

SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

Happy Birth Year Belle Isle!

Happy Birthyear, Belle Isle. Your special events committee started planning the festivities last year, and we have several events in the planning stages, along with our traditional event.

We started this momentous year with an act of altruism by hosting a food drive supporting Servants Heart Ministry's food bank. This organization has deep roots in Belle Isle, where its Board of Directors are residents. The annual 5K course runs throughout the city, and its services support some of our neighbors who need a helping hand. You stepped up and donated an impressive amount of non-perishable food items, toiletries, and pet food, which is very much needed and appreciated. Great job, Belle Isle!



Next will be our Easter Egg Hunt at City Hall on Saturday, March 30, 2024. The Easter Bunny will arrive at 9 am; the first hunt for children five (5) years old and younger will start at 9:15, with the 6-year-old and older children starting their hunt at 9:45. Please remember that the hunts go very quickly, so please be on time! Mimosas will be served to the "big kids", those 21 years old and older, so please remember to bring an ID. This year, we have over 2,000 candy and toy-filled eggs, as well as a plush bunny for each of the children participating in the event. More information will be provided shortly on the city's web page and the Celebrate Belle Isle Facebook page.



And speaking of the Facebook page... This page was created to bring you information on both city-sponsored events as well as events that might be of interest to you. We do not allow ads, but we try to remove them quickly. With this in mind, please save lost pets, garage sale info, and advertisements for other social media platforms, and do not be offended if we remove your post. We strive to keep "Celebrate Belle Isle" as an informative, clean, and enjoyable FB page to keep you updated on "What's Up!"

You will see a bright blue "What's Up?!" yard sign throughout the city about one week before a city-sponsored event. Much like the "Santa is coming" signs used to promote the Light the Way holiday event, these signs will clue you in to go to the city's website and Facebook pages and find out what is in store. Please share this information on your personal and neighborhood pages. After the event, the sign will be removed as soon as possible, so please do not throw them away!

On May 18, 2024, we are planning our first centennial celebration event: a "Boogie on the Bridge" street party with music, food trucks, and fun. You are more than welcome to bring a

picnic basket, cooler, and seating and come to the bridge. Again, more information on parking, vendors, and maybe a few surprises will be coming soon.

Another event will recognize one of our favorite elements of Belle Isle: the tree. We are currently scouring the city for a great example of a 100-year-old tree to designate as our Centennial tree and to find a suitable spot to plant a new tree to be enjoyed for the next 100 years. Finding the right spot for a 100-year commitment is very important, and we take seriously the advice of “The right tree in the right place.”

Plans are also in the works for our big event in October! Several components are being investigated and researched because we want this to literally be the party of the century.

Our holiday events in December will still take place. “Light the Way” is scheduled for December 4, 2024. Santa will ride through the city on December 10th and 12th, followed shortly after by the Bicycle/Golf cart parade. The exact date is to be determined not to interfere with any Belle Isle tradition: the Boat Parade.

One of the first decisions made was to find an artist who not only resides in Belle Isle but also, through their medium, could capture what we all treasure in our community. After a year of planning and work, a beautiful rendering of “Our Belle Isle Way of Life” in watercolor was created by Vicki B. Littell. The artwork is on display at city hall and will be used on some of the merchandise and other items we plan to celebrate our centennial.

If you would like to be part of all the fun, the committee always welcomes new members, suggestions, and, of course, sponsorship. The bottom line is that events take planning, time, cooperation, and money, and you can never have too much of any of those.

So, it is time to celebrate Belle Isle by Celebrating Belle Isle.