



FALL NEWSLETTER 2022

City of Belleair Bluffs

City Government Informational Publication

FULL \$100.00 LIBRARY REIMBURSEMENT

The Pinellas Public Library Cooperative cost for membership FY 22-23 would have been \$82,925.43. In lieu of this cost, after you purchase your library card for \$100.00 and bring the receipt to City Hall, a reimbursement check in the amount of \$100.00 will be issued. Mayor Arbutine proposed the refund be increased from \$85.00 to \$100.00 per household to the Commission. The vote was unanimous for the full reimbursement which will begin on October 1st, 2022. Library cards may be purchased at any member library in Pinellas County. The closest library is at 120 Central Park Drive, just off East Bay Drive in Largo Central Park.



Administration: Alexis Silcox, Debra Sullivan, Nancy Slaughter

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

Upcoming City Events

Annual Tree Lighting Is Friday, December 2nd **6:00pm to 8:00pm**

The Belleair Bluffs' Annual Tree Lighting Event is coming. We are planning a wonderful, exciting, fun time for all. We kindly ask guests to bring canned goods, boxed food, and baby items to donate. Anyone that brings a food donation will receive the City's Annual tree ornament. Check out our website for more information.



SANTA DELIVERS GIFTS TO BELLEAIR BLUFFS CHILDREN ON DECEMBER 23RD Starting at 4:00pm until completed.

First 20 residents

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

- Put delivery address and phone number on the package
- Put your 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 9:00am and 4:00pm on DECEMBER 5th thru DECEMBER 16th (Last day to drop off gifts)

Fire Station 43 Open House

The city will host a Fire Station 43 Open House on Saturday, October 8th, 2022 from 11am to 1pm. Fire Station 43 is located at 2765 Bayway Ave. behind City Hall. As a reminder, there is no parking on Bayway Ave. Parking will be available at City Hall.

Citywide Garage Sale

The Citywide Garage sale is set for Saturday, November 5th, 2022, from 8am to 2pm. Permit fees are waived, and staff will place signage throughout the city.

Market in the Bluffs

The Bluff's Market is BACK! The market is held on the second Saturday of each month on Sunset Drive in front of Belleair Bluffs City Hall. The 2022 dates are as follows: October 8, November 12, December 10.

Belleair Bluffs Book Club

Book club members will meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Belleair Bluffs' residents only. Contact City Hall for more information.

BBA Wine Walk

The event is back!
October 22nd 3pm-7pm
Buy Tickets now at BBAstrong.com

ADMINISTRATION

Debra Sullivan, City Administrator

In preparing this year’s budget the Finance Committee made up of resident volunteers worked with the City staff and Commission to establish a budget that meets the annual expenditures, establishes a long-term reserve plan for future infrastructure projects, ensures a securely funded emergency management account and prepares for projects that ensure the safety and well-being of all the residents. This budget provides for 24-hour Pinellas County Sheriff’s Deputy coverage and all other facets of the Sheriff’s Department as well as a Pinellas County Deputy that educates and enforces the codes that keep the city safe and beautiful. The budget funds Largo Fire Rescue services that are provided from a station that is located centrally in the Belleair Bluffs city boundaries. The full budget which includes the Capital Improvement schedule is found on the Belleair Bluffs website.

If you would like to check your property value, taxable value, homestead exemptions or any other property related issues please visit www.pcpao.gov.



City Administrator Debra Sullivan & Finance Director Andy Tess

SHUT THE DOOR ON SOLICITORS

Reports of door-to-door solicitors have risen. Consumers should be cautious when anyone approaches them at their home without an invitation.

call City Hall or the Sheriff’s Office to notify us of anyone soliciting at your home.

City Commission Meetings
3rd Monday of the month 6:00PM

2022 Fall/Winter Meeting Dates
September 6 & 19, October 17,
November 14, December 12

SHORT-TERM RENTALS

“Neighborhoods are for Neighbors”

No daily rentals 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 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.

Board/Committee Members If you are interested in serving on the Planning Board or Board of Adjustment, please contact City Hall. We have openings on both boards. Descriptions can be found on the city website.

Little Library 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 is upon us. July and August were unusually dry to the drier Saharan desert air that squashed much of the Atlantic. Please do not let your guard down. September is notorious for being the most active month of hurricane season. The dry air has passed through, and the Atlantic is stirring. Be prepared for any potential storms and 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 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 14, 2023**

The offices up for election are for a two-year term:

- Mayor Arbutine
- Commissioner Steve McNally
- Commissioner Suzy Sofer

If anyone is interested in further information, please call Alexis Silcox, City Clerk at 727-584-2151.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.

Russ Schmader, Supervisor

Your Public Works Department has a lot in store this coming fall. Public Works was able to purchase an arrow board digital sign for traffic/MOT safety and to advertise for city events. You can see this new sign in action out front of City Hall before the next market event. We are also installing a perimeter fence around the public works building for safety and security of the city equipment and vehicles. The park improvements are coming to completion with the installation of the gazebo just in time for the city's fall events.

Flagpole Park on the Bridge

The Public Works Department has been given permission to remove the exotic evasive vegetation that currently grows along the embankment. An environmentally friendly approach will be used to safely remove the unwanted weeds to allow for an aesthetically pleasing transition from urban living to our local barrier island paradise.

Capital Improvement Plan

Marlin Drive update – The Marlin Dr. Project has been awarded to RAM Excavating, Inc. and is expected to be completed within the FY22-23 budget year.

Pine Tree Lane update – This project is quickly approaching the 60% design status with several underground surveying parts already completed.

Indian Avenue update – We are at the initial stages with this project. Roadway core samples have been coordinated which will allow us to determine the soil characteristics, thus allowing for the most economical roadway repair methodology.

LMS – Local Mitigation Strategy

Mast Arm project update – We have met with Pinellas County officials regarding the ongoing work at the Indian Rocks Rd. / W. Bay Dr. intersection. There has been quite a bit of aerial and underground work completed in preparation of the installation of the new traffic signal mast arms. Most of the construction is tentatively scheduled for January 2023.

City Hall / PW Generator – Public Works staff will be meeting with LMS officials to determine the overall expectations and potential grant funding processes which would allow our city to have the opportunity to apply for funds to help offset escalating construction and building costs.



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

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.

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 Duke Energy at 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.*



Commissioner Joe Barkley III, Commissioner Suzy Sofer, Mayor Chris Arbutine, Vice Mayor Taylour Shimkus, Commissioner Steve McNally

As Your Mayor, keeping our city's small-town charm and current high quality of life is top priority. Belleair Bluffs Capital Improvement Plan is well funded, and the city's infrastructure is well maintained to ensure the safety of our residents and viability of our business district.

Life safety issues are well managed with our new state of the art fire station which has our own Emergency Operations Center to guarantee continual hurricane preparedness for the City. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office provided 24/7 patrolling within our city limits. Most recently, it is reported that crime is at a ten year low, almost non-existent.

The city has many Citizen Boards that help advise the Commission in many different areas of running a city. Please contact City Hall to find out how you may be able to serve at (727) 584-2151.

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 to 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