



# City of Belleair Bluffs

FALL NEWSLETTER 2023

City Government Informational Publication

## Upcoming City Events

### Citywide Garage Sale

The Citywide Garage sale is set for Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, from 8am to 2pm. Permit fees are waived, and staff will place signage throughout the city.

### Belleair Bluffs Book Club

Book club members will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. Belleair Bluffs' residents only. This resident gathering has become exceedingly popular. Contact city hall to join!

### MARINE CORPS RESERVE



Through the gift of a new toy or book, Marine Toys for Tots programs bring the joy of the holiday season and send a message of hope to America's disadvantaged children. **Anyone that brings a NEW UNWRAPPED toy or book for TOYS FOR TOTS** will receive the City's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary tree ornament. Throughout December there will be a collection box in the City Hall lobby.

### Annual Tree Lighting Is Friday, December 1st **6:00pm to 8:00pm**

CITY HALL PARK  
2747 Sunset Blvd, Belleair Bluffs

The Rachel Smith Vocal Coaching Presents SHINE are a children's group from the area that will regale us with their singing while we gather. Following a welcome by Mayor Chris Arbutine and the City Commission, the holiday tree will be lit heralding the arrival of Santa.

This FREE event includes Santa, Live Music, Hot Cocoa Bar and Cookies, Face Painting, Petting Zoo and much more! Sunset Blvd will be closed to all traffic to accommodate the event. Parking is provided by the Bank of America parking lot with a PCSO deputy for safety.



*Wishing you the happiest holidays and a wonderful New Year in 2024!*

### Santa Gift Deliveries

Santa delivers gifts to Belleair Bluffs' children on December 23<sup>rd</sup> starting at 4:00pm until completed.



### First 20 residents!

Bring ONE SMALL wrapped gift for each child (must be easily loaded on the fire truck)

- Include delivery address, phone number, child's name, and age on the package.
- Under 12 years of age, put the parent's name on the package.

BRING THE GIFT to City Hall – between 9am and 4pm DECEMBER 4th thru DECEMBER 15th (Last day to drop off gifts)



#### **City Hall**

2747 Sunset Blvd  
727-584-2151

Administration, press 1  
Public Works, press 6  
Fire Dept., 727-587-6714  
Sheriff, 727-582-6200

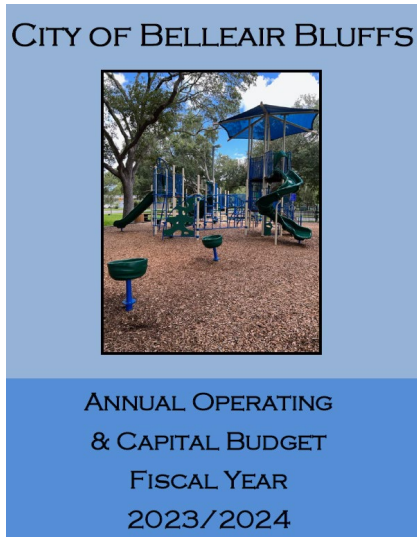
**DIAL 911 for Emergencies**  
[www.belleairbluffs.org](http://www.belleairbluffs.org)

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### ***Debra Sullivan, City Administrator***

Preparation of this year’s budget was submitted by the Finance Committee which is made up of resident volunteers. After Finance Committee review and approval, they present the budget to the Commission who makes the final decision to adopt the budget. The final budget, which includes the Capital Improvement schedule can be found at

<https://www.belleairbluffs.org/finance/department.aspx>



## **Local Voices United**

Local Voices United is a grassroots community designed to empower Floridians to speak up in support of local self-government. Scott Dudley, Director of Field Advocacy and Federal Affairs at the Florida League of Cities recently spoke at the August 21<sup>st</sup> Commission meeting to urge residents to get involved. Local control. Local decision-making. Local self-government.

### **How Can I Get Involved?**

- Stay informed and be ready for action Facebook.com/LocalVoices United
- Text “Local Voices” to 50457.
- Sign up for emails and alerts about important local issues.

## **SHUT THE DOOR ON SOLICITORS**

CALL CITY HALL OR THE SHERIFF’S OFFICE IF YOU SUSPECT AN UNLICENSED SOLICITOR. The sooner you call, the faster the response.

City Commission Meetings  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month 6:00PM

2023/2024 Winter Meeting Dates  
2023: October 16, November 13, December 11  
2024: January 8, February 12

## **Short-Term Rentals** **“Neighborhoods are for Neighbors”**

No daily rentals of any private property (homes, rooms, pools, etc.) are permitted in the city.  
No Airbnb, No VRBO  
No Private Daily Rentals!

The City Commission passed rental property legislation in May 2011 **which prohibits short-term rentals less than 3 months** and 4 tenancies per year. This means that any “vacation” rental must have a minimum 3-month lease. This ordinance requires a comprehensive rental registration license to be obtained through City Hall. If you are planning to rent your property, please obtain the rental license application from City Hall. If you know of a property which is renting an illegal “vacation” rental or suspect a home that is rented for less than 3 months, please notify City Hall as soon as possible.

**Board/Committee Members** If you are interested in serving on the Board of Adjustment, please contact City Hall. We have member and alternate positions available.

Boards are made up of Belleair Bluffs’ residents. If you have any interest in providing insight, please participate. Call City Hall to inquire about the qualifications and board descriptions which can also be found on the city website.

**The Little Library** CHILDREN’S Books are the gift you can open again and again. The Little Library located outside of City Hall needs Children’s Books. Please help us keep this library operating by donating children’s books today! Drop them off in the lobby of City Hall for our volunteer librarians to sort and distribute.

