

# Belle Isle Buzz



Official Publication of the Belle Isle West Neighborhood Association

## Eulogy for Our Mulberry by Mark Sitton, 58<sup>th</sup> Place

This place has grown on us. Our house has become a special place in our hearts. We've spent over seven wonderful years here watching our family grow into something we could never dream. A central character in our story here in Belle Isle West has been our tree. As I write



this, I am sleepless in thinking about its beauty, its charm, its shelter for birds, its seasons, its miraculous ability to produce only one mulberry a year...its swing. Oh, the swing... we were out in our yard countless hours swinging. Sometimes in laughter, often in silence, just listening to the sound of our street, waving at neighbors. It brought us closer to the people we live next to, as well as those many blocks away. Fall leaf piles, Winter enchantment, Spring new growth, and Summer shade. There wasn't a day gone by that we took for granted that wonderful tree. It had names like

storybook tree, or hobbit tree. We would often think our biggest room in our house was our front yard, and our porch extended out to the curb. It was over 40 years old. One time a man drove by who said he grew up in this house and planted the tree as a child. We met the woman who first lived here with her young family as she stepped out of her car and just said, "This is what we built this for." In both occasions we were out swinging, enjoying the 'family room.'

The recent ice storm took our tree and split it right in half. We won't be able to salvage the rest and it all comes down soon. Our kids are resilient though as we, their parents, shed tears over a lost friend. We may not have that wonderful canopy and swing going forward, but we will still continue to be present out front. We plan to grind the stump, fix the driveway cracks, and plant a new tree. We may not be here long enough to see it grow into maturity, but hopefully we too can one day drive by and see a family swinging out front, get out of our car, and say "this is what we planted this for."

## Officers and Committee Chairs

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[hallgreg05@gmail.com](mailto:hallgreg05@gmail.com)

PRESIDENT-ELECT – David Patterson  
[dgpatt@cox.net](mailto:dgpatt@cox.net)

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[aimee@haydelassociates.com](mailto:aimee@haydelassociates.com)

CO-TREASURERS – Cathie Shaw and  
Lynn Garman [lynn@garman.com](mailto:lynn@garman.com)

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS – David Campbell  
[Dcamp20000@aol.com](mailto:Dcamp20000@aol.com)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR – Shelli Wasson  
[Wasson@ionet.net](mailto:Wasson@ionet.net) (405) 250-6462

NEWSLETTER STAFF –  
Lynn Garman Earlene Parr  
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OPEN

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Street – OPEN

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Villa Ave. and 2400-2412 NW 63<sup>rd</sup> St. –  
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Please contact Dave Campbell,  
[Dcamp20000@aol.com](mailto:Dcamp20000@aol.com) for inquiries on  
becoming a Street Director.

[www.BIWOKC.com](http://www.BIWOKC.com)

## **KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS**

From Ohio to Oklahoma was a big leap for Sharon Gowdy to become a farmer's wife. In time, they expanded to land, cattle and later a cattle feed lot in the panhandle. Her husband, Billy Ray, became President of Oklahoma Agriculture. With his background, he was selected to become Assistant Secretary of Agriculture in the Carter Administration.

Life in Washington DC was a busy and interesting time. They moved into a townhome on Embassy Row, and became involved in attending many Washington events and entertaining as well. Billy Ray was in charge of domestic agriculture which required travel all around the United States, and Sharon often accompanied him. After his term ended, they returned to OKC until Billy Ray wanted to return to the land in Elk City, and cattle ranching. In time, he also became an OSU Regent.

Following his death, Sharon returned to OKC and purchased a home on 55th Place. Remodeling took four years, resulting in a lovely home of Sharon's design and amenities with her son in charge of construction.

Sharon stays busy with her love of gardening, and is presently enlarging her greenhouse and expanding the garden space.

Another interesting neighbor in our great neighborhood!

## **Belle Isle Library**

The temporary location is at 3621 NW Expressway between Gold's Gym and Buy for Less Grocery Store.

Download and Stream – Metropolitan Library System

You can read or listen to books on most mobile devices or your computer. They are free to borrow, and expire automatically, so there are never late charges.

The TumbleBook Library has over a thousand always available eBooks for elementary school students. It includes animated talking picture books, chapter books, videos, non-fiction titles, and graphic novels as well as learning activities for literacy and reading comprehension such as puzzles, games, quizzes, and lesson plans.

Teen Audiobooks & eBooks - Search a catalog of fiction and nonfiction eBooks and audiobooks just for Teens. Audiobooks and eBooks from OverDrive can be checked out for 7 or 14 days (you choose!) and when the checkout period expires, they check themselves in so there are never any late fees!

[www.metrolibrary.org/find/download-and-stream](http://www.metrolibrary.org/find/download-and-stream) 12/21/20

Mail dues to:

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



2021 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### 2020 HOLIDAY LIGHTING CONTEST RESULTS

On Sunday evening, December 20, Clare Auwarter and Patti Kate, two judges from Wileman’s Belle Isle Neighborhood (our neighbors east of Villa) were driven around our neighborhood by our Board Member Dave Campbell so they could admire all the creativity and energy that went into decorating for the holidays and select their three favorite homes.

At the same time, Wileman’s Belle Isle President Paula Schopflin drove Belle Isle West’s Vice President, David Patterson and his daughter, Margaret Patterson, all around Wileman’s Belle Isle Neighborhood so they could single out for recognition the three most beautifully decorated homes there. Both neighborhoods award prizes in the form of gift cards from Lowe’s and Home Depot. The First Place winner gets a gift card for \$100; the Second Place card is \$75, and the Third Place winner gets a \$50 card.



### BELLE ISLE WEST WINNERS

**First Place – Rick & Gene Dunlevy, 2528 NW 61<sup>st</sup> Street**

**Second Place – Glenn & Betty Scott, 2525 NW 56<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Third Place – Travis Cunningham, 2609 NW 55<sup>th</sup> Place**

See the winners and contenders at [www.BIWOKC.com](http://www.BIWOKC.com).

To see winners of Wileman’s Belle Isle’s contest, go to [www.WBINA.com](http://www.WBINA.com).

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

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Organization  
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### Calendar of Events in 2021

**Tuesday, February 2**  
**Business Meeting via Zoom**  
6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

All residents of BIW are invited to attend electronically. Contact Greg Hall, [hallgreg05@gmail.com](mailto:hallgreg05@gmail.com) by January 30 for instructions on joining the meeting.

#### Meetings in 2021:

February 2, April 6, June 1, August 3, October 5, December 7 at 6:00 PM.

Meetings are one hour.

In-person meetings will resume when the Oklahoma Department of Health lifts meeting restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### BELLE ISLE WEST OUTSIDE HOLIDAY DECORATING WINNERS

- First Place: Rick & Gene Dunlevy,  
2528 NW 61<sup>st</sup> Street
- Second Place: Glenn & Betty Scott,  
2525 NW 56<sup>th</sup> Street
- Third Place: Travis & Andi Cunningham,  
2609 NW 55<sup>th</sup> Place

To enjoy pictures of all the beautiful decorations be sure to go to our website, [www.BIWOKC.com](http://www.BIWOKC.com) and browse through the photos to see the winners and contenders. Thanks so much to all of you for spending your time and energy to make the holidays so much brighter for the whole neighborhood. Everyone who drove or walked by your homes was delighted by the magic you created! Neighbors also enjoy looking out their windows and seeing the festive displays.