

Go Green
**Hot Summer
Hot Topics**

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Mayor's Message



Mayor Bill Brooks

In our last newsletter, I mentioned asking the City Council to consider studying the potential for a public charter school in Belle Isle. I am pleased to report that our Council members agreed and the City of Edgewood accepted our invitation to join in this effort, since they too are 100% within the Oak Ridge High School attendance boundary. While we have been casually discussing a solution to the Oak Ridge High School situation since 2007, this year we are taking positive action to pursue a public charter school option for the 2010-2011 school year. The study recommends that starting a charter school is feasible then and would greatly benefit the children of our communities academically and would increase the advantages of living in our cities. Furthermore, similar charter schools in Florida have proven to improve the quality of the other public schools in their cities.

We have learned that to enhance the overall viability of the charter high school, we will need elementary and middle schools feeding into our charter high school. Discussions will continue to take place with local school representatives and charter school operators to include those elements in our charter program.

Our vision is to provide children with a top quality education in a safe, creative environment conducive to learning with passionate teachers. Our model will require extensive parental

involvement and we will have a very strong standard of character and conduct. We will offer an outstanding core and elective academic program and extra-curricular activities as well. We want to have such a strong school for our communities that we will have people move here just to enroll their kids into our school.

This issue continues to gain support and I look forward to providing additional information in the next newsletter or my "Mayor's e-mail". If you are not receiving these e-mails and would like to be added to the list contact Yolanda at Belle Isle City Hall at 407-851-7730.

Clearly, the drought has ended and the lake levels are back! Please remember to use great caution when boating or swimming in the lakes. With so many watercraft these days, we must be mindful of our safety at all times. Just like on the road, please "watch out for the other guy" as it is usually someone else that causes the problem. Also use caution when swimming in any lakes in Florida and take responsible steps to minimize the threat imposed by the presence of amoeba. See our web site for details.

Speaking of boating, we continue to field complaints from our residents about a number of lake issues, and we receive hopeful inquiries as well about whether our Police will have enforcement capability on the lakes.

Continued



Vision Statement: To be Central Florida's premier community where residents and business can thrive in a healthy environment centered on Lake Conway with the support of a responsive city government.

Mayor's Message—continued

The City of Belle Isle does have enforcement jurisdiction on the lakes, as do the State and Orange County. When our officers have their marine law enforcement certification and we have secured the watercraft to operate from, our police officers will be on the lakes conducting safety and enforcement activities.

Similarly, we have received complaints about moored and anchored boats on the lakes which have led to damaging the shallow lake bottom, littering and other problems. We are inquiring with other cities to see how this issue may have been managed in similar situations.

We have also received complaints concerning the unlawful and unsafe parking of vehicles and trailers along Hoffner in front of First Baptist Church and westward, including parking on the sidewalks and parking in the wrong direction in the rights of way. I sent the issue to Orange County and was informed that the County traffic department staff "does not see a problem". Hopefully, this problem will not continue to be ignored. We will stay with this issue.

In closing, I want to again thank Chief John Tegg and his team in our Police Department for the outstanding job they are doing already. This is a wonderful city and I am impressed with the efforts that our City Manager Be Bateman, our staff and Council members are doing in even these difficult economic times. I am more proud and honored than ever to serve as your Mayor.

I hope you have a great summer. If I may answer your questions or be of any assistance, please let me know.■

*Respectfully,
Bill*

City Manager's Report

Belinda Bateman
City Manager

SCHOOL'S OUT

It is hard to believe Summer is upon us and the kids are out of school already. Let's keep our eyes open as there will be more children playing outside and they often forget to watch for cars. Obey the speed limits and make sure you yield to pedestrians at intersections.

Some area youths tend to use the street as their play field and are reluctant to move out of the street for vehicular traffic. If you encounter this problem call the Belle Isle Officer on duty at 407-947-1680 and they will respond to the area as soon as possible.



POLICE ENFORCEMENT

Our Belle Isle police force is out on the streets patrolling and they will be strictly enforcing stop signs, traffic laws and speed limits. No excuses! A stop sign means you have to come to a complete stop where your wheels stop turning. Anything less is a violation of the law and traffic citations will be issued.

