



Belle Isle Buzz

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Shelli Wasson, Editor

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ANYONE UP FOR A GARAGE SALE WEEKEND?

We are leaning towards cancelling our annual garage sale weekend this fall. Sales might not be well attended after people work so hard to get them set up. Who knows what the evil COVID-19 will be doing to our population by October 2 and 3? We definitely will not be holding a neighborhood benefit sale. If a significant number of people contact me no later than September 15 saying they absolutely DO want to have a sale of their own, we can still get everything done. Let me hear from you. Thanks!

Lynn Garman, Chairperson
lynn@garman.com (405) 250-5082



Belle Isle Enterprise Middle School Plans for Fall Semester

Families have two options for their middle schoolers this fall at Belle Isle, since the top rated middle school operates within the Oklahoma City Public Schools schedule. The first option will be the traditional nine week schedule which will be virtual. Classes will be from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM with each class being fifty minutes. Teachers will be in the classrooms and the technology will allow them to see and talk with all students in class, although students are not physically present. The school will evaluate how the system is working at the end of four weeks.

The second option is the E3 distant virtual learning and students must stay in this program the entire semester when they select this choice. The curriculum is not the same as the Belle Isle curriculum, and the instructors are mentors who are not Belle Isle educators.

Google ChromeBooks programmed "ready to go" are provided to students and are to be picked up by parents. The E3 option is self-paced and more flexible, while the traditional option will be similar to the widely used "Zoom", which allows teachers/student instruction and interaction.

See School, page 2

2020 CENSUS

Everyone living in the United States and its five territories is required by law to be counted in the 2020 Census. All the information you need about the Census is on their extensive website, www.2020census.gov

Response Rates on
08/26/2020:

Self-Responded:

National	64.6%
Oklahoma	59.0%
Broken Arrow	76.7%
Norman	65.9%
Oklahoma City	63.7%
Tulsa	61.3%

Officers and Committee Chairs

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55thpl@sbcglobal.net

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STREET DIRECTORS (06/02/2020) –
55th Place – Dave Campbell & Greg Hall
55th Terrace – Cathy Fitzhugh
56th Street & Linn – OPEN
57th Street – Shannon & Randy Wells
58th Place – Shelli & Craig Wasson,
Cathie Shaw

58th Street – Sue Fellers
59th Street – Aimee Dial Parrish
60th Street – Christie Baker & Lynne Womble
61st Street – Scott Sproat & Maribeth Govin
62nd Street (including Imperial Terrace) – OPEN
Riviera Drive & 2300-2400 Blocks of NW 59th
Street – OPEN
Ross Ave. – Eunice Khoury
Villa Ave. (including Hunters Green) – OPEN

Please contact Dave Campbell,
Dcamp20000@aol.com for inquiries on
becoming a Street Director.

www.BIWOKC.com

BELLE ISLE PARK SAVED MY LIFE

After noticing several people practicing yoga at our Belle Isle Park on NW 62nd Street, I approached the leader to inquire about the group. She was Dee Mathis, who for 20 years has owned the Free Spirit Yoga Studio in our neighborhood at 6010 N Villa. She and a few class members shared their excitement about and devotion to yoga and meditation in Belle Isle Park, weather permitting.

Dee said that when Covid-19 forced her to close her studio in April, she wasn't sure what would happen to her and her clients. To help fight off depression, she often walked in our neighborhood park. One day while she was walking under the giant Chinese Pistache tree on the east side of the park, she had an "aha!" moment. She asked her students if they would like to hold their classes outside under that tree where they could practice social distancing and enjoy the fresh air, breezes, and bird songs. Their unanimous "yes" has resulted in a summer of meaningful, beneficial exercise and enrichment under the welcoming branches of a magnificent old tree. Dee reminded me that trees give us oxygen and help us connect with Nature. There were eight classes a week for more than two months before it got really hot and buggy.

Dee tells me she's starting up a Saturday morning yoga class in the park September 1st. She will also be doing Zoom yoga classes all winter. Call her at (405) 412-3582 for information about those classes.

Lynn Garman

School, continued from page 1

Teachers have been working several weeks preparing for the August 31st start date of a most uncommon beginning to a new school year. Being flexible is key in this historic year, and plans will change to adjust to the needs.



Oklahoma City Public Schools

Ignite Passion. Instill Pride.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
Available 24 hours.
1-800-273-8255

Mail dues to:

Belle Isle West NA
5030 N. May, Box 118
Oklahoma City, OK 73112



2020 Belle Isle West
Neighborhood Association Dues

Name _____

Address _____

Phones(s) _____

Email _____

Your canceled
check is your
receipt.

◆ Annual dues are \$35.00 per household. ◆



(Make checks to BIW Neighborhood Assn.)

*Thank
You!*

I have enclosed \$ _____

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

Several people add a little (or a lot) to their dues check each year to help fund projects in our neighborhood. We'd like to send out a BIG thank you to the following generous neighbors who recently contributed a total of \$150 over and above their \$35.00 yearly dues:

They are Shelli & Craig Wasson, Bill & Beverly Franz, Debbie South, Stanley & Peggy Balch, Ione Brown and Forrest Edge.

Because our non-profit organization is educational, social, voluntary, intended to improve our neighborhood and because you receive no goods or actual services from the association, your dues and any amount you choose to donate (up to \$250) are tax deductible because we hold a 501(C)3 designation with the IRS. If you have further questions you may consult with your tax expert.

If we've failed to list anyone who donated an amount over your dues, please let us know and we'll recognize you in the next newsletter. Thanks!

Renovations Started on Belle Isle Library

While the Belle Isle Library site is being remodeled, the library will be temporarily located at 3621 NW Expressway in the old Lifeway Bookstore close to the Buy For Less grocery (NW Expressway & Portland). The opening date has yet to be set.

When the temporary library opens, it will offer curbside service only. You can make requests online or by phone, and pick up your selections when they are ready. All books are quarantined for 96 hours.

About 10,000 square feet is being added to the library; making a much larger meeting room, children, and teen spaces with more modern amenities. Original elements of the building's unique mid-century modern design are being retained. Renovations should be complete in spring 2022. The \$5.5 million project is funded by the bond package included in the *Better Streets, Safer City program*.

Belle Isle West
Neighborhood Association
5030 N. May, Box 118
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Non Profit
Organization
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www.BIWOKC.COM



Calendar of Events in 2020

Tuesday, October 6 – Business Meeting via Zoom

6:00 PM to 7:00 PM All residents of BIW are invited to attend electronically. Contact Greg Hall, 55thpl@sbcglobal.net, by October 3 for instructions on how to join the meeting.

Bi-Monthly Business Meetings 2020 Oct. 6; Dec. 1; Time: 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Census Takers are Visiting Homes that Haven't Responded to the 2020 Census.

- Census takers will wear masks and follow local public health guidelines. All census takers complete a virtual COVID-19 training on social distancing and other health and safety protocols before beginning their work in neighborhoods.
- Census takers are hired from your area, and their goal is to help you and everyone in your home be counted in the 2020 Census.
- Census takers work between 9am and 9pm, including weekends. If no one is home, the census taker will leave a notice of their visit with information about how to [respond online](#), [by phone](#), or [by mail](#).

How Can You Verify That Someone Is a Census Taker?

The Census Taker will have a Valid ID badge with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date.



Some of the items that a census taker may carry with them, including a laptop, laptop bag, confidentiality notices, and an "Official Business" notice for their vehicle.