

JUL-SEPT  
2020

City of Belle Isle, Florida

# CONNECTION



## Virtual Connections

The City is going entirely virtual with the newsletter. Due to the City's continued commitment to the environment and with cost-effectiveness in mind, the City will no longer be mailing out hard copies of the quarterly newsletter.

We are particularly mindful of creating Connections with our residents and their families and are happy to present you with the following electronic format that provides news, updates, articles, and upcoming events. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can help in any way. Contact information for the Mayor, City Council, Staff, and Boards are included in this edition.

Feel free to share this newsletter with your friends and neighbors and encourage them to sign up for Belle Isle e-lets by visiting our website at [www.cityofbelleislefl.org](http://www.cityofbelleislefl.org). ■

### City of Belle Isle Newsletter

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# MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Nicholas Fouraker

## Strategic Improvements

Ensure the health, safety, education and vitality of our residents

Hello, Belle Isle! When I last wrote this time last year, I mentioned several initiatives that I was working on with City Manager, Bob Francis, and Orange County District 3 Commissioner, Mayra Uribe. Being accountable to you, I am reporting back and pleased to report we have completed them or have made major progress. Here are updates to the projects:

- **Keeping the annexation process moving along for roads Daetwyler & Seminole- Status-Completed**
  - Residents on Daetwyler like Kevin Lee, have written to note they have seen a major improvement in enforcement on these roads. This is gratifying to hear, especially since we have faced adversity in police staffing as several officers came down with Covid19. We pledge to continue our campaign of enforcement here as well as the rest of the City as we are aware we still have issues with speeding, distracted drivers, and passing across solid lines.
- **Helping get attention to the much needed median project across from WAWA on Hoffner- Status- We are halfway there.**
  - Today the median is installed, and WAWA is working with Orange County transportation on getting the approval to correct their entrance to preclude left turn-ins from westbound traffic. Mr. Francis and I continue to push the County to get this finalized.
- **Working on getting crosswalks at Peninsular and the Highlands- Status- We reached an interim compromise**
  - The County permitted us to do the crosswalk; however, they wanted the City to take full liability. We were advised by legal counsel not to do it, here is why: the County has an engineering report that concluded the crosswalk was not necessary. Bob Francis requested they do the study during school hours (7 am-8 am) and after school (2:30 pm-4 pm). This has not happened.
  - The compromise was to install a sidewalk from the Highlands of Lake Conway to Randolph Avenue, where there is an existing crosswalk. This enables safe crossing.
- **Streetscape improvement in the Pine Castle district-Status-Complete, see Wilkes Ave.**
- **Investigating better ways to control the environmental impacts and safety on our lakes- continued**
  - Control over the lakes-While a lot of meetings and discussions have transpired, I am not satisfied with the results. The City Council had our attorney review Belle Isle's jurisdictional rights in the form of a report in 2019. That report stated since the establishment of the Conway Navigational Board back in 2018; this gives Orange County control over the lakes. The County's attorney also wrote a report that completely contradicted ours. Our attorneys are currently working together to reconcile with the County.
  - Speed-We also plan on having a meeting with stakeholders on the lake and from the water sports industry (i.e., WSIA- Water Sports Industry Association), wakeboarding pro's, professional water skiers, fisherman, etc.
- **Environmental:**
  - Excessive Noise- we are working with Belle Isle PD to place signage up and issue a warning for excessive noise on the lake, for areas considered residential districts.
  - Lake Cleanups- regretfully, since the water became warm enough, we have been hamstrung in this effort due to COVID19 concerns. We are looking at getting this back on track in September or early October.
  - Storm Drainage to the lakes (also covered elsewhere in this newsletter)- Mr. Francis and I are working with the St. John's Water Management District on a large grant to let us implement a large baffle box at the end of Matchett Road



and Wallace to collect runoff and filter it prior it getting into the lakes. The current system is inadequate and old.

Now, even though we have suffered setbacks with COVID19, it is important to me that we continue to look to the future of this City and how we can raise the standard of living. One issue I have committed a ton of time to is transportation planning. Through my work with MetroPlan Orlando, we received a \$150,000 grant to assist us in transportation planning in our City. I am happy to report that we received a complete draft of plans and will be revealing than in the coming month. The next step will be to send back our requested changes and then start the process of costing the changes and then working with the County to budget for the projects. I am particularly excited about the expansion of trails and sidewalks. I purposely do not want to reveal too much in this newsletter as I want to encourage the readers to watch our meetings and participate in them with public comment: heightened civic engagement.

