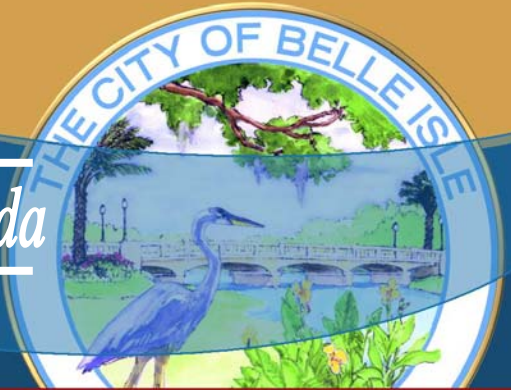


City of Belle Isle Florida

CONNECTION



3rd Quarter 2019

www.cityofbelleislefl.org

Important Numbers

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

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

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

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

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

Where We Live, Work and Play

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR NICHOLAS FOURAKER

Hello Belle Isle! I hope this message finds you well and thriving after a fun-filled summer! My family and I enjoyed a retreat to North Carolina, fun days on beautiful Lake Conway and fit in some beach as well. Nothing replaces quality time with family and a break from work and school.

Now that school has resumed, it is back to the hectic routine that comes with the school year. It can be an overwhelming and stressful time of year. There is an increase in traffic and congestion on the roads, which leads to longer travel times. This experience can seem senseless, and you feel helpless. To lessen the stress, I have been working closely with Chief Houston, Belle Isle PD and Cornerstone Charter School staff to refine the process for pick up and drop off which affects the rest of the City. The goal is to reduce time in and out while being particularly focused on the safety of students.

CCA Corner

Even though school was out, it was still an eventful summer for the CCA Ducks!

- On July 11th CCA was recognized as one of three OCPS High Schools to be recognized as 2017-2018 School of Excellence. Additionally, Lower Academy and Upper Academy have been awarded an "A" grade. "Well Done" to teachers, parents, staff, and students!
- In other award-winning news, CCA PTSA was awarded the

highest honor by being named a National PTA School of Excellence. Only one other school in Orange County received this honor. Congratulations and thank you Alexa Dowlen!

- Mrs. Reyes and CCA's Service Learning Club traveled to Washington D.C. last week to receive their 2019 National Service Award, congratulations and well done!
- The first home football game is August 23rd vs. Central Florida Christian Academy.
- Thank you CCA SAC for doing such a great job with the used uniform store and your pivotal efforts to keep costs down.
- Mark your calendars! Ducktoberfest is on October 26th. This year will be better than ever. Be on the lookout for opportunities to volunteer and donate. **Go Ducks!**

Orange County Partnerships

The City Manager and I are working closely with our District 3 Commission Mayra Uribe on multitude of issues affecting our City. She has been instrumental in the following projects:

- keeping the annexation process moving along for the roads Daetwyler, Seminole and Judge
- helping us get attention to the much needed median project across from WAWA on Hoffner
- working on getting crosswalks at Peninsular and the Highlands, and



MAYOR NICHOLAS FOURAKER



Cornerstone Charter Academy & City Council Joint Meeting.

For the first time, the City Council and the CCA School Board will be having a joint meeting on **August 28th, 2019, 4:00 PM at CCA 5903 Randolph Avenue**. The purpose of this meeting is to unify the City and the School's vision of the future. The school has grown its student body as well as its reputation for excellence, so it is imperative that we strive to protect and build on this success. I am very excited about this meeting!

keep and improve the existing crosswalks at Monet and Pleasure Island

- streetscape improvements in the Pine Castle district
- investigating better ways to control the quality of environmental impacts and safety on our lakes
- participating in the Conway Chain of Lakes—Lake Clean-up effort.



Commissioner Mayra Uribe

Suffice it to say, Commissioner Uribe has been extremely responsive on these subjects as well as a host of others, so it has been a pleasure having her assistance since becoming Mayor.

