



# City of Belleair Bluffs

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2023

City Government Informational Publication

## **Two-Week 2023 Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday!**

The legislation created a 14-day “disaster preparedness” sales tax holiday from **May 27, 2023 – June 9, 2023**, for disaster preparedness supplies. Some examples of tax-free items include flashlights and lanterns costing \$40 or less; reusable ice costing \$20 or less; radios costing \$50 or less; tarps and ground anchors or tie down kits costing \$100 or less; coolers and portable power banks costing \$60 or less; batteries and fuel tanks costing \$50 or less; smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, and carbon monoxide detectors costing \$70 or less; and generators costing \$3,000 or less.

Join our email list for quick updates.

Give us your request at  
[info@belleairbluffs-fl.gov](mailto:info@belleairbluffs-fl.gov)

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

2023 Summer Meeting Dates  
June 21, July 17, August 14 and 21  
*\*Dates are subject to change*

### **City Office**

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 Emergency**  
[www.belleairbluffs.org](http://www.belleairbluffs.org)

## **Upcoming City Events**

### **Annual Independence Day Picnic is Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup>**

**11:00am to 1:00pm**

#### **BRING LAWN CHAIRS TO SIT UNDER THE OAKS**

**Leave your adorable pets at  
home please.**

The city is hosting another fantastic event on Sunset Boulevard in front of city hall will be closed to traffic. Food vendors will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, Cuban sandwiches, and sides and Kona Ice will be on site to sell their refreshments. The city will provide one meal ticket per person, and you will have the option to purchase additional items from the food vendors. Activities include a bounce house, face painting, and Largo Fire Rescue and Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office will have trucks and handouts.

### **Dessert Contest**

The Bluffs Business Association (BBA) will host their annual dessert contest so get your prized desserts ready! Desserts must be dropped off the day of the event by 10:30 a.m.

### **BBA Raffle Give-a-way!**

The BBA will host a raffle item auction and provide one raffle ticket along with a complimentary bag of give-a-ways upon event entry. You will have the option to purchase additional raffle tickets. There are

FABULOUS items that have been donated by the members of the BBA. Walk around the raffles tables and place your ticket in the jar for the items you choose. A winning ticket will be chosen for each item – You Must Be Present to Win.

### **Belleair Bluffs Book Club**

The Book Club just had its one-year anniversary and is still going strong. Call to join! Book club members continue to meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. Belleair Bluffs’ residents only. Contact City Hall for more information. 727-584-2151 ext. 103.

### **Health and Wellness Fair**

City staff are planning to host a health and wellness fair to take place in the fall. Planning will begin after the July 4<sup>th</sup> event. Vendor categories include medicinal & mental health wellness, financial wellness, pet health, fitness. The city will seek local businesses as vendors. This will be another great event for all to attend. We will keep you posted.

### **Bluffs Wine Walk**

The annual Bluffs Wine Walk event is going to be on Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup>. All participating local businesses will have specials, wines, and food.

Save the Date – Details to Come

## **ADMINISTRATION**

*Debra Sullivan, City Administrator*

## **SHORT-TERM RENTALS**

### **“Neighborhoods are for Neighbors”**

No daily rentals are permitted in the city. No Airbnb, No VRBO  
No Private Daily Rentals!

This means that any “vacation” rental must have a minimum 3-month lease. This ordinance also requires a 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, please contact City Hall.

## **Waste Management Services**

Per contract the rate increases on June 1<sup>st</sup>. This year the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 5.1%. The City’s contract provides a cap of 4% on rate increases. The increased amount is 80 cents per month.

## **Municipal Clerks Week**

The Mayor’s Council of Pinellas County recognized municipal clerks at their May monthly meeting during Professional Municipal Clerks Week. Vice Mayor Suzy Sofer, City Administrator Debra Sullivan and City Clerk Alexis Silcox were in attendance.



*City Clerk Alexis Silcox, City Administrator Debra Sullivan, Vice Mayor Suzy Sofer*

## **Home Rule Hero 2023**

The Florida League of Cities recognized City Clerk Alexis Silcox for her efforts to support home rule during the 2023 legislative session. FLC awarded Silcox the 2023 Home Rule Hero Award.

## **Board Vacancies – We need interested residents.**

There are two full member positions and one alternate position available on the Planning Board. There is one full member position and one alternate position available on the Board of Adjustment. Residents interested in seeking appointments must be registered voters within the city. Positions are voluntary.