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# Strategic Improvements (contd)

A note on stormwater: This is such a difficult time of year for our old City and our deteriorating and partly updated stormwater infrastructure. I want to acknowledge that I hear you and your frustrations, as do the staff and Council, and we have discussed this at every City Council meeting and then some for the last two months. From a capital perspective, the multitude of multi-decade issues is financially overwhelming. We are raising money to implement projects sooner, and this was a topic heavily featured in our first FY 2021 Budget Workshop. We will get there and as quickly as possible. As Bob Francis says, "you have to eat an elephant one bite at a time."

## Cornerstone Charter Academy, Wallace Field and Bank of America:

I want to take a moment and thank the faculty, staff, volunteers, and fellow board members for all they are doing to continue to make CCA a wonderful school, especially in the face of adversity in all of the challenges that COVID 19 presents. I am excited that the Wallace Field improvements have been approved by both the City Council and Cornerstone. The relationship between these two important bodies is making progress, and this project will mark a turn in the relationship's history. This illustrates what great things can be accomplished by working together and exhibiting the spirit of compromise.

The City is purchasing the former bank of America Property, located at 5800 Hansel Avenue. While there has been a lot of debate over the subject, and questioning why we are spending \$2,000,000 in taxpayer money to buy it, so I want you to know why this is strategically important to the City:

- This parcel is located next to the City's largest contiguous landholdings of 13 + acres and our gem of a school CCA
- We own the adjacent parcel next to it
- We do not have any surplus property, and it is fundamentally a good idea for a City to have an excess property for many reasons, one is land planning
- Added property gives us flexibility in the future to potentially:
  - Relocate the police department and combine it with City Hall, which needs more meeting space and parking
  - The school needs expansion space
  - Relocate Orange County Fire Department of Wallace in a land swap which would give us two adjacent access points to our existing landholding
- In terms of absolute dollars adjusted for inflation, we are paying the same price the Bank of America paid for it in 1990.



- The City does not share the same advantages when buying property as those that can do it using private methods
  - We do not control when inventory becomes available
  - We have to disclose all of our reasoning in public
  - We move very slowly because all of our conversations are held in a public meeting. This has taken over a year and many meetings.
  - A private buyer gets to remain anonymous as well as their motives.
  - We are dealing with an inflexible financial behemoth that is as bureaucratic as our government, if not more so.
- This is valuable real estate
  - The parcel is corner to corner
  - Has excellent access
  - Is highly visible
  - Is located at a lighted intersection
  - Is almost a perfectly shaped square parcel, which allows for higher utilization because of design efficiencies realized by this shape.

So, while there are budget critics whose concern is limiting spending, an important value for sure (and one that I have practice in the hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants I have written and received along with retrieving \$1,000,000 in FEMA money that was de-obligated), as the City Council our job is to project the vision of our City's future. As part of former City Councils vision, they created a police department, purchased Wallace Field as well as the Charter school campus and the school itself. Clearly, Belle Isle is better for it. It could be said there is never a great time to buy property. Difficult choices have to be made sometimes in the interest of progress. So, I, along with the City Council are not satisfied with the status quo, so we must promote making strategic improvements that create a sense of place and will ensure the health, safety, education, recreation and vitality of our residents.

I thank you for reading this newsletter, and I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you soon. Stay safe! ■

I ❤️ BELLE ISLE!



# This Old House

**To preserve or to demolish a part of our history; that is the question.**

**Commissioner Sue Nielsen**

The fate of The Lancaster, or Founders House will soon be decided by your City Council because it is owned by the city though it stands on part of the property that is rented by Cornerstone Charter Academy (CCA). CCA's Governing Board chairman has given notice to the city that the school no longer has any use for the house, and needs the space. Age has taken a toll, and refurbishing the house is estimated to cost \$50,000. It would be more economical to demolish it. But is there an alternative vision? Another possibility?

Imagine Cornerstone, Belle Isle's Charter school, on an expansive property with new state-of-the-art buildings housing students in grades K-12, getting ever closer to "diamond" status. Athletic fields second to none, playgrounds designed for fun physical activity, hands-on science labs to challenge young minds, innovative teaching designed to reach all students, first rate teachers and administrators, and a dedicated governing board working cooperatively with city government to make it the very best it can be. Does this vision appeal to you?

