

Belle Isle Buzz



Official Publication of the Belle Isle West Neighborhood Association

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Shelli Wasson, Editor

February / March 2019

ANNUAL MEETING: March 5, 2019

Belle Isle West Neighborhood Association (NA) By-Laws require an annual meeting for membership. This year's meeting will be held March 5, 2019, at the nearby *Waterford Marriott Hotel*, first floor. Socializing is from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM with hors d'oeuvres and cash bar (no credit cards accepted so it really is a cash bar). The official meeting shall be called to order at 7:00 PM. All members are encouraged to come, get to know your neighbors better, and learn how to participate in keeping our neighborhood one of the best in OKC! All new neighbors who are not officially dues paying members are encouraged to come and learn about the Belle Isle West NA. Dues may be paid at the meeting. There will be a marquee inside the hotel lobby indicating our meeting location, with our meeting rules posted at the room's entrance. We hope to see you there! Newly elected Councilman James Cooper and Georgie Rasco, Neighborhood Alliance, have been invited to speak briefly to our group.

BIW Hosts Town Hall Meeting

On January 27, Belle Isle West NA hosted a Town Hall Meeting for the candidates for the Ward 2 City Council seat. The event was held at Christ Central Church at 2715 NW 50th. Four candidates participated: Suzanne Broadbent, James Cooper, Marilyn Davidson, and Mike Dover. Moderator David Patterson kept the discussion moving and candidates answered lots of questions brought in by attendees. More than 60 people attended and enjoyed getting to know the faces, voices, and platforms of the candidates, one of whom will be representing them on the City Council for the next four years. The Belle Isle West NA sends thanks and appreciation to Dr. Ed Shadid, Ward 2 councilman for the past eight years.

Update: On February 12, the election was held and James Cooper was elected to serve and take his seat at the Council in April.

From the President's Pen Hello Neighbors!

Soon every household will be receiving your 2019 Dues mailer. Your Belle Isle West NA uses your dues to improve, inspire, and innovate for our area. We are proud to be a part of such a great neighborhood, and appreciate your support every year. Kindly fill out the information requested and return it with your 2019 dues.

Thanks again for your tax deductible donation!
Sincerely, Greg Hall, 55thpl@sbcglobal.net

Officers and

Committee Chairs

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55thpl@sbcglobal.net

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Hey, Beautiful

Need Participants in the Annual Garden Tour on June 1, 2019

The neighborhood to the east of us, Wileman's Belle Isle, has asked the residents of Belle Isle West to participate in the annual *Belle Isle Garden Tour*. Anyone interested in being one of the participants? Consider using these cold Winter/Spring months to coordinate your designs. Please reach out to their Garden Tour Co-chairs: Heather Davis and Paula Schopflin, to learn more and get prepped for a beautiful Spring/Summer event that is scheduled to take place on June 1, 2019. Contact info: heatherdavisok@gmail.com pschopflin@cox.net.

Meet Your Neighbors

John and Jean Freeman, 63rd Street

While visiting with John and Jean Freeman, I had a bonus in the history of our neighborhood as well. John and his family moved to the neighborhood when he was a small boy. His father died when he was five, and his mother raised five children on her own. She was an inspiring and enterprising lady who worked hard and made good decisions. She later owned all the property between 63rd St. and Villa Ave. to 59th St. By then Nichols Hills and the golf course had already been established. She ran cattle and raised horses on her land, and leased other land for cattle. One of her cattle leases included the land where Penn Square is located. She built the Red Barn on Villa to house her stable and business. The barn also included a large dance floor that she catered for many sorority and fraternity dances which some may still remember. She paved half of Villa to reach her business as Villa was a dirt road; my neighbor remembers a half-paved Villa.

A dairy farm existed where French Market is now located, and a cemetery existed on 62nd and Villa, about where the apartments are now. The cemetery was later exhumed and relocated as development continued.

After John and his brother, Tom, returned from their military duty, they started their careers. Tom became a dentist and is retired from his office on Villa. John and Jean opened Freeman's Liquor on the opening day of the new liquor law in September 1959. They started with a small amount of money, shelving had not arrived, and they sold out of boxes. After selling out, the family spent the day returning to the warehouse to restock. This led John to a long career in commercial real estate to include several apartment complexes, bowling alley, and Kickingbird Square in Edmond to name a few.

John and Tom built their homes, some describe as "Gingerbread", side by side facing NW 63rd St. in 1959. Both still reside there having raised their families there as well.

John and Jean had three sons, and many offspring to follow. John still has his office in the Red Barn, and remains active in his business, and Jean is still active in the bowling alley operation. They are life-long members of St. John's Episcopal Church and continue to contribute to the community.

WHAT A GREAT NEIGHBORHOOD!

By Ann Warzyn

Mail dues to:

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



2019 Belle Isle West
Neighborhood Association Dues

Name _____
Address _____
Phones _____
Email _____

Your canceled check is
your receipt.

◆ Annual dues are \$35.00 per household. ◆
 (Make checks to BIW Neighborhood Assn.) *Thank*
I have enclosed \$ _____ *You!*

New Website Released

We've found a new website creator to replace the retiring one and our site also needed considerable updating, since it was still saying FBIR! So we found a new person to bring everything up to date and give it a new look.

Our website is very important, not only because it provides information to our residents, but also gives lots of insight into what our neighborhood is like for people who want to do research before they look at homes to buy here. If you have pictures of locations, events or features you like about Belle Isle West, share them with your neighbors by emailing them to lynn@garman.com and you'll soon see them on the BIW website. The site should be up and running by the time you get this newsletter so check it out at **BIWOKC.com**.



[Streets, Lighting & Sidewalks Workshop](#)

Thursday, February 21, 2019 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Hear from a panel of experts on all things streets, traffic and lighting. Learn more on how projects are commissioned and completed in your neighborhoods. Special guests include OKC's Director of Public Works, Eric Wenger, Traffic Commissioners and many more...A light dinner will be served. REGISTER TODAY! <http://nacok.org/event/streets-lights-sidewalks-workshop/>

Belle Isle Library

- Friends of the Library Book Sale at the State Fair – Saturday and Sunday, February 23-24 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM, Free admission.
- How to Survive Today's Food Jungle (nutrition program for adults hosted by Natural Grocers) – March 26 at 6:30 PM
- Early childhood program (0-5 years old) every Thursday at 10:00 AM (registration required)

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

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Calendar of Events in 2019

Thursday, February 21 – Streets, Lighting, and Sidewalks Workshop

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM Sponsored by *Neighborhood Alliance of Central Oklahoma*, more information on page 3.

Register here: <http://nacok.org/event/streets-lights-sidewalks-workshop/>

Tuesday, March 5 - Annual Meeting at the Waterford Marriott Hotel

6:00 PM Meet your neighbors and mingle; light hors d'oeuvre and cash bar (ATM available)

7:00 PM Meeting

Location: 6300 Waterford Blvd. (NW 63rd and Penn area)

Tuesday, April 2 Business Meeting

6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Location: Garman Productions, 2828 NW 58th Street

Bi-Monthly Business Meetings in 2019:

June 4, August 6, October 1, and December 3.

Meetings are held at 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Location: Garman Productions, 2828 NW 58th Street