



City of Belleair Bluffs

City Government Informational Publication SUMMER 2009



4th of July Celebration!



Saturday, July 4, 2009

11 a.m. ~ 2 p.m.

Belleair Bluffs Community Center & Park

Free Food! Bounce House & Slide! “Dunk the MAYOR”!
 Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office Belleair Bluffs Fire Rescue
 Live Entertainment including Jason the Roving Magician
 & Karaoke by “Doc”!

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Belleair Bluffs Independence Day Picnic, co-sponsored by the Bluffs Business Association, held this year on Saturday, July 4, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. This patriotic celebration will include entertainment, food, drink and plenty of activities for children and adults. Celebrate our nation’s 233rd birthday with your friends, neighbors, local businesses, City Commission and staff. Once again, a charitable event will take place!

City Commission Workshop Meetings – Every 2nd Monday at 6:00 pm
City Commission Regular Meetings – Every 3rd Monday at 7:00 pm

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|----------|---|--|
| <u>Phone Numbers</u> | | | www.belleairbluffs-fl.org <u>City Staff</u> Debra Sullivan, CMC, City Clerk Robert David, Public Works Director Thomas J. Trask, City Attorney Patrick Competelli, Fire Chief | <u>COMMISSION</u> Chris Arbutine, Sr., Mayor Joseph A. Barkley, Commissioner Hunt K. Brand, Commissioner Jack Nazario, Commissioner Suzy S. Sofer, Commissioner |
| City Hall | (727) | 584-2151 | | |
| Fax | (727) | 584-6175 | | |
| Public Works | (727) | 581-6808 | | |
| Fire Dept. | (727) | 584-8392 | | |
| Sheriff’s Office | (727) | 582-6177 | | |
| DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES | | | | |

FROM THE CITY CLERK, Debra S. Sullivan, CMC

On March 10, 2009, Belleair Bluffs voters came out to vote! The following residents were elected to serve you and your needs. Please visit www.belleairbluffs.org to contact the Commissioners.

| ELECTED | POSITION | TERM |
|---|-----------------|-------------|
| Chris Arbutine, Sr. | Mayor | 2011 |
| Joseph Barkley | Commissioner | 2010 |
| Jack Nazario | Commissioner | 2011 |
| Suzy S. Sofer | Commissioner | 2011 |
| Hunt K. Brand will continue his current term until 2010 | | |

REGISTRATION OF ALARM SYSTEMS - EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2009 The Pinellas County Board of Commissioners recently passed an ordinance stating that **ALL** businesses and homeowners **SHALL** register their alarm systems with the PCSO or face the possibility of being fined for any false alarms which may occur at that home or business. If you have an alarm system you must fill out a form provided by any one of the following methods.

- Come to city hall, we have the forms for you to fill out and mail in
- Go to www.pcsoweb.com - click on the SHARP icon to register on line
- Fill out form included in the newsletter - return to City Hall

There is an increased fee to anyone who does not register. It is a painless process so please HURRY and get your forms filled out!

RACCOONS – Do not attempt to catch raccoons. Several raccoons have been reported in the area within the past month. They are wild animals and can severely bite a person. People bitten by raccoons must be administered anti-rabies treatment if the raccoon is not available to be tested. To address this problem, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Florida Department of Health have initiated a program to vaccinate wild raccoons. The bait is not harmful to pets or livestock should they find and eat one. However, if the bait is out in the open or where contact by pets or children is possible, put on gloves and toss it into deeper cover. Pet owners should keep animals on leashes. To report or ask questions, call the Florida Oral Rabies Vaccine Info Line at 1-866-487-3297.

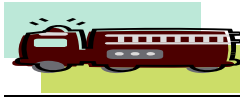


FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR, Robert David

NPDES requirements call for me to write once again. Trying to kill two birds with one stone, I would like to inform the residents that the drainage project along Renatta Drive, Palmer Road and Cortez Avenue will include storm inlets that filter water prior to going into the inter-coastal waters. This is something the City is very proud of. Now, to a more localized level of each homeowner, there are a couple of things you can do to help us keep those waters clean. When you or your lawn man cuts your grass, have him or her blow that cut grass back into the yard or pick it up; *do not* blow it into the street. It ends up in the storm drainage system! I have already written several violations for this and I do not want to include you.

Right now we are under very strict watering regulations, but the time will come when we can wash our cars again. When the restrictions are lifted, please wash your car over grass and allow the phosphates to absorb into the yard. The last thing I will mention is to think before using chemicals on your yard and landscaping plants. A lot of information is available about using organic substances in lieu of harsh chemicals.

Okay, I'm finished; thanks for taking the time to read. I would like to thank everyone for your kind words of encouragement and *you know who you are!* It's hard to get the last word in when writing but now I'm done!



FROM THE BELLEAIR BLUFFS FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

The Town of Belleair has recently decided to change their service provider for Fire Suppression Services. This unexpected decision has created a 46% or \$500,000 deficit in our Belleair Bluffs Fire budget. This revenue shortfall has serious impacts upon the Belleair Bluffs Fire Rescue Department.