Waste Services

Our Solid Waste and Recycling Committee had the arduous task of putting the Request for Proposal together, then reviewing the bids and visiting the various contractors to make their recommendation to the City Council. Thank you to the board of volunteers for all their hard work!

In October, we will be switching to a new solid waste and recycling vendor, JJ's Waste and Recycling. While they are new to our country, they are the largest operator in Australia. They will be offering technology on their trucks we have not had before such as 360-degree cameras as well as a GPS logistics software that can track the trucks. The new technology will bring more accountability to the job that they do for our City.

Traffic Planning Updates

In former Mayor Lydia Pisano's last newsletter (1st Quarter of 2019) to the City, she spoke of "an in-depth traffic study of the City." Carrying the torch since the transition, I am pleased to announce that on August 6th, the City Council adopted the Transportation Master Plan (TMP). The TMP is a big step in modernizing our entire City to match today's traffic demands, increase mobility, and heighten public safety.

Now we move to the implementation phase. To help with this, I have been attending MetroPlan meetings as our representative on the Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC), which features other Mayors, City Council, planning experts, and decision-makers from Department of Transportation and other transportation agencies. While there, I discovered free resources that are available to our City.

I met Nick Lepp, Director of Transportation Planning and Alex Trauger, Senior Planner/ Project Manager, who I shared our TMP with and then invited them to meet with City Manager Bob Francis and me at City Hall on July 11th. Mr. Francis and I learned a great deal about opportunities we are missing out on, like being LAP (Local Agency Program) certified. We need this certification to be able to qualify for federal aid, something our City has never received. This aid is vital to assist in paying for the improvements we approved in the TMP. Getting LAP certified is something Mr. Francis,



JJ's Waste & Recycling

New Solid Waste & Recycling Hauler

A message from
Bob Francis
City Manager

Recently the City Council approved the proposal of JJ's Waste and Recycling (JJ's) to collect trash, yard waste, and recycling starting October 1, 2019. The selection of JJ's was the result of a 6-month process that was conducted by a Committee made up of seven Belle Isle residents (Richard Weinsier, Clay Van Kamp, Emily Wakely, Greg Gent, Larry Miles, Charlotte Brown, and Jeanne Hollingsworth). After reviewing the proposals submitted by four companies, the Committee recommended that JJ's be the next hauler. The City Council, on August 6th, approved the recommendation. Please look for information via E-Alerts, separate mailings, door hangers, and posts to the City's Facebook page on the transition between Republic and JJ's. We want to thank Republic for their years of service to the community, and we welcome JJ's to the community.

JJ's met with the Committee again on August 14th to discuss the transition in October. One of the suggestions offered by JJ's and accepted by the Committee was to have each residence receive a 64-gallon wheeled cart (green body, yellow lid) for recycling. The cart will be provided free of charge. In looking at the average volume of recycling that is collected and that the City currently uses a 14-gallon bin, there should not be a problem with the weekly collection of recycling in the cart.

Although you will receive much more information soon, you can expect the following schedule: (continued on page 3)

(continued Mayor Fouraker) and I will be working on while Nick, Alex, and the Metroplan team begin the technical planning we will need to pair with our request for aid once LAP certified. I will share progress reports in the future.

Strategic Planning

Friday, August 16 and Saturday, August 17th, the Commissioners, City Manager, City Staff and myself were immersed in strategic planning for the City. I am excited about all of the activities coming in the fall and working with the City Council and City Manager to continue making Belle Isle the best place to live in America! I love Belle Isle!

Belle Isle Police Department- Police Advisory Board

I want to recognize and commend Chief Houston for her work in receiving three grants for a total value of \$12,000.00. Next, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the members of the Police Advisory Board. They have done an excellent job of reviewing public safety issues as well as identifying areas where outreach can be improved for enhanced communications. The Police Department has been issuing social media notifications, which will improve over time.

The BIPD has been working closely with Orange County and FWC to keep up enforcement efforts on the Lakes over the summer. A great many tickets and warning have been issued, particularly to PWC's. Last, Chief Houston wants me to remind everyone, "If you SEE something, SAY something!"

