residents don't mind huge tax increases year after year. However, I don't see that as a sustainable solution because inflation ensures that costs continually rise. Once we establish ourselves as tax adverse, we shut the door on growth as nobody willingly seeks to pay higher taxes.



Instead, let us strive to be as attractive as possible to prospective annexation candidates. Anything we can do to increase our "annexation desirability" will only entice nearby properties, such as the Sienna Place Condominiums. Together, we extend BIPD's coverage making these neighboring communities safer while pooling our tax dollars together to make us collectively stronger economically. Making our borders safer contributes not only to their safety but to ours as well. Everybody wins.

The purchase of the Wallace Street field was an investment for Cornerstone Charter Academy (CCA) and the City. The Council needed to satisfy a Comprehensive Plan green space requirement and prevent over-development in an already overly congested location. I, personally, did not want to see this property become a public park because I don't expect many Belle Isle residents to use this park. I wanted the property used exclusively as a CCA practice field and a location where the City could host special events. Residents disagreed and insisted that, because they were the rightful owners of the property, it should be made available for their use. I supported the resident's decision, and my vote represented their wishes. I dearly hope they prove me wrong, and we see 30% or more of our residents enjoying their park. If the park makes us a more attractive annexation partner, I will gladly admit that I was wrong ever to think otherwise!

Similarly, I voted to oppose the Bank of America property purchase because I thought it was too costly. However, I later wrote an apology letter to Mayor Nick Fouraker and City Manager Bob Francis admitting that the purchase was a wise investment regardless of having paid quite a bit over the appraised value.

I came to this realization when a friend was offered the opportunity to purchase a very successful, well-established Orange Avenue business. Unfortunately, the price covered just the business, not the rented property where this establishment resides. That property will probably never be available for sale unless the owner leaves it to a very short-sighted heir. Orange Avenue property in highly prized locations doesn't come available very often and generally only goes up in value. Also, Orange County is working diligently to make significant improvements to that stretch of property between Orange Avenue and Hansel Avenue, which will only increase property values in that area.

While the City hasn't yet decided how we will use the Bank of America property, I am confident that we will be glad we made this investment in the future. Whether the City uses the property, leases it, trades it to Orange County, or flips it for a profit, residents and the City will benefit.

I hope this article has given everyone a better understanding of my priorities and how I hope the City will expand for our mutual benefit strategically. I'd also love to hear your vision for the City. Are there points you disagree with, or would you like to see in greater detail? I'm always available and interested in your opinions! ■

If you do nothing to change the path you're on
you'll end up where you're headed

CITY STAFF

City Hall (Mon-Fri: 8:00 am—5:00 pm)
1600 Nela Avenue
Belle Isle, FL 32809
Facebook: cityofbelleisleflorida
Website: www.belleislefl.gov
Phone: 407-851-7730 / Fax 407-240-2222

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administrative Office (Mon-Fri: 8:00 am—4:00 pm)
1521 Nela Avenue
Belle Isle, FL 32809
Facebook: belleisleflpolicedepartment
Administrative Offices: 407-240-2473
Non-Emergency Number: 407-836-4357

Best Management Practices Stormwater Runoff Rundown



HERE ARE SOME SIMPLE WAYS TO HELP CAPTURE STORMWATER RUNOFF:

- Keep native trees and vegetation and maintain natural drainage patterns.
- Plant native vegetation along the shoreline.
- Install a berm & swale system.
- Replant trees that die or fall down, even if you put them in a better location.
- Use a rain barrel to capture rain and runoff from your roof to use later for irrigation.
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces and into the yard where the water can percolate.
- Replace surfaces like concrete and asphalt with more permeable surfaces such as pavers and gravel. Install rain gardens and vegetated strips in the landscape.
- Use Florida-Friendly Landscaping™.

IT'S NO SECRET:

It rains a lot in Florida! All that rain is great for our subtropical ecosystems and helps keep our state green and beautiful. With so much rain though, especially in summer, it can be hard to prevent all pollutants from leaving your yard and flowing into your lake. While reducing the amount of pollutants on your property is essential for promoting the health of your lake, you can also help *keep your lake clean by capturing as much runoff as you can*. By capturing runoff and allowing it to percolate into the soil rather than flow directly into the lake, you can use the ground to filter pollutants before they have a chance to reach the lake.