Congratulations to our newly promoted Lt. Casper Johnson. Lt. Johnson has been on staff since the start up period of the agency and has a Master's Degree and over 25 years of experience in law enforcement. In fact, our complete law enforcement management staff have Master's degrees in Public Administration. Chief Tegg has over 30 years of Law Enforcement experience.

We have a great pro-active police staff and they have been very effective in arresting suspects in a number of auto and home break-ins. We have also made arrests for grand theft by a juvenile and corrected a juvenile problem in one of our parks.

We are working on training for marine patrol and hope to have our own marine patrol coverage on Lake Conway before the end of summer. We have several habitual problem boaters on our lakes that we will target for enforcement. Many people congregate in the shallows off Conway Lakes and The Landings subdivisions which will also be targeted for enforcement. We will do everything we can to protect the quality of our lakes and lake bottom.

WARM LAKE WATER WARNING

This is also the time of year when the water in the lake begins to reach temperatures that are conducive to amoeba activity in the shallow water. Please remember to refrain from swimming along the lake bottom in shallow and warm water. It is advisable to use nose clips and ear plugs to protect sensitive membranes from penetration of the life threatening amoeba. See our website www.cityofbelleislefl.org for details.

DEJAI OLIVER HONORED

Mayor Bill Brooks and the Belle Isle City Council honored Dejai Oliver for pitching a perfect game on behalf of the Pine Castle Christian Academy Baseball Team in a State Championship series of games. A Proclamation was issued to Dejai proclaiming June 3, 2009 as DEJAI OLIVER DAY in the City of Belle Isle. Congratulations Dejai for a great game!

NEWLY ANNEXED PARCELS

Three adjacent vacant parcels on the West side of Matchett Road between Nela Ave and Perkins Road have been annexed into the City of Belle Isle. We welcome the new property owners as residents and look forward to accepting other adjacent parcels along our Western boundary of Matchett Road. We already have two interested parcels that have expressed an interest into coming into our city and will be pursuing their annexation as well as any other parcels adjacent to our boundaries that desire to be part of Belle Isle.■



Sincerely, Be Bateman

HOW TO UPGRADE YOUR HOME, AND RECEIVE A REBATE!!

If you have been thinking about upgrading your air conditioning, windows, roof, water heater, maybe contemplating putting solar in, now may be the time to do it. Under the Stimulus Package, Progress Energy (PE) is offering rebates upgrading the above, and also providing free home energy audits.

For instance, by replacing older windows, you are eliminating hot spots in rooms, protecting carpeting from being discolored due to the UV rays, if you upgrade to the Double Paned windows, it can also reduce the sound of airplane noise and traffic.

If you have thought about a solar water heater, Progress Energy is offering you to save energy and money, when you invest in solar water heating for your home, with EnergyWise savings. According to their website, you can receive a \$450 upfront credit from PE, and up to \$60 in credits each year, as well as up to 30% in Federal Tax credits, and savings up to 85% on your hot water costs.

Please check out the website Progress-energy.com. You will also be able to participate in an on-line home energy survey, as well as read some fantastic money saving energy tips.

Submitted by
Lydia Pisano, District 6

Have you thought about saving rain water in a Rain Barrel? Orange County Utilities offers do it yourself Rain Barrel classes, where you can help to avoid storm water runoff, by collecting the rain in a barrel, and using it to water plants, etc. Check out the Orange County Utilities website at OCFL.NET, click on on-line utilities.

Orange County will be offering a Neighborhood Grant program in October. This is for all neighborhoods, regardless if you have a homeowner's association or not.

The next Orange County Grant Workshop is on October 3rd, at 10:30AM, at the Orange County Downtown Library at 101 E. Central Blvd. You must register either by calling Neighborhood Services at 407-836-0035, or register online at OCFL.NET, click on Family and Services, then Grants. This is a great way to enhance your Neighborhood.