Now imagine a 115 year-old house whose grounds were for many years the site of the annual community celebration of Pioneer Days, renewed to its original condition (with modern safety features and handicapped access added) to give the grounds an unmistakable sense of "place." Call it the Lancaster house, the Beacon house, or Founders' House, charming by any name; it is one of the few historical "treasures" that we still have in our community.

When the school property was first purchased by the City, there were several historic buildings on the campus that dated from the late 19th to early 20th century. Today there is only one original building left standing on the land still legally named the Harney Homestead. Do the people of the community care about preserving it? Where there is a will, a way can be found. Is there a will? Are you familiar with this house?

There is an article in the August Conway News about this antique home on the corner of Randolph and Waltham. You may remember this building being the location for community arts and crafts activities for years before the city purchased it. It was used by CCA for a number of years before being slated



for destruction. The City Council has discussed several possibilities for saving the house but so far nothing has worked out. Once again, a date has been specified to see if there is a critical mass of support to save the house; this date is September 1, 2020.

Do you have an opinion about whether this house should be saved? If so, you have just enough time to speak up before this is no longer an option. The decision as to the disposition of the house will be made by the City Council, hopefully in collaboration with CCA's governing board. At any rate, both the school governing board and the City Council should hear from everyone who feels strongly that the house should be preserved.

What may be the last option for saving this house is to move it to a new location across Waltham where it is wanted by the daughter of the resident who lives there in the house that her grandfather built in the early 1900's. This last ditch effort will be difficult to pull off due to governmental red tape, and the move alone will cost \$48,000. It is hoped that CCA, the City, and community can each contribute enough to the effort so that the house can be moved. The new owner will bear the cost of refurbishment and ongoing maintenance.

If you have an opinion, please voice it now. You can reach the CCA governing board members, (Chairman William Brooks, Caroline Landt, Dr. Keith Van Dyke, Cheryl Colpitts, Dr. Shayan Vyas, Marc Ady, Charlyne Cross, Ralph Armstead, and Nicholas Foraker) at the school address, 5903 Randolph Avenue, Belle Isle, FL 32809. If you prefer, you can e-mail the board members at [Kmallon@academica.org](mailto:Kmallon@academica.org) or mail them in care of K Mallon, 6340 Sunset Drive, Miami, FL 33143. To reach Belle Isle City Commissioners, you can e-mail them all individually or in one message to the City Clerk at [cityclerk@belleislefl.gov](mailto:cityclerk@belleislefl.gov).

It is important that decision-makers hear citizens' opinions about saving the house; however, funding for the effort will also be needed and the City alone cannot justify the expense at this time. For all those who seriously want the house to be preserved, a Gofundme account has been organized so that you can contribute to this community project. When you visit the Gofundme site, be sure to click on the picture and scroll down, clicking each "read more" under the lower left corner of the picture or text. ■



<https://gf.me/u/yphga7>

Estimates for moving the house are around \$48,000 ( and for renewing it around \$50,000) and the City cannot afford it alone. I thought you might be interested in supporting the "Save the Lancaster House"—Gofundme. Even a small donation could help reach the fundraising goal which has been revised to \$16,000. or 1/3 of \$48,000. Even a small donation could help reach the goal. And if you can't make a donation, it would be great if you could share the fundraiser to help spread the word. Thanks for taking a look!

# The City of Belle Isle Launches Online Fiscal Transparency Center Powered By ClearGov

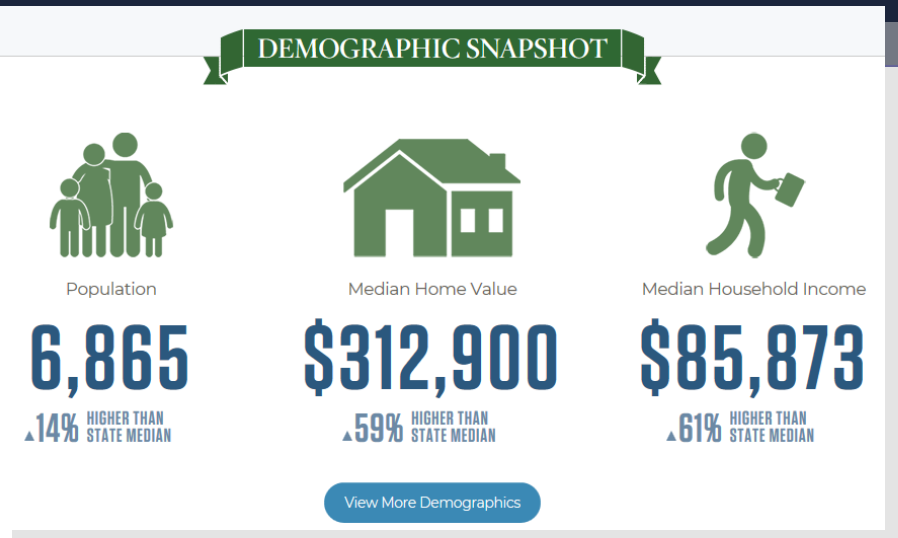
*New public-facing profile translates complex government financial data into easy-to-understand infographics*