Office Hours and Contact Information

I have weekly office hours at City Hall which the City Clerk will post on our website. You can schedule time with me by emailing Yolanda at yquiceno@belleislefl.gov. If you have questions, concerns, feedback suggestions, or even if you have some good news to share, feel free to email or call me at: mayor@belleislefl.org * cell: 407-717-7868. I will do my best to return your correspondence promptly. ■

Council Meeting Streaming & ANAC Update

A message from Anthony Carugno Commissioner District 2

As we come towards the end of summer, just wanted to give thanks to our City Manager for keeping the City on a rail and keeping our staff safe and happy during this season. Also, Belle Isle Police Department and Orange County Sheriff's Department for making the lakes safe again. A huge difference from the beginning of spring till now. Also, "Thank You" to Orange County Commissioner Mayra Uribe for stepping up the efforts on the outskirts of OUR city and addressing some of the issues we have been dealing with, and keeping us involved with what's happening., and to State Representative Eskamani and Senator Linda Stewart for attending meetings and listening to residents and working with the City and County to help solve some of our problems.

By the time this newsletter goes to print, we will be starting our strategic planning meetings where we set priorities for what projects and issues to tackle for the city now and into the future. This process should be interesting considering we haven't done this since my appointment to this position. There are other things in the works, and you know the usual saying - the government is interesting but such a slow process. The best way to stay involved is by coming to the meetings or by watching and listening on the City Facebook feed. Starting in September, the A/V Department from Oak Ridge High School will be handling the production process to give our residents a quality product online. This is a great opportunity to enterprising young and talented students to get practical experience in local government and in running a production outside the school.

Lake levels are high, in fact above hurricane levels, even though we are not at the 86.9 level (the hundred year high water mark). Most of our residents who boat are intelligent enough to stay far away from the shoreline, it's the non-residents that are not aware of the issues we currently have. Some of the issues are docks under water, docks breaking apart due to big waves, and greater than normal erosion. The real concern is the septic tank and drain fields. We are currently trying to work with the County in order to solve this issue. Please be conscientious when out on our waterways and try to keep the wakes to a minimum when in close proximity to the shoreline.

We have seven Commissioners trying to make the best decisions for our City. All Commissioners, like our residents, have different opinions, personalities, and expertise. Each one of us has unique ways of expressing our points. We all have the best intentions for Our City and make decisions to make Our City a great place to live. ■

Ciao

- Monday – Yard Waste (City Wide)
- Tuesday – Trash Collection (Route TBD)
- Wednesday – Recycling Collection (City Wide)
- Friday – Trash Collection (Route TBD)

With the approval of the City, JJ's proposes a trial from Tuesday 1st October, with one truck commencing at 6 am at the Conway Road end, and a 2nd truck commencing just before the bridge, heading to Conway Road. We believe that this will ensure reduced complaints from drivers utilizing the road, and should be completed by 6:45 am, ready to commence the other areas from 7 am. We believe this trial will be successful and especially during the school year, will reduce or eliminate the backup of traffic on Hoffner that we currently experience. This trial will be for an initial period of 2 months until November 29th and then assess the success or otherwise of the trial. During and after the trial period, please provide any comments to the City during the trial period.

Also, in the past, there has been confusion with holiday pickup, especially when the holiday occurs on a Friday or Monday. JJ's will be servicing the community on each of the standard holidays, such as Independence Day, Memorial Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day, along with other listed holidays to eliminate this confusion.

JJ's is working with the City to produce marketing materials and magnets to promote the changes made and in the recycling program.