It is not too early to start thinking about any neighborhood projects you may want to tackle, such as new signage for your neighborhood entrance, landscaping, repairs to existing irrigation systems only, pressure washing and painting of your wall, entranceway improvements, and lighting. These grants are from \$1,000 to the maximum \$10,000 award. The projects do require a community contribution, which is equal to a percentage of the grant request. Total project costs cannot exceed \$20,000. ■

SIDEWALK SAFETY

Submitted by **Harv Readey, District 5**

It's that time of year again when the lawns are greening up and the days are becoming warmer. For our community it is also that time when we review all our properties to see if we can maintain the beauty of our community and enhance the safety of our residents.

In the area of safety, it has been brought to my attention that some home owners and renters are allowing their yard shrubbery, bushes and tree limbs to grow over City sidewalks. I am concerned about homes that require trimming bushes and hedges especially where they might impede on the sidewalk

The picture illustrates two sidewalk situations. The homeowner's in the foreground have properly trimmed their yard so the full width of the City sidewalk is clear for pedestrians and



bicyclists. The other homeowner (in the background) has let yard growth extend over the sidewalk. In this case the useful width of the sidewalk has been reduced about 25%. This overgrowth makes it difficult for people in wheel chairs, parents pushing baby buggies and bicyclists to use this portion of the sidewalk. There are situations where pedestrians exit the safety of the sidewalk and use the street to pass by the narrowed sidewalk section.

As a final note, allowing shrubs and other yard growth to grow over the City sidewalk may be a public nuisance, a violation of City Ordinance and the owner may be subject to a fine. I ask everyone to keep their sidewalks clear for pedestrian traffic. ■

Things 2 Know Community Corner

New Programs:

Start Saving on Prescriptions today!

This prescription discount program is brought to you by your city government in collaboration with the National League of Cities. Visit our website to find out more information at www.cityofbelleislefl.org or visit City Hall to pick up a discount card.

Ordinances:

Rental Unit License Renewal coming up in July 2009.

All residential rental or leased units, including single and multifamily dwellings, must be registered with the City of Belle Isle. Owners must provide a copy of the Lease if unit/home is occupied. Forms can be obtained at City Hall or at www.cityofbelleislefl.org. For more information on the Ordinance visit municode.com and read [Ordinance No. 08-03 & Resolution No. 08-04](#).

Tree Removal Permits

We're into the first weeks of the 2009 Hurricane Season. Now is the time to make sure you have your storm plan in place. Please remember to obtain a Tree Removal Permit to remove any dead or dying trees on your property. You can obtain a copy of the Tree Ordinance No. 92-6 Sec 48-63 at municode.com.

Police Department *News*

A Note from
Chief Tegg

William G. Brooks
Mayor

City Commissioners

Larry I. Ady
Vice Mayor

Thomas G. Petruzzi
Keith Severns
Charles D. Scott
Eric S. Spaulding
"Harv" Readey
Lydia Pisano

City Manager
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The Belle Isle Police Department is up and running. We are proud to report that all is going well for the newest police department in Florida.

We are pleased to welcome Officer Norma Budnik and Detective Steven Strickland.

Detective Strickland will enable us to do a deeper investigation into crimes that may occur in our city. He will also be responsible for our future programs, citizen on patrol, as well as our reserve officer program.

I am glad to report one of our officers followed up on a lead in the city and arrested two individuals for dealing in stolen property. During the investigation, the Edgewood Police Department as well as the Orange County Sheriff's Office came in to assist our officer. With everyone's help we were able to solve about 25 to 30 burglaries in the area. These two individuals would go out all night and commit burglaries to automobiles. They would then deal in stolen property to obtain drugs. Since their arrest we have had a drop in burglaries in our city.

Congratulations!!! to Lt. Casper Johnson and Officer Angel Cadiz for a job well done.■

City of Belle Isle *Bulletin*
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BELLE ISLE RESIDENTS "GO GREEN"

If you would like to receive this Newsletter or other updates from the City of Belle Isle via email please email City Hall at cobiadmin@att.net with your email and home address to receive our newsletter electronically.