The City of Belle Isle announced that it has launched a new online Transparency Center powered by ClearGov, a leading provider of online budgeting and communications software for local governments. This new online profile provides residents with an easy-to-understand, interactive breakdown of the city's finances, as well as insights into demographics and much more. The Transparency Center is also optimized for use by citizens with disabilities who rely on assistive technology, such as screen readers and voice recognition software. This ensures that City financials, demographics, capital projects, department metrics, and other information displayed on their Transparency Center are already optimized for ADA guidelines.

Belle Isle believes that financial and operational transparency is the cornerstone of good government and strong, sustainable communities. The new online Transparency Center empowers citizens to see precisely how funds are generated and allocated, and better understand how the annual budget impacts the community programs and services they care about most. Visitors to the Transparency Center can easily drill down to the line item level and even view comparative analyses of similar towns.

In the coming months City officials plan to expand the profile to include details about city departments, ongoing capital projects, and more. In time, residents will have a clear window into everything from fiscal health to operational performance and the factors that contribute to economic development. Visitors to the Transparency Center will also be able to subscribe to certain pages to receive automatic email updates as new information becomes available.

"We are proud to have taken this proactive step toward a more open and accessible government and we're excited to make this Intuitive, user-friendly, and ADA-optimized experience available to our



community," said City staff. "These days, not everyone has the time to attend public meetings. The Transparency Center will make it easy and convenient for interested residents to stay informed."

"ClearGov is pleased to partner with Belle Isle to enhance transparency efforts and drive citizen engagement," said Chris Bullock, CEO of ClearGov. "Residents should be proud of the leadership Belle Isle has demonstrated by embracing innovation and taking that essential next step toward true clarity and accountability in local government."

Belle Isle says the best way to learn more about the Transparency Center and the city's finances is to go online and explore. We strongly encourage residents to visit <<https://www.cleargov.com/florida/orange/city/belle-isle>> today to see their tax dollars at work. You can also visit the town website's Finance Department page and click on the Transparency Center banner <<https://www.cityofbelleislefl.org/finance>>. ■

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## ABOUT ClearGov

ClearGov is on a mission to build a community of modern, transparent, data-driven local governments and school districts. ClearGov helps local agencies streamline their operations and catalyze community support by making complex government data easy to understand and easy to use. We provide a full suite of turnkey solutions to help drive financial and operational transparency, modernize budgeting, and better connect agencies with the communities they serve. ClearGov's award-winning platform is currently used by hundreds of communities across 30+ states. For more information, visit [www.cleargov.com](http://www.cleargov.com).

**REMEMBER – SECONDS COUNT  
IN AN EMERGENCY!!!**

**CC Chap 6, Sec 6-31 – Required**—All buildings within the city shall have the building address number affixed to the front of the building or to a separate structure in the front of the building, such as a mailbox, post, wall or fence, so that it is visible and legible from the public or private street on which the building fronts.

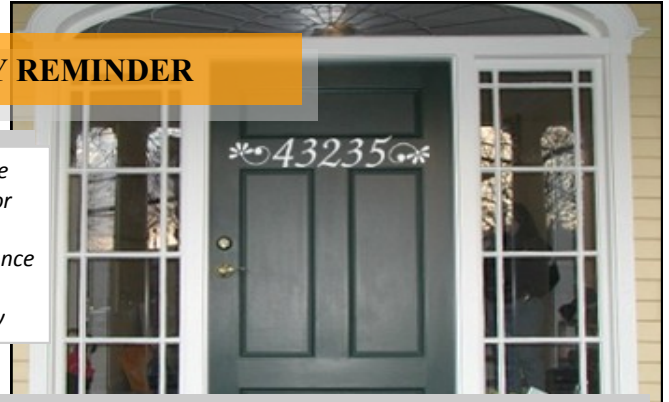
**CC Chap 6, Sec 6-32 – Numeral Specifications**—The numerals required by this article shall be uniform in size and not less than three inches in height. The numbering shall be of a weather-resistant material permanently affixed to the front of the building or structure and shall be of a color that will contrast with the immediate background material.