Recently the Belleair Town Commission asked the Cities of Clearwater, Largo and Belleair Bluffs to give "bids" and presentations for Fire Services. The Belleair Finance Committee reviewed all proposals. After discussions regarding economies of scale and the security of larger multiple station Fire Departments the Finance Board recommended the City of Largo Fire Rescue Services. Citing recent economic pressures and constraints the Town of Belleair Commission agreed to contract for fire services with the City of Largo.

As of October 1, 2009 Belleair Bluffs will lose over \$500,000 from our Fire budget from the Town of Belleair. The Belleair Bluffs City Commission is now in the process of gathering information and formulating options for recommendation to the residents. At this point three predominate options have arisen: raise taxes to keep the status quo, reduce the staffing and service levels to keep the status quo, or contract for fire services with the neighboring City of Largo.

The Belleair Bluffs City Commission will hold an open house workshop at City Hall in the near future regarding this dilemma. This workshop will be held to gather resident input and provide answers to any and all questions. The ultimate decision will be voted on September 1, 2009 by referendum by YOU the residents of Belleair Bluffs.

For any further information or questions regarding this matter please call City Hall at (727) 584-2151

Belleair Bluffs Fire Rescue Executive Summary, Fire Chief Patrick Competelli

The City of Belleair Bluffs Fire Rescue Department is a highly capable and technology savvy emergency services operation with currently 12 firefighters and two administrators. All personnel are trained to Florida State and Pinellas County Requirements. Some employees are certified at the National Level. The department responds to over 2,000 calls per year. These calls range from fires, medical emergencies, child birth, vehicle crashes, gunshot wounds, suicides, drowning and any other emergency that takes place within the Fire and EMS District.

The department houses 1 advanced life support pumper that is capable of responding to both EMS calls and Fire calls. The paramedics, EMTs and Firefighters are all on one apparatus. In addition to the first line unit, the department houses a back-up BLS pumper, a Utility vehicle and a Fire Chief's vehicle. In the future we will be adding an EMS Coordinator vehicle.

Fire Department administration provides all Fire training and some EMS training to all of its employees at no additional cost. Both the Fire Chief and the Division Chief/Fire Marshal are State Certified Instructors, which allows this to take place. The Fire Chief is a licensed Paramedic that has affiliations with several EMS organizations including the Pinellas County Medical Director's Office; this allows additional EMS classes to take place in house at no additional cost.

Average response times to calls within district can range from, 0 – 4 minutes and 30 seconds. The 0 time constitutes people that walk into the fire station requesting emergency care. The time put forth by Pinellas County is 7 minutes and 30 seconds 90% of the time. Belleair Bluffs Fire Rescue far exceeds these standards.

Belleair Bluffs Fire Rescue provides fire prevention activities such as fire inspections and plans review in addition to other services. The department also holds 911 talks, blood pressure clinics and smoke detector installations for the citizens within the EMS and Fire District. Other public safety events such as the October open house and requests for appearances from local neighborhoods and civic organizations are also encouraged.

Belleair Bluffs Zip Code

The zip code for the City of Belleair Bluffs, 33770, is also assigned to other communities. Most computer systems, when given this number, will print out Largo even if you tell them that you live in Belleair Bluffs. **You can help by insisting that your mail be addressed to you at *Belleair Bluffs*.** The communication service tax you pay on each of your utility bills goes directly to the City listed. Be sure your cable, cell phone, home phone, etc. all have Belleair Bluffs listed as your home city. Check your address on all of your mail - it is important; make sure it reads Belleair Bluffs, FL, 33770. If your address shows Largo, notify the sender to correct the city to Belleair Bluffs. Your insistence in this will not only protect our revenue but also identify our city. Also, use of the extended 4 digits of the zip code will further identify your location in Belleair Bluffs. If you do not know your extended zip, call 1-800-ASK-USPS (1-800-275-8777) or visit www.usps.com.

To Reach a Deputy - Non-Emergency!

The city has a contract with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office for police services in Belleair Bluffs. There are two ways to reach a deputy for non-emergency concerns or problems. You may call 727-582-6200 or use the free telephone in the red box attached to the front of the City Hall building. This is a 24-hour direct line to the Sheriff's office. **As always, in an emergency dial 911.**

Permits Required

City Code requires permits for most home remodeling projects, roofing, installation of fences, enclosures of garages, plumbing, all electrical work, etc. We also require contractors doing business in the city to be registered with us. Please check with city hall before embarking on those home improvements to see if your project will require a permit.

Garage Sales

The city Code of Ordinances allows for two garage sales per calendar year. Garage sales may be held for up to two consecutive days. If you are planning to hold a garage sale, please come to City Hall at least three days before the event and fill out a permit application, which will cost \$3.00. Also, please, no signs except the one permitted on your property.

PINELLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ALARM REGISTRATION FORM

Office use only:
Permit Registration No. _____ Registration Date: _____

Alarmed Location Information:

Residential _____ Commercial _____ Government _____ School _____

Name of Business or Last Name _____ First Name _____

Alarm Location: _____
Street Address Apartment/Unit/Suite #

_____ City State Zip Code Gate Code

Phone Numbers _____

Phone #1 Phone #2

Email: _____

Responsible Billing Party: (check if same as above.)

Last Name: _____ First Name _____

Address: _____
Street Address Apartment/Unit/Suite

_____ City State Zip Code Gate Code

Phone Numbers _____

Phone #1 Phone #2

Email: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION: (List the names and contact numbers of two people, other than the owner, who can respond to an alarm activation)

1. Contact Name _____
Last Name First Name
Phone Number _____
Phone #1 Phone #2

2. Contact Name _____
Last Name First Name
Phone Number _____
Phone #1 Phone #2

ALARM COMPANY

ALARM MONITORED UNMONITORED MONITORING COMPANY _____

SPECIAL CONDITIONS (List hazardous conditions/materials, guard dogs, security personnel, weapons, direction to alarm site,etc)

Signee agrees to register the above alarm on an annual basis and update any information that changes prior to the annual renewal date

Signature _____ Date _____

For further information, please call (727) 582-2870 or email sharp @psco.com



SOURCE:
<http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities>

CONTACT INFORMATION:
 14 South Fort Harrison Avenue
 Clearwater, FL 33756
 Customer Service (727) 464-4000
 E-mail: custsrv@co.pinellas.fl.us

.....WATCH FOR OF WATERING SCHEDULE CHANGES.....

Current Watering Schedule

Irrigation Using Potable Drinking Water

| If your house number ends in: | Then water on: |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 0 or 1 | Monday |
| 2 or 3 | Tuesday |
| 4 or 5 | Wednesday |
| 6 or 7 | Thursday |
| 8 or 9 | Friday |
| Mixed or No address | Friday |

| Morning Hours | Evening Hours |
|--|---|
| Less than one acre 12:01 AM to 4:00 AM | One Acre or Larger 12:01 AM to 4:00 AM and 8:00PM to 11:59 PM |

Residential Car Washing is not Allowed

Fundraiser Car Washes are not Allowed

Operating Fountains and Artistic Water Features is not Allowed

**No Pressure Washing and No Washing Outdoor Surfaces
 (except by a commercial business for an allowable activity)**



WATCH FOR OF WATERING SCHEDULE CHANGES

SOURCE:

<http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities>

CONTACT INFORMATION:

14 South Fort Harrison Avenue
Clearwater, FL 33756
Customer Service (727) 464-4000
E-mail: custsrv@co.pinellas.fl.us

Current Watering Schedule

Irrigation Using Wells/Lakes/Ponds

| If your house number ends in: | Then water on: |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 0 or 1 | Monday |
| 2 or 3 | Tuesday |
| 4 or 5 | Wednesday |
| 6 or 7 | Thursday |
| 8 or 9 | Friday |
| Mixed or No address | Friday |

| Morning Hours | | Evening Hours |
|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 12:01 AM to 8:00 AM | OR | 6:00 PM to 11:59 PM |

PROPERTIES TWO ACRES OR GREATER in size may irrigate during the hours of 12:01 AM to 10:00 AM or 4:00 PM to 11:59 PM on the authorized day.

RESIDENTIAL CAR WASHING USING WELL/LAKE/POND SOURCE

❖ Restricted to only one washing per week

| If your house number ends in: | Then you may wash you vehicle on: |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| EVEN number (0,2,4,6,8) | Tuesday or Saturday |
| ODD number (1,3,5,7,9) | Wednesday or Sunday |

Low Volume methods only, such as a hand-held hose equipped with a trigger (self-canceling) nozzle.

FROM THE MAYOR, *Chris Arbutine, Sr.*

For years, the Town of Belleair and City of Belleair Bluffs have shared Fire Department expenses. Last month, the Town of Belleair decided to discontinue this arrangement and voted to ask Largo for their fire protection. Belleair had no fault with the fire services we had been providing: it was just an economic move on their part and understandable considering the countywide tight money situation.

We can make up the \$500,000 in lost revenue that Belleair had been sharing by raising our taxes by a considerable amount. Or, we can also go with the excellent fire protection Largo can provide and they can still keep Belleair Bluffs Fire Station 43 open until at least year 2012. In preliminary talks, Largo Fire Administration has guaranteed to hire all 12 of our current Belleair Bluffs firefighters should we merge fire protection with them.

A contract with Largo would substantially lower what we are currently paying which would save our city a lot of money. The City Commission has asked me to gather information and recommend any other possible solutions. As Mayor, I am very interested in your thoughts, suggestions and questions regarding this situation. An open house workshop will be scheduled in the near future on this matter. Before we can make any changes in our Fire Department, a referendum (vote) will be held in Belleair Bluffs on September 1, 2009. I encourage you to let us know of your concerns.

Feel free to write me at carbutine@belleairbluffs-fl.gov or call me at 727-458-2148.