FLORIDA LAKES

You might have noticed that Florida lakes are different than many other lakes around the country. Because of Florida's location in the subtropics, plants really like to grow here. That includes in our lakes. Florida is home to dozens of aquatic plant species, some native, some exotic. These plants are part of a unique story, played out over millennia.

Many of our lakes begin life as sinkholes. These holes eventually fill with water due to groundwater infiltration and rain. As sediment washes into lakes, they get shallower and develop an organic layer that allows plants to grow. As these plants grow and die, the organic material builds up on the bottom, making the lake shallower over time. Eventually, the lake will fill in, becoming a wetland, and, ultimately dry land. This process, called succession, may take thousands of years, but the natural course for a lake is for it to stop being a lake. The plants growing in and around your lake are part of a complex geological and ecological system. Aquatic native plants are a natural part of the ecosystem in healthy Florida lakes and important for maintaining good water quality and providing habitat for fish and wildlife. Attempting to get rid of all your plants is not only bad for the ecosystem, it is nearly impossible!

We have the ability to balance the health of this ecosystem with our desire to boat, swim, fish and live on a lake. Through good stewardship practices, and following Orange County rules and guidelines, our lakes can be both **enjoyed and protected**. ■

We will continue to post Articles for Public Information in our Connection Newsletter.

LANDSCAPING PRACTICES FOR WATER QUALITY, WILDLIFE & SHORELINE PROTECTION

LAKE-FRIENDLY SHORELINE

Planting vegetation along your shoreline is great for slowing runoff, catching sediment, capturing excess nutrients and stabilizing the soil. Plants along the water's edge also provide valuable habitat for fish and wildlife. As an extension of your backyard, your shoreline serves as a last line of defense against introducing excess nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus, and other harmful pollutants to your lake. Here are some things to consider:

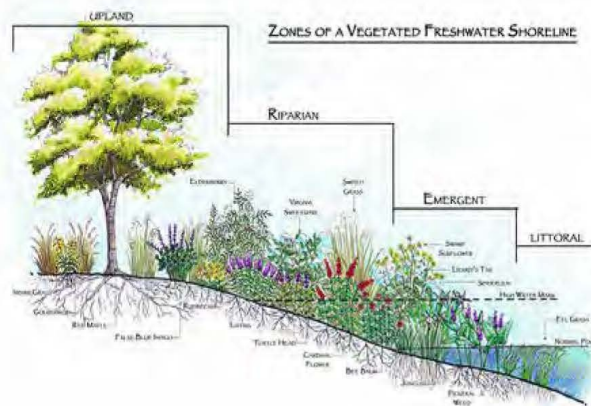
- Plants can slow water flow, catch runoff, and uptake excess nutrients. As they absorb nutrients, they slow the growth of algae and unwanted exotic plant species.
- Planting native vegetation helps reduce exotic and invasive plant growth. This is better for the lake and reduces your landscape management costs. Increasing biodiversity and saving you money by reducing management costs.
- Native vegetation near the shoreline stabilizes sediment which results in clearer water. Plants also minimize wave action, keeping your property from eroding into the lake.
- Native emergent plants provide nurseries for fish and invertebrate species. Your shoreline can provide hiding spots to help young lake dwellers from becoming a bird's breakfast!



Shoreline erosion due to wave action.



A healthy community of native shoreline vegetation protects the lake and looks pretty too!

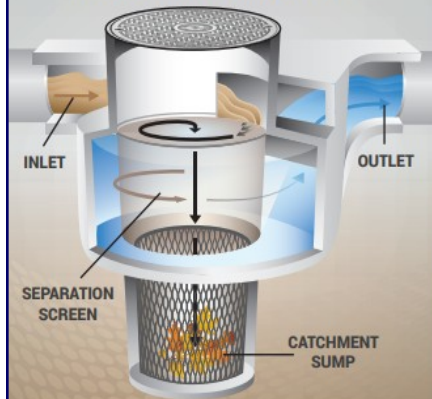


Courtesy of Clemson University

Best Management Practices for Your Lake

Stormwater Pollutant Removal Structures

HYDRODYNAMIC SEPARATOR



Structures such as hydrodynamic separators and baffle boxes are installed in stormwater systems to capture debris from water before it discharges into lakes. These units are cleaned using vacuum trucks to remove the solid debris. Some of the water is discharged back into the stormwater system to be treated again.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Contacts to know:

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
407-897-4100
www.floridadep.gov/water-topics

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Office of Invasive Plant Management
407-858-6170
www.myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/invasive-plants

Orange County Environmental Protection Division 407-836-1400 | epd@ocfl.net
www.orangecountyfl.net/Environment



GET INVOLVED IN CITY BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Meetings are open to the public. Need more information? Contact the City Clerk at yquiceno@belleislefl.gov.