**CC Chap 6, Sec 6-33 – Violations**—The owner of any residence or the owner and occupant of any commercial building within the corporate limits who fails to display the building number as provided by this article shall be given written notice of the violation and be given ten days to remedy such violation. If the violation continues beyond the warning period, the owner of such residence or the owner and occupant of such commercial building shall be fined \$25.00 which shall become a lien against the property equal in dignity with all municipal liens, if left unpaid.

# Code Enforcement Update

## SAFETY REMINDER

*Numbers that are missing, broken or faded should be replaced in accordance with the City Ordinance below*



## Here are a few “Things to Know”

*In an emergency, police, fire and rescue workers depend on house numbers to find **YOU** as quickly as possible. Finding your home – especially at night – can be challenging if address numbers are unreadable, hidden, unlighted or have missing numbers and may delay emergency responders from getting to you as quickly as possible.*

*Are your house numbers visible from the street? Are they set on a background of contrasting color? If your house is hidden from the street, are your numbers attached to a visible fence, mailbox or gate? If you live on a corner, does your house number face the street named in your address?*

*If you’ve answered “NO” to any of these questions, please read the Belle Isle City Ordinance regarding numbering of buildings and make sure your property is in compliance.*

*The Belle Isle Police Department and Code Enforcement will be working together to identify properties that are not numbered in accordance with City Code and property owners will be notified. Please take a moment and inspect your property to be sure your property is in compliance.*

### **Permits:**

If you’re planning on having work done on your property and you’re not sure if a permit is required, please call City Hall for clarification. Work done without required permits will result in orders to cease all work until permits are issued, notices of violation, and “after the fact” fees. If the violation is not corrected, then a hearing before the Special Magistrate will be scheduled and fines imposed. When In Doubt – Call. Garage Sales, Vehicle Sales, Temporary Parking, Tree Removal, PODs (temporary storage), Fences (new and replacement) require a permit; the applications for these can be picked up in city hall. A complete list of required permits (building and zoning) and the necessary forms can be found on our website: [www.cityofbelleislefl.org](http://www.cityofbelleislefl.org), select Departments then select Building and Permitting from the menu. ■

## Keeping Our Community Safe

It is important for Belle Isle residents to understand how the Belle Isle Police Department keeps our community safe. To this end, the City established a Police Advisory Board to be a communications link between the Police Department and the Belle Isle residents; along with providing guidance regarding police operations and overcoming the daily challenges our police department faces.

Currently on the board is Andrew Dunigan, Allen Haskins, Randy Holihan, Joshua Brown, Charlotte Hobbs, Alexa Dowlen and Chairman, Woody Johnson. These members represent each of the districts in Belle Isle, so get to know them and help us communicate your concerns and suggestions to our police. **Get Involved!**

Police officers from the Belle Isle Police Department are committed to protecting and serving every member of our community and they love

knowing they are appreciated. To encourage this, the Belle Isle Police Advisory Board has organized an **Officer Appreciation Program**. If you would like to participate, please email Charlotte Hobbs at: [cphobbs7@gmail.com](mailto:cphobbs7@gmail.com) or Woody Johnson at: [wjohnsonbbf@gmail.com](mailto:wjohnsonbbf@gmail.com) for additional information and let’s show the Belle Isle Police Department how much we appreciate their dedicated service.

**More than 1,500 people ‘follow’ the Belle Isle Police Facebook page. Information is posted here on a regular basis about crime trends, safety tips and current events. This is great information for the community to have so if you have not yet done so, please do a search on Facebook for ‘Belle Isle FL Police Department’ or click on this link: <https://www.facebook.com/BelleIslePD> and become a follower. Many followers select the ‘show first’ option to make sure current postings are not missed. ■**



## Florida State Statute 403.413: Florida Litter Law

Belle Isle Police Department



The Belle Isle Police Department is committed to the safety of both residents and visitors enjoying the Conway Chain of Lakes. To the end, the Belle Isle Police Department Marine Patrol Unit is committed to strict enforcement of Florida Boater Safety .

