



# City of Belleair Bluffs

FALL NEWSLETTER 2024

City Government Informational Publication



*CITY COMMISSION*  
*Pictured from left: Commissioner Suzy Sofer, Mayor Chris Arbutine, Sr., Commissioner Joe Barkley III, Vice Mayor Karen Rafferty, and Commissioner David Roberts*

## City Event

**Annual Tree Lighting**  
**Friday, December 6th**  
**6:00pm to 8:00pm**

CITY HALL PARK  
2747 Sunset Blvd, Belleair Bluffs

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 year, the City is collecting children's books for the Little Library. Anyone that brings in a **NEW** or **GENTLY USED Children's Book** will receive the City's annual holiday ornament.

*Wishing you the happiest holidays and a wonderful New Year in 2025!*



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.



### 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 2nd** thru **DECEMBER 16th** (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 for this year’s budget was submitted to the resident-based Finance Committee. After Finance Committee review and approval, the budget is presented 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>

CITY OF BELLEAIR BLUFFS



ANNUAL BUDGET  
FISCAL YEAR  
2024/2025

## **Shut The Door On Soliciting**

PLEASE CALL CITY HALL OR THE SHERIFF’S OFFICE IF YOU SEE OR SUSPECT A SOLICITOR. The sooner you call, the faster the response. Please provide a detailed description of the person(s) and direction of travel to aid the deputies in making contact.

### **City Commission Meetings**

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

### **2024/2025 Winter Meeting Dates**

2024: November 18, December 16  
2025: January 13, February 10

## **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 for 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.

**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**

This year’s hurricane season has been incredibly active and devastating to Pinellas County. In an effort to prepare for Hurricane Milton, the City contracted to remove all vegetative debris from the rights of way. This emergency protective measure cleared debris from potentially becoming projectiles. As the City continues to provide optimal level of protection, please remember that hurricane season

isn’t over until November 30<sup>th</sup>. Please remain vigilant and keep an eye on the city website and social media for updates. Be prepared for any potential 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!

## **Going Out of Town for the Holidays – Signup for a House Check**

The Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office offers house checks to homeowners while you are away from your home for an extended period of time. To sign up for this service you can either call (727) 582-6177 or visit the website [pcsoweb.com/vacation-house-checks](https://www.pcsoweb.com/vacation-house-checks) and fill out the online form.

## **MUNICIPAL ELECTION** **March 11, 2025**

The two-year terms for election are as follows:

- Mayor Arbutine
- Commissioner Suzy Sofer
- Commissioner Karen Rafferty

Qualifying begins December 2 at 9am through December 16 at 4pm. Inquiries should be addressed to the City Clerk Alexis Silcox at [asilcox@belleairbluffs-fl.gov](mailto:asilcox@belleairbluffs-fl.gov)

## **PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.**

### ***Russ Schmader, Director***

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.

### **Capital Improvement Plan**

**Duncan Drive** – We are currently in the engineering / design phase of the roadway improvement project. We anticipate the construction phase to begin in March/April 2025. This Project will provide for new Pinellas County utility upgrades, stormwater infrastructure, and a new roadway surface.

### **Vulnerability Assessment**

The City of Belleair Bluffs applied and was awarded a grant through the FDEP’s Resilient Florida program to conduct a citywide Vulnerability Assessment (VA). The city has contracted with the engineering firm Advanced Engineering & Design, Inc. to perform the VA. With a state-approved Vulnerability Study, the city would be eligible to apply for construction grants through this same program.

### **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.

## **CRS – 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.*



Dear Residents,

I'm excited to share that our city is now clear of all allowable storm debris, thanks to our budgeted reserves enabling not just one, but two citywide collection efforts. This accomplishment reflects our community's financial planning, resilience, and dedication.

As we transition out of hurricane season and into the holiday spirit, I invite you to join us for the upcoming City Tree Lighting Event. It's a wonderful opportunity to come together, celebrate our community, and extend a warm welcome to those in areas affected by the storms.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me directly at 727-458-2148.

Together, let's embrace a bright future for our city.

Warm regards,  
Chris Arbutine Sr.  
Mayor

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