## **Hurricane Season**

Hurricane season isn’t over until November 30<sup>th</sup> so please remain vigilant and keep your eye on the city website for continual updates. Please do not let your guard down. Be prepared for any potential storms and inclement weather. Stock up on pantry items, pet supplies, nonperishable foods, medications, batteries, etc. If you are electrical dependent, consider purchasing a generator. If you think you require evacuation assistance, don’t wait! Register now for special needs pick up online, by phone (727) 464-3800, or come into City Hall and pick up a form. Be sure to visit the Hurricane Preparedness page on our website for further information!

## **MUNICIPAL ELECTION** **March 19, 2024**

The two-year terms up for election are as follows:

- Commissioner Joseph Barkley
- Commissioner Taylour Shimkus

Qualifying begins November 27 at 9AM through December 11 at 4PM.

## **PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.**

### ***Russ Schmader, Supervisor***

The Public Works Department wishes you a safe and happy upcoming holiday season. We have been diligently working to provide you, your family, and friends with an optimum level of service with the addition of our newest staff member. Welcome Nikola Esposito to our team!!!



*PW Supervisor Russ Schmader, Operations Workers Danny Slaughter, Justin Cummings and Nikola Esposito*

### **City Hall Generator**

We are pleased to announce that the original City Hall generator will be replaced this fall!! We are finalizing permitting with Pinellas County. The City Hall Building was constructed in 2001. This generator replacement will allow us to better serve you during inclement weather conditions.

### **Capital Improvement Plan**

**Marlin/Southwind Dr. update** – Ram Excavating, Inc. has been busy over the last few months providing you with a new Marlin Dr. roadway. The Southwind Dr. portion of this contract will be finalized in the upcoming weeks. The new six-inch potable water line and new fire hydrants have been installed and pressurized to meet all of the Pinellas County Utilities’ specifications.

**Pine Tree Lane update** – The City Commission has approved the next roadway upgrade. The Pine Tree Lane Project has also been awarded to Ram Excavating, Inc., which allows the Contractor to continue to effectively communicate and coordinate with you. Please excuse our dust and noise

while we continue to enhance your neighborhood. I anticipate this Project to be finalized by March 2024.

**Duncan Drive** – The Duncan Dr. Project is currently in the design phase. The focus is to consider upgrading the existing stormwater conveyance systems. Geotechnical work, surveying, Subsurface Utility Explorations (SUE), and additional miscellaneous work needs to be finalized before the project is approved and hopefully completed by October 2024. My overall goal is to have this completed before the start of the 2024 holiday season.

### **NPDES – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System**

If stormwater only contained rain, our jobs would be simple. Pollutants such as grass clippings, fertilizers, pesticides, chlorine, and other household chemicals and even soil are picked up and carried along by stormwater as it travels across lawns and other surfaces, down curbs, into storm drains, and into larger bodies of water such as McKay Creek and the Intracoastal Waterway that leads directly into the Gulf. The city complies with all federal, state and county agencies. As a warning, your lawn service **MUST NOT** blow grass clippings in the street. A written warning will be issued, and citations will be issued for any foreign matter that might end up in drainage inlets. We can save ourselves a lot of problems by having grass clippings blown back into your yard or picked up.

#### **YOU CAN HELP**

**Shop Wisely** – Buy biodegradable or non-toxic products.

**Store Products Safely** – Keep these hazardous products in original containers, closed tightly and clearly marked.

**Lawn Chemicals/Fertilizer Usage** – Follow all package directions carefully and follow the Pinellas County Fertilizer Ban Ordinance.

I would like to remind all residents and visitors to report suspected illicit discharges to the City of Belleair Bluffs at (727) 584-2151.

### **Duke Power Outages**

Report your outage by texting “OUT” to 57801, report online or call 1-800-228-8485. If you see a fallen power line or safety hazard, call Duke Energy on 800-POWERON (800-769-3766) or call 911 immediately. Do not touch a power line or anything in contact with it and keep others away until help arrives.

### **Water Outages**

Please call Pinellas County Utilities at (727) 464-4000 or visit our website for updated restrictions and information on ODD/EVEN watering and how you can do your part to help CONSERVE WATER.

### **NFIP – Flood Protection Efforts**

The Community Rating System (CRS) recognized the City of Belleair Bluffs as a Class 7 for efforts that go beyond the minimum standards of the NFIP National Flood Insurance Program by reducing flood insurance premiums by 15% for residents in a SFHA (Special Flood Hazard Area) and 5% for those not in a SFHA. There are many ways to learn about your zone. Please visit our website or download the “Ready Pinellas” mobile app from your mobile’s app store.

## Mayor's Corner *by Chris Arbutine, Sr.*



*Vice Mayor Suzy Sofer, Commissioner Taylour Shimkus, Mayor Chris Arbutine, Commissioner Karen Rafferty, Commissioner Joe Barkley III*

The City Commission is motivated to always keep the residents' concerns in the forefront. As leaders we look at the past, the present and the future to ensure that Belleair Bluffs remains the prestigious community it has always been. Maintaining our city's small-town charm and current high quality of life is a top priority. The continued street, road and sidewalk improvements ensure the quality of life for years to come. The events we continue to hold, the businesses we attract and the community relations we have make Belleair Bluffs the envy of many.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office has an office in our own city hall and Largo Fire Department has a station in Belleair Bluffs. Your safety is a top priority, and we will continue to contract with professionally managed partners.

As Mayor, I work closely with the City Administrator and staff to always keep open lines of communication with residents and businesses alike. I am always available for you. Please call my personal cell (727) 458-2148 if you would like to ask any questions or express any concerns.

Serving as Your Mayor is a pleasure. You have a city to enjoy and be proud of now and moving into the future. ---  
Chris Arbutine Sr.

City of Belleair Bluffs  
2747 Sunset Blvd  
Belleair Bluffs, Florida 33770