### Florida State Statute 403.413- Florida Litter Law

**DUMPING LITTER PROHIBITED.**—Unless otherwise authorized by law or permit, it is unlawful for any person to dump litter in any manner or amount:

- (a) In or on any public highway, road, street, alley, or thoroughfare, including any portion of the right-of-way thereof, or any other public lands, except in containers or areas lawfully provided therefore. When any litter is thrown or discarded from a motor vehicle, the operator or owner of the motor vehicle, or both, shall be deemed in violation of this section;
- (b) In or on any freshwater lake, river, canal, or stream or tidal or coastal water of the state, including canals. When any litter is thrown or discarded from a boat, the operator or owner of the boat, or both, shall be deemed in violation of this section;

**PENALTIES; ENFORCEMENT.**— (a) Any person who dumps litter in violation of subsection (4) in an amount not exceeding 15 pounds in weight or 27 cubic feet in volume and not for commercial purposes is guilty of a noncriminal infraction, punishable by a civil penalty of \$100, from which \$50 shall be deposited into the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund to be used for the solid waste management grant program pursuant to s. 403.7095. In addition, the court may require the violator to pick up litter or perform other labor commensurate with the offense committed.

# Personal Watercraft BOATING REGULATIONS

### BOATING REGULATIONS

1. In order to operate a motorboat/personal watercraft (PWC) of ten (10) horsepower or greater, Florida requires anyone who was born on or after January 1, 1988 to successfully complete an approved boating safety course and obtain a Boating Safety Education Identification Card issued by FWC.
2. A person must be 14 years of age to operate a personal watercraft in Florida.
3. Each person operating, riding on, or being towed behind a personal watercraft must wear an approved non-inflatable wearable personal flotation device (PFD). Inflatable PFDs are prohibited for personal watercraft use.
4. A personal watercraft must at all times be operated in a reasonable and prudent manner. Maneuvers which unreasonably or unnecessarily endanger life, limb, or property, including, but not limited to, weaving through congested vessel traffic, jumping the wake of another vessel unreasonably or unnecessarily close to such other vessel or when visibility around such other vessel is obstructed, and swerving at the last possible moment to avoid collision shall constitute reckless operation of a vessel.
5. Muffling Devices:
  - All vessels must be equipped with an effective muffling device.
  - The use of “cutouts” or altered mufflers is strictly prohibited, except for vessels competing in a regatta or official boat race and such vessels while on trail runs.
6. Vessel Registration:
  - All vessels, with the exception of non-motor-powered vessels less than 16 feet in length, non-motor-powered canoes, kayaks, racing shells or rowing sculls, regardless of length, must be registered through your local tax collector.
  - Letters must be separated from the numbers by a hyphen or space equal to the letter width.
  - The Certificate of Registration must be on board and available for inspection by an enforcement officer whenever the vessel is operated.
  - Vessels must be registered and numbered within 30 days of purchase.
  - Registration numbers must be displayed on the forward half of the vessel on both sides above the waterline.
  - The numbers must be bold block letters at least 3” high in a color contrasting the hull.
7. For additional information, please visit **Florida Wildlife Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission** at <https://myfwc.com/boating/regulations/#?text=A%20person%20must%20be%20at%20a%20second%20degree%20misdemeanor>. ■

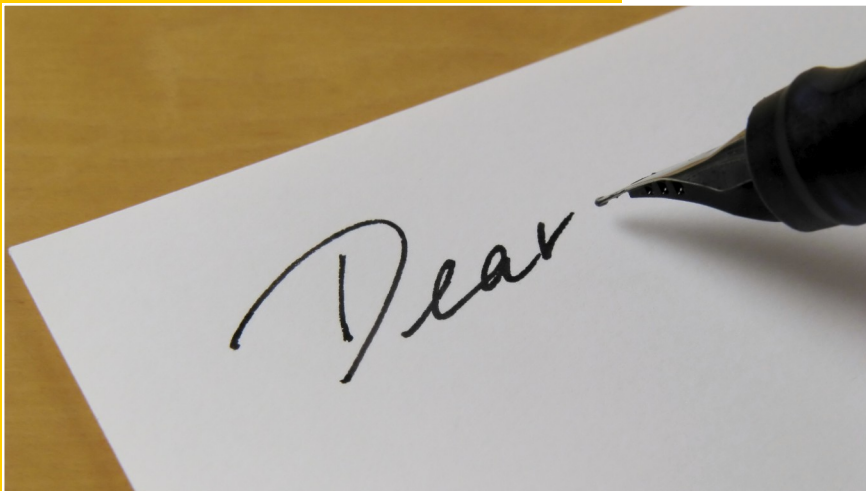
# FAA COMMENT PERIOD ENDS FOR FLORIDA METROPLEX PROJECT

Mayor Nicholas Fouraker, Commissioner Anthony Carugno and City Manager Bob Francis

For months, District 2 Commissioner/Vice-Mayor Tony Carugno and Mayor Nick Fouraker have been telling residents of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) plan to modernize air traffic procedures for 21 airports in the southern half of the state. Orlando International Airport is one of the airports listed in the plan. The proposed new procedures are supposed to enhance safety and efficiency because they are based on satellite technology. Even though the current procedures are safe, the FAA states that they are less efficient because they are based on outdated technology.

