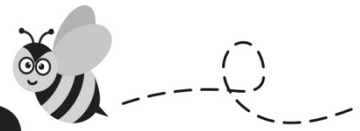


Belle Isle Buzz



Official Publication of the Belle Isle West Neighborhood Association

Volume 5, Issue 1

Shelli Wasson, Editor

January / February 2023

BELLE ISLE WEST



ANNUAL



DINNER AND MEETING

All Belle Isle West residents are welcome.
Dinner from Ted's, Speakers and Door Prizes

APRIL 13TH, 2023 | 6:00 PM



Belle Isle Library
5501 N Villa Ave, OKC, OK 73112



RSVP WITH QR CODE



Speakers: Our Ward 2 City Councilman, **James Cooper** will share information about local projects. **Rob Littlefield**, Traffic Commissioner, will speak about planned projects for traffic safety improvement, especially speed abatement in our own neighborhood. Vote on your priorities for Belle Isle Park.

Officers and Committee Chairs

PRESIDENT – Greg Hall
hallgreg05@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT – David Patterson
dgpat@cox.net

SECRETARY – Cathy Fitzhugh

TREASURER – Cathie Shaw

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Cathy Fitzhugh Earlene Parr

Ann Warzyn

STREET DIRECTORS (10/04/2022)

55th Place – Dave Campbell & Greg Hall

55th Terrace – Cathy Fitzhugh

56th St. & Linn – Sandy & Peter Pembroke

57th St. – Shannon & Randy Wells

58th Place – Shelli & Craig Wasson,
Cathie Shaw

58th St. – Sue Fellers

59th St. – Aimee Dial Parrish

60th St. – Christie Baker

61st St. – Scott Sproat & Maribeth Govin

62nd St. – OPEN

Imperial Terrace – Jackie Wilkinson

Riviera Drive – OPEN

2300-2400 Blocks of 59th St.– OPEN

Ross Ave. – Eunice Khoury

Villa Ave. &

2400-2412 NW 63rd St.- Brooks Taylor

Farewell to a Fine Neighbor, Mrs. Ona Lee Johnson

We were saddened by the passing of Mrs. Ona Lee Johnson. She and her husband, Bud, were some of the very first residents when this area was developed from farm land into housing in the 1950s. Ona passed away in early January after an accidental fall inside her home.

Bud and Ona met at church when they were 5 years old. They celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary last summer. Their two sons attended the Belle Isle Elementary School with all the other neighborhood kids.

There is a very interesting story about the home they built at NW 58th St. and Miller. Ona designed the home the way she wanted it. Bud made minor changes before an architect drew up the building plans. The wood used to build the home came from the demolished Nurse's Quarters behind Mercy Hospital at NW 12th and Walker Ave. in downtown Oklahoma City. Bud hired a crew of seniors from Central High School to help him salvage the lumber and clear the premises in two weeks. The boys were paid \$0.50/hour. Then a carpenter used a very heavy skill saw to prepare the lumber.

In 1957, when an official from the Oklahoma County Assessor's office came to evaluate the newly constructed home, he had some questions for Bud. Unbeknownst to Bud, the official had been to the building site several times during construction. The official asked Bud, "Was there any used lumber in this house?" Bud truthfully replied that the wood was used. Because to Bud's honesty, the home was treated the same as if the home had been moved to the property, rather than a newly constructed home. Bud and Ona saved a lot of money over the years, because of the lower valuation and taxes.

Ona is survived by her husband, Bud, two sons, seven grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren. Bud remarked that he and Ona have been fortunate to have the best neighbors, Marla and Margaret.

By Shelli Wasson, Editor

Update on Feral Cats

The feral cat program undertaken by our Neighborhood Association several years ago is certainly making a difference. This was an investment for BIW to purchase the safe kind of traps. Cats are returned to their "home" area after being spayed or neutered. Sterilizing feral cats also reduces nuisance behaviors (i.e., spraying, fighting, howling and roaming). Please contact Dave Campbell, Dcamp20000@aol.com to borrow a trap and he can show you how to safely use it.



Mail dues to:


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

2023 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*
I have enclosed \$ _____ *You!*

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

Several residents add a little (or a lot) to their dues check each year to help fund projects in our neighborhood. We would like to send out a BIG thank you to the following generous neighbors who recently contributed \$655.00 over and above their \$35.00 yearly dues.

They are [Merlaine Anderson](#), [Will & Sara Fathree](#), [Jeff Means](#), [Rosh Pinah Congregation](#), [Roth Capital Group, LLC/RV Valarro](#), [Carlene Steele](#), [Kerri & Rick Stueve](#), [Timothy Talley](#), [Tanya Turner](#), and [Marveta Williams](#). Thank you for supporting our neighborhood!

Since 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 due to our 501(C)4 designation with the IRS. If you have further questions, please consult with your tax expert.

Belle Isle Park, 2701 NW 62nd St.

Toni Taylor Glenn, resident on 62nd St., attended the MAPS-4 Parks Group D Open House. This event was for neighborhood leaders to interact with the Kimley-Horn Planning Staff, one of the nation's premier planning and design consulting firms.

The amount of MAPS-4 money available for Parks is \$69 million to be divided among 105 parks across Oklahoma City according to greatest need. Hopefully, Belle Isle Park will be upgraded so even more families can enjoy the park for years to come.

The needs of all parks across Oklahoma City were assessed. As we already knew, our playground and swing set need upgrading while the tennis courts and picnic tables need replacing.

➤ **Come to the Annual Meeting (see pg. 1) and vote on your top priorities for Belle Isle Park.**

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

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Calendar of Events in 2023

April 4 BIW Business Meeting at Bell Isle Library 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM. Meeting lasts one hour.

April 13 BIW ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER, 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM.

Belle Isle Library, Meeting Rooms A & B. Address: 5501 N Villa Ave.

Bi-Monthly Business Meetings in 2023: April 4, June 6, August 1, October 3, December 5

Martin Park Nature Center

5000 W Memorial Rd, near Mercy Hospital (405) 297-1429

More than just a park, Martin Park Nature Center is a hub for nature exploration and education for visitors of all ages. Guided hikes, education programs and an interactive learning center provide visitors a place to learn about nature and wildlife in a serene, suburban setting.

Park Hours & Amenities

- Summer: April 1 - Sept. 30, 5 AM to 9 PM
- Winter: Oct. 1 - March 31, 5 AM to 6 PM
- 2.5 miles of woodland trails
- Visitor Center with live animals, nature learning library
- Picnic pavilion, seating up to 30 & available for rent
- Nature-themed playground
- Restrooms
- [ADA Accessible INTEGRIS Jim Thorpe Rehabilitation Courage Trail](#)

You may take a Virtual Tour:
<https://www.okc.gov/departments/parks-recreation/martin-park-nature-center>