*The future of our communities depends on people like you getting involved.*

## **Little Library**

*“Take a Book – Share a Book”*

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**

On May 2, the city hosted a hurricane expo which welcomed disaster preparedness vendors and provided the community with relevant information specific to them for this storm season. Largo Fire Rescue and Pinellas County Emergency Management co-hosted the event. Vendors included Duke Energy, Waste Management, and Pinellas County Animal Services to name a few.



*Resident visiting with Largo Fire Rescue at the Bluffs Hurricane Expo*

As the hurricane season approaches, now is the time to be prepared for any potential inclement weather. Stock up on pantry items, 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 either 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!

## **Community Rating System (CRS) – Flood Protection Efforts**

With the rising costs of flood insurance and the requirements for certain policy holders to maintain a flood insurance policy, the City of Belleair Bluffs worked to complete the annual recertification from the Community Rating System (CRS), a FEMA program. CRS recognized the City of Belleair Bluffs for maintaining a Class 7 rating for efforts that go beyond the minimum standards of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) by reducing flood insurance premiums by 15% for residents in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and 5% for those not located 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.

## **PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.**

***Russ Schmader, Supervisor***

Your Public Works Department is continuously working and preparing for the upcoming storm season. Public Works continues to perform citywide maintenance on sidewalks, streets, and right-of-way.

## **Earth Day on Arbor Day**

The Public Works Department continues to beautify the City Hall property and celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day by planting a butterfly garden and hanging plants our front of the Community Center.



*Danny Slaughter, Public Works Supervisor  
Russ Schmader, Commissioner Karen Rafferty,  
Justin Cummings, and Vice Mayor Suzy Sofer*

## **Capital Improvement Plan**

**Marlin Drive update** – The Marlin Dr. Project progressed substantially and should be completed by the end of this fiscal year.

**Pine Tree Lane update** – This project is quickly approaching the 100% design status with underground surveying parts already complete and will be advertised for bid in June 2023.

**South Wind Drive Rehabilitation** – The need for upgraded potable water mains and service connections were discovered during the Marlin Drive project. The city has taken the

initiative to provide the residents with a plan to provide an optimum level of service by completing the proposed Rehabilitation Project.

## **National Public Works Week (May 22-26, 2023)**

The City Commission recognized the public works department at the May 15<sup>th</sup> regular meeting by proclaiming National Public Works Week. "Connecting the World Through Public Works" theme highlights the way public works professionals connect us physically, through infrastructure, and inspirationally, through service to their communities, whether as first responders, or daily workers performing their duties with pride.

Public works connectors help keep communities strong by providing an infrastructure of services in transportation, water, wastewater, and stormwater treatment, public buildings and spaces, parks and grounds, emergency management and first response, solid waste, and right-of-way management. They are what make our communities beautiful places to live and work. Join us in celebrating the quiet work these professionals do that makes life better for all of us.



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

## **NPDES – FERTILIZER RULES**

### **JUNE 1st – SEPTEMBER 30th**

Say NO to Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorus (P)!!! The application of lawn and landscaping fertilizers containing nitrogen or phosphorous are prohibited to protect Pinellas County waters from harmful algae blooms during rainy season.

### **OCTOBER 1st – MAY 31st**

Fertilizers may be applied if they have 50% slow-release nitrogen, and they are applied at least 10 feet away from the water.

#### Tips for Homeowners

- Hard surfaces like roads, driveways, and parking lots drain into our local waterways.
- Any spilled fertilizer must be cleaned up or blown back into the landscape.
- Mow so that the mower chute faces away from hard surfaces or water.
- Keep all yard debris out of storm drains ditches, surface waters & roadways. Compost it, bag it or blow it back into the yard.

## **Duke Power Outages**

Report your outage by texting OUT to 57801, report online or call 800-228-8485. If you see a fallen power line or safety hazard, call 1-800-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.



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



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

As Your Mayor, I will continue to support all your ideas, your visions, and the future of Belleair Bluffs. The city is enhancing the community involvement and outreach by increasing events throughout the year. Watch for further information on dates and events in our newsletters, website updates, and emails.

We always welcome citizen input at our commission meetings, and we have positions open for two important boards. Please call city hall to find out when the meetings are and how to volunteer for our boards.

All the Commissioners are available to talk and discuss any issues with you. Call 727-584-2151 ext. 102 for any contact information or you can find them on our web site [www.belleairbluffs.org](http://www.belleairbluffs.org)

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.

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2747 Sunset Blvd  
Belleair Bluffs, Florida 33770