The FAA is required to identify and publicly disclose the potential environmental impacts of the proposed procedures. The FAA released a draft copy of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for public comment. The City posted E-Alerts and on Social Media sites to get residents to review and comment on the EA. The comment period ended on July 24 and the FAA is expected to issue an environmental determination in September 2020, after it considers and reviews all substantive comments received during the comment period.

The City hopes that many Belle Isle residents read the EA and sent comments to the FAA that this is not a good thing for Belle Isle. Both Mayor Fouraker and Vice-Mayor Carugno sent comments to the FAA. Those comments are included here.



## Letter from Mayor Fouraker:

To Whom It May Concern,

Good afternoon. Be advised that as the Mayor of the City of Belle Isle and as a resident living near Conway Road, I firmly oppose the draft EA as written. We do not want flights coming any closer to our City, which was established in 1924 long before the MCO existed. We will not tolerate more noise than is already emanating from the airport flights. We want to be good neighbors to the airport and are willing to work with the FAA, but this draft of the policy is flawed from our City's perspective and does not appear to have contemplated our City's interests into the plan. The FAA should consider moving this flight path closer to SR- 436 (Semoran) which is a commercial district, not close to residential areas, schools and our pristine lakes which can amplify the noise from the planes.

We are prepared to work with the FAA on alternatives as this is the amicable thing to do as neighbors.

Also, it should be noted that on July 21st, our City Council unanimously voted to oppose this. A letter will be forthcoming from the Vice Mayor formally outlining the City's objections. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding.  
Truly yours,

Nicholas "Nick" Fouraker  
Mayor - The City of Belle Isle

## Letter from Vice-Mayor Carugno

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the Vice Mayor of the City of Belle Isle, Florida. I am submitting this letter, on behalf of the Belle Isle City Council, as testimony to the FAA Metroplex procedures. I was chosen to do so as both a professional in the airline industry and as a resident of over 27 years in Belle Isle. My expertise and testimony on this subject is based on my 27-year career as an Air Traffic Controller (ATC), retiring from this position at Orlando International Airport. Along with working as an ATC, I also worked (and continue to work) as an employee of American Airlines for 34 years. Most recently, as Vice Mayor, I serve as the City's representative on the OIA Airport Noise Abatement Committee (ANAC).

I would like to thank you for taking into consideration the ANAC's recommendations for the departures off Orlando International Airport (Airport code MCO). The Committee approves most of the procedures outlined in the plan with the exception of the departures to the north of MCO. For many years the City of Belle Isle (COBI) has had an informal noise abatement procedure in place. Occasionally, the controllers at MCO have to bend the rules because of special operations; mostly due to weather. The City understands the special circumstances and the reasons for violating this procedure when necessary for the safety of the aircraft; however we still need to register complaints.

The Greater Orlando Aviation Authority has been a great neighbor by developing the ANAC to act as a liaison between the City of Belle Isle and other surrounding communities and the FAA. Now, due to perceived increases in capacity, efficiency, and "safety", the FAA wants to improve the navigation of aircraft off the ground to join the "highways in the sky" (and vice versa). These new procedures created on a North operation will bring departures closer to the City of Belle Isle; homes north of the City; and Downtown Orlando. This will also include flying directly over two schools in the Conway area. This new procedure will change the aircraft noise to almost double the current noise level. This new North departure procedure



(contd)

will put the larger and heavier cargo aircraft over our elementary and middle schools that are along Conway road. These aircraft are also much louder than passenger aircraft.

Current procedures and headings are safe and efficient and provide Belle Isle with acceptable noise conditions that we have grown accustomed to. The current noise abatement at MCO has been acceptable to most communities for 50 years. With this proposed change, not only will the residents to the north and west of MCO runways receive all the landing traffic to MCO on a South Operation, but now they will also have all the departures on a North Operation. This is unacceptable to the City of Belle Isle. This does not happen when MCO is on a South Operation as South Departures get fanned out to six different headings and the North Arrivals come straight in. As a retired controller, I know it is not hard to communicate and coordinate a simultaneous departure to another controller in the same tower.