A connected and involved community makes a stronger and happier place to live.

CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL

Questions to any Board or Committee can be forwarded to the City Clerk at yquiceno@belleislefl.gov

CITY COUNCIL (Seven Districts—Elected At Large)

Meet on the first and third Tuesday every month @ 6:30 pm at City Hall Chambers 1600 Nela Avenue

Mayor—Nicholas Fouraker:
mayor@belleislefl.gov / 407-717-7868

District 1—Comm Ed Gold: egold@belleislefl.gov / 407-717-6772

District 2—Comm Anthony Carugno
acarugno@belleislefl.gov / 407-717 6947

District 3—Comm Karl Shuck:
district3@belleislefl.gov / 407-717-7846

District 4—Comm Mike Sims
district4@belleislefl.gov / 407-717 7855

District 5—Comm Rick Miller:
district5@belleislefl.gov / 407-457-2427

District 6—Comm Jim Partin:
district6@belleislefl.gov / 407-717-6545

District 7—Comm Sue Nielsen:
sn Nielsen@belleislefl.gov / 407-717-8017



PLANNING & ZONING BOARD: Appointed by District by City Council

The Board is responsible for overseeing the compliance of the city ordinances.

Meet on the fourth Tuesday every month @ 6:30 pm at City Hall Chambers 1600 Nela Avenue

Attorney: Dan Langley
District 1—David Woods
District 2—Christopher Shenefelt

District 3—Michael Ststham
District 4—Randy Holihan
District 5—Rainey Lane

District 6—Andrew Thompson
District 7—Leonard Hobbs

TREE BOARD (Seven Members: Appointed At-large by City Council)

The Tree Board protects our tree canopy, offer educational and informational speaking events on environmental issues.

Meet on the second Monday every month @ 6:30 pm at City Hall Chambers 1600 Nela Avenue

Board member—Doug DeYoung
Board member—Holly Bobrowski
Board member—George Travis

Board member—Richard Weinsier
Board member—Emily Wakely

Board member—Betty DeJarnette
Board member—Christopher Stalder

POLICE ADVISORY BOARD: Appointed by District by City Council

Meet on the fourth Tuesday every month @ 6:30 pm at City Hall Chambers 1600 Nela Avenue

The Advisory Board assist our Police Department with communication throughout the community.

District 1—Horton Johnson
District 2—Andrew Dunigan
District 3—Allen Haskins

District 4—Randy Holihan
District 6—Alexa Dowlen

District 5—Joshua Brown
District 7—Charlotte Hobbs

SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE: Appointed At-large by City Council

Meet Quarterly on the second Thursday @ 6:00 pm at City Hall Chambers 1600 Nela Avenue

The Committee assists Staff to compare service proposals from various solid waste companies and present a recommendation to Council.

Board Member—Steve Jackson
Board Member—Clay Van Camp
Board Member—Richard Weinsier

Board Member—Todd Tatum
Board Member—Frank Noge

Board Member—OPEN
Board Member—Kate Durni

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE: Appointed At-large by City Council

Meet on the third Wednesday every month @ 6:00 pm at City Hall Chambers 1600 Nela Avenue

The Committee plans and executes special events (I.e., Holiday Tree Lighting Event) for our citizens.

Board Member—Maggie Burdette
Board Member—Holly Bobrowski
Board Member—Nicholas Fouraker

Board Member—Betty DeJarnette
Board Member—Kathy McCoy

Board Member—Lora Brannan
Board Member—Craig Huff

BUDGET COMMITTEE: Appointed by District by City Council

Meet on the Friday before the 2nd CC Tuesday meeting every month @ 3:00 pm at City Hall Chambers 1600 Nela Avenue

The purpose of the Audit Committee is to serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council in the selection of an auditor to conduct the City's annual financial audit and for other purposes as directed by City Council

District 1—Clay Van Camp
District 2—Rick Wilson
District 3—Charlotte Brown

District 4—OPEN
District 5—Rick Miller

District 6—Nash Shook
District 7—Ralph Yarborough