Lastly, please come out to the Pine Castle Historical Society's BBQ on October 5th as JJ's will have a booth there to provide information about their services, and they would like to meet the community. ■

Airport Noise Abatement Committee (ANAC)

The ANAC is a board of several residents from around the County representing the airlines, private and corporate aviation, and different cities in Orlando. Being a retired air traffic controller, I feel uniquely qualified to sit on this Committee, and I am happy to represent Our City at the monthly meetings. During the past weeks, the FAA held several public meetings to explain Metroplex and the future of aviation at Orlando International Airport. This is a very important process for the residents of Belle Isle because of the informal noise abatement agreement we currently have with GOAA (Greater Orlando Aviation Authority) and the FAA. Currently, they are trying to slightly adjust flight paths off the airport. This adjustment, however slight, will affect us, especially the "North Flow" off the airport. These slight adjustments result in straight out departures off the airport TOWARDS OUR CITY. To the FAA, it's not much of a change, but to us, it would be a huge change and have a detrimental impact on the neighbors and us north of our city. The reason for the adjustments is because the airport and operations keep growing due to the increase in the low-cost carriers and are now the airport is "rocking round the clock."

ANAC made its recommendations to keep the current informal noise abatement agreement in place to the GOAA, which will, in turn, discuss with FAA the future of Metroplex. With the current building around the airport, more trees are being removed, and our natural noise buffer is being depleted. Therefore the aircraft seem louder, whether on the ground or in the air. In years past and to the present day, several airlines have overnight maintenance and need to do run-ups (rev the engines in place) to make sure things are working. I can hear these run-ups at 2, or 3 am on certain nights, and I make my concerns known at the last few ANAC meetings. If you see or hear something out of the ordinary, don't be afraid to complain (orlandoairports.net) and voice your opinion. And if you do not get a response back, let me know via email so I can take your written comments with me and put them on the official record. ■



That bamboo is not a tree but rather a large woody perennial grass? There are several different species of bamboo that can range in size from 1 to 70 feet tall. Cane or Canebreak bamboo is the only bamboo native to the U.S. and in general, is not very weedy and relatively easy to manage. (Maybe referred to as a clumping bamboo.) BUT, there are many imported bamboos that are very invasive and likewise a problem to contain. (Can be referred to as running bamboo.)

These invasive have large underground rhizomes that store energy for the plants. Choose wisely when selecting bamboo and talk to a nursery that specializes in this plant or is knowledgeable about its growing habits. (For more information, refer to solutionsforyourlife.org.



Ordinances

AN ABRIDGED TOUR OF THE CAFR (part 2) - A message from Ed Gold- Commissioner District 1

Last quarter, I briefly summarized the auditor's findings from the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). In the previous article, I primarily discussed the financial highlights, assets, and expenses. I'll now focus on the city's revenues, and because I believe it's of particular interest to most residents, I'll discuss Cornerstone Charter Academy's financial impact on the city.

Revenues—In the last article, I mentioned that property tax revenue rose by \$210K, grants and contributions increased by \$44K, franchise and utility taxes increased by \$15K, and total revenue increased by \$187K. I'm extremely pleased that revenue from property taxes has increased while the City has held tax rates constant for years. Several factors made this possible.

First, as the appraised value of each home increases, the City's share of the property tax increases. Because the "Save Our Homes" amendment prevents the appraised value from rising by more than the lesser of 3% or the CPI, the City will not receive the full tax benefit when property values rise significantly. The Amendment is great for homeowners, but not so great for the City. However, when a home changes ownership, the appraiser will often adjust the property value much closer to its real value, and property taxes will reflect that increase.

Fortunately, the City sees an increase in property taxes whenever land is improved. The new businesses that launched at the southwest corner of Conway and Hoffner benefit us all through increased property taxes. Lot splits and new residential development, as much as we might fear the aesthetic, congestion, and traffic consequences will also improve revenues as they significantly increase property values.

And of course, when a new property is annexed as we saw with the Mattamy Homes Project, this improves revenues. Whenever there are strong synergy and mutual benefit between unincorporated neighboring areas and Belle Isle, we should consider annexation.