The City is vehemently opposed to any modifications to routes that would have the effect of concentrating additional flights over Belle Isle. In particular, any modification of routes which add additional aircraft to a route that approaches the City of Belle Isle would have a substantial noise impact on the City.

The City believes that the Environmental Assessment (EA) is incorrect in its calculation of noise levels and they should be reevaluated. The significant increases in noise that will be created by the new procedures outlined in the NextGen Plan are unacceptable to the City of Belle Isle for the following reasons:

1. They violate the designated as "Noise Sensitive Area" that has been in place for over 50 years.
2. The older homes along Conway Road will incur damage from the increased noise levels especially from cargo aircraft. This will have a significant negative impact on property values in this area.
3. Belle Isle residents and residents to the north of Belle Isle will be significantly and negatively affected by increased aircraft noise caused by the implementation of FAA's Next Generation Air Transportation system (NextGen).
4. Medically: Aircraft noise is one, if not the most detrimental environmental effect of aviation. It can cause community annoyance, disrupt sleep, adversely affect academic performance of children, and could increase the risk for cardiovascular disease of people living in the vicinity of airports. A new study conducted by Cornell University states the constant roar from jet aircraft can seriously affect the health and psychological well-being of children. The health problems resulting from chronic airport noise, including higher blood pressure and boosted levels of stress hormones, the researchers say, may have lifelong effects.

Also for future discussion, we believe the FAA should be charged with the responsibility for identifying and proposing solutions to mitigate noise concerns. Further, the City recommends that the FAA monitors and documents noise exposure of any feasible solutions before and after implementation to ensure impacts are verified, and to determine whether results are of a discernible benefit.

Lastly, the City recommends ongoing compliance monitoring for any set of solutions accepted and implemented by the FAA and that the Members of Congress ensure that the FAA takes the appropriate steps to measure and guarantee ongoing compliance.

**The City of Belle Isle is not fighting air travel; we are fighting the distribution of air travel.**

Thank You for your time and consideration,  
Anthony P. Carugno  
Vice-Mayor  
City of Belle Isle, Florida ■



## Important Numbers

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

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

Nicholas Fouraker  
mayor@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  
Harv Readey  
hreadey@belleislefl.gov  
407-717-7860

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

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

**The City of Belle Isle is not fighting air travel; we are fighting the distribution of air travel.**

#### CITY STAFF

City Hall (Mon-Fri: 8:00 am—5:00 pm)  
1600 Nela Avenue  
Belle Isle, FL 32809  
Facebook: [cityofbelleisleflorida](https://www.facebook.com/cityofbelleisleflorida)  
Website: [www.cityofbelleislefl.org](http://www.cityofbelleislefl.org)  
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: [belleislepolicedepartment](https://www.facebook.com/belleislepolicedepartment)  
Administrative Offices: 407-240-2473  
Non-Emergency Number: 407-836-4357



## Plan Ahead: Appointment Required

Many of the city's services are available anytime at [www.cityofbelleislefl.org](http://www.cityofbelleislefl.org). If you still need to meet with a city employee directly, appointments are required. Please call the City directly or email [cityclerk@belleislefl.gov](mailto:cityclerk@belleislefl.gov). When you arrive for your scheduled appointment, you will notice safety precautions put in place to ensure physical distancing. This includes plexiglass barrier at service counter, sanitizer station and the requirement of wearing masks or face coverings when in any city building. Thanks for helping us ensure that our customers, and our city employees, stay healthy.



You can **recycle** non-rechargeable alkaline batteries and fluorescent light bulbs (4-ft, 2-ft, curved 2-ft) at City Hall.

## Solid Waste & Recycling:

### YARD waste - **Monday**

- Use Trash cans OR bundles.
- Maximum of 10: Trash cans OR Bundles OR Combination
- NO Plastic bags

### TRASH - **Tuesday/Friday**

- Maximum of 10 containers

### RECYCLING - **Wednesday**

- NO Styrofoam packaging and NO Plastic bags
- Glass containers – Remove top
- Plastic containers – Leave top on

## BOARDS & COMMITTEES

CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL

**TREE ADVISORY BOARD**

CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL

**POLICE ADVISORY BOARD**

CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL

**SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE**

CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL

**SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE**

CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FL

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Need more information? Contact the City Clerk at [cityclerk@belleislefl.gov](mailto:cityclerk@belleislefl.gov). if you are interested in learning more *about your City Boards*. All meetings are open to the public.

GET INVOLVED IN CITY