Cornerstone Charter Academy— Switching gears, I expect many residents would like to understand how Cornerstone Charter Academy impacts the City financially. From the CAFR, we see that the City originally issued bonds amounting to \$9,625,000 in October of 2012 to acquire the property and facilities. The interest rates vary between 5.5% and 6.0%, and the current balance is \$8,925,000. These reach maturity in 2042, after which we will be debt-free. (continued on page 5)

The City Commission recently passed Ordinance 18-14 amending Chapter 15, which provides for the regulation concerning the installation, maintenance, and operation of security alarms and regulations designed to inhibit the occurrence and reoccurrence of False Alarms, and for the collection of fines for all residential alarms in excess of two (2) within a one hundred and eighty (180) day period. Information can be found in Chapter 15-75(b) of the City code.

When used correctly, home security alarms provide a layer of security and peace of mind to homeowners. However, False Alarms cost taxpayer's money via dispatching services when an alarm is accidentally activated. Police responses to false alarms cause a significant misuse of resources and render police units unavailable for a response to legitimate emergencies.

Do your part to prevent False Alarms using these suggestions:

- Obtain a City of Belle Isle Low Voltage Alarm Permit
- Request your alarm company to inspect your system annually.
- Check the batteries on your system regularly, particularly after power outages.
- Check contacts on your doors and windows to ensure they are in good condition and properly adhered to the surface.
- Ensure there is a sufficient pet path to avoid activation.
- Everyone with access to the system knows the proper code and how to arm and disarm the system.
- If the alarm is set off accidentally, immediately contact the alarm company and be available until they have contacted you so you can alert them the activation is accidental.

For your convenience, follow the link to Belle Isle City Code Chapter 15-75 at <https://www.cityofbelleislefl.org/> Please review the entire Code to ensure you comply. ■

FALSE ALARM ORDINANCE City Code Chapter 15-75



thank you 😊

A big thank you to **Mama Mia's Pizzeria** for donating pizza in support of the recent Orange County DUI county-wide saturation event. Over 70 officers participated in this event and enjoyed dinner before hitting the streets. Thank you for your continued support of our law enforcement community.



Health and Safety - A message from Karl Shuck—Commissioner District 3

Now that school has started please pay special attention to children (and parents) who walk to school or ride their bicycles. Along with their backpacks, some children also carry band instruments, school projects, and other items that can make it difficult for them to easily maneuver in traffic and at intersections. Please be careful when driving during school start & end times.

As more of our residents are becoming more health-conscious and ride their bicycles around our quiet streets, some seldom stop at Stop signs and often don't obey the 'rules of the road.' Remember, bicyclists are required to obey the same traffic laws that automobiles do!

Many residents choose to take their daily walks in the street even when sidewalks are present. This is not only a safety issue but contributes to some of our traffic problems when drivers have to veer around walkers.

I encourage everyone to take advantage of the information posted on the official City of Belle Isle Florida Facebook page; the Belle Isle FL Police Department Facebook page, and by signing up to receive the city's e-Alert emails.

Lastly, please remember that our City Manager and City Commissioners depend on input from interested and informed residents when making decisions regarding what is best for our city. Don't hesitate to contact us with your ideas, concerns, or opinions. ■

(continued from page 4—Comm Gold)

The City leases the facilities to "City of Belle Isle Charter Schools, Inc." (CBICS) under the 2012 agreement. CBICS pays rent of \$700/student, last year paying \$984,844 in rent. For the year ending 2019, with 1430 students budgeted, the anticipated rent will be \$1,001,000. A debt service fund was established to accumulate revenue received from the Charter School. Our bonds are paid from this fund, as are maintenance and improvement expenses. Last year, rent exceeded debt by \$285K.

In 2016, the City used money from this fund to purchase the large open field on Wallace. This property is used both by the school and by residents, adding value to the City and the school for many years to come. I ask you to give special attention to how CCA and COBI worked together here for our mutual benefit. The acquisition of this additional green space was only made possible with money accumulated in the debt service fund.

This concludes my tour of the CAFR. To fit within the newsletter, I had to focus on what I thought you might consider most important. I am interested in hearing whether I covered everything you hoped I would address; or did I miss something you would like to know more about? And of course, if you spot anything in error, please let me know, and I will happily issue a correction! I hope that this summary provides you with more insight into many of the City's activities and into how it has been managed. ■

On July 24th, the Tree Advisory Board hosted the "Bite me-Bite me not!" event on personal mosquito control. The Guest speaker was Dr. Thomas Breaud, who provided valuable information and fun free giveaways. A special Thank You to **Southeast Marine and Gary Meloon** who sponsored this event.



Will Taxes Increase? LET'S THINK ABOUT IT A message from Sue Nielsen—Commissioner District 7

How does Belle Isle City government pay for services and infrastructure maintenance? If you attend budget meetings, then you know how difficult it is for your commissioners to ask you to pay more. But we have to answer some really important questions during this process. To list a few, how do we pay for our excellent community police department and its quick response time; our state-of-the-art fire and emergency protection (which reduces your homeowner insurance); paving our streets, repairing sidewalks and repairing or replacing curbs; and making our surroundings safer and more attractive (which improves your property value)?

Property taxes, specific fines, and franchise fees are some of the few sources of revenue that cities in Florida can control. Research of Central Florida cities tells us that Belle Isle is alone in not charging power and utility companies to access our right-of-ways to provide power and water/sewer service. Franchise fees are actually charged to the companies but of course they pass along to their customers. The good news about this is that you can control how much water and electricity you use, and so keep your bills from increasing.

This month commissioners have to make a decision about whether to start using franchise fees as a revenue source in the coming year. If your gut tells you to object, please first think of the reasons you like living in our City and what it is worth to you. Also please keep in mind that this fee is one that does not require you to pay more, because we can all use less of these precious commodities. ■



City of *Belle Isle* Florida
CONNECTION

1600 Nela Avenue,
Belle Isle, FL 32809
Tel 407-851-7730

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ORLANDO, FL
PERMIT NO. 4067



If you have any
suggestions on what
you would like to see
included in our bulletin, please contact the
City Clerk at yquiceno@belleislefl.gov or
call (407) 851-7730.



CITY OF BELLE ISLE PARKING 101

8

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
please visit www.cityofbelleislefl.org—City Code: Ordinance 19-04

1. All vehicles, watercraft, recreational vehicles and utility trailers parked in the City of Belle Isle on private property or commercial property, must be parked completely on a prepared surface, at least three feet from sidewalk, side lot line and non-sidewalk curb or roadway. Prepared material include: asphalt, concrete, pavers, 4" gravel or crushed rock, mulch, or other material approved by the City Manager. If mulch, crushed rock or gravel, a border must be used to prevent spreading. Parking areas must be maintained in good and safe condition and free of holes, cracks or other defects.
2. No vehicles shall be parked on or over any sidewalk.
3. When parking on a roadway, the 2 passenger side wheels only may be parked on the grass.
4. Residential parking district is a distinct geographical zone established by the City Council in a residential area. This can be established by the City Council authority or upon approval of a petition of a majority of a district.
5. **Temporary** parking permits for special events may be issued through City Hall with the approval of the City Manager.
6. No commercial or construction equipment shall be parked on any public property or private property other than in an enclosed building, except when making delivery's or performing work.
7. No recreational, watercraft or utility trailers shall be parked on public property. Only one watercraft unit or utility trailer may be parked in a front yard on a prepared parking surface and may not exceed 24 feet in length.
8. No vehicle shall be occupied for permanent living purposes, nor connected to public utilities (sewer or water) while stored at a residence, except that if the owner of the property has a valid building permit for extensive remodeling or renovation of the residence and the residence cannot be inhabited due to such remodeling or renovation, then the property owner may use a recreational vehicle for a temporary dwelling until the remodeling or renovation is complete. The resident must provide the City with a valid building permit. No vehicle shall be used as a short-term rental.

*Any person may appeal a parking citation (\$35 fee) in accordance with
Subsection 30-76 of the City of Belle Isle parking code.*