

Belle Isle Buzz



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Shelli Wasson, Editor

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Top: Taylor Gorjiyan, acted as emcee and had fun running the laptop during David Patterson's presentation about BIEMS.



Balloons galore!!

Above: Eunice Khoury and new friend, Tricia Naifeh-Parker.

Below: David, new resident on Ross Ave., and Melvin Fitzhugh.



2023 Annual Meeting and Dinner

Belle Isle West Neighborhood Association (BIWNA) held its Annual Meeting on April 6 at the renovated and enlarged Belle Isle Library. More than 70 residents attended and enjoyed social time, 3 highly informative speakers, prize drawings, and a dinner of delicious Mexican food catered by Ted's. Taylor Gorjiyan, 56th St., served as emcee for our event.

Belle Isle Enterprise Middle School (BIEMS) supplied information about the school building project and events. Belle Isle benefits from the recently passed bond issue. The remodeling of the school building on Villa Ave. will expand the facility to enable the 5th and 6th grade classes, which are now located 5.5 miles away on Greystone Ave., to join the 7th and 8th grade classes all in one place. This is a much-needed improvement for the environment of the school. (For more on the Belle Isle School, see page 2.)

Building developer Ryan O'Neill informed everyone about *The Oak* development of 20 acres at the corner of NW Expressway and Penn. He told how Oklahoma City is "the 8th largest city by land area in the country and it defines a lot of what we do" and "the city's vastness is a double-edged sword of opportunity and disconnection". *The Oak* will bring people together as a "focal point" that is not downtown but right here in our own area. Apartments are being constructed now; retailers and restaurants, and outdoor spaces are included in development of *The Oak*.

Ward 2 Councilman, James Cooper, spoke about improvements in our area. These include the enhanced bus routes/HOV lanes, and the crosswalk just installed at NW Expressway and Villa Ave.

Donated door prizes included: Two Target \$50 gift cards from BIWNA; basket from Well Preserved Advisory Group; basket from Stonecloud Brewing Company; two general pest treatments from Fitzhugh's Pest Management; David Campbell donated hand-made wooden items including two cutting boards, a large bowl, vases and toothpick holders of different sizes, and a seed planting tool. Lucky winners included: Peter Pembroke – Lynn Ave; Toni Taylor-Glenn – 62nd St; Ann, Lexi, Brad, and Kate all were winners from 55th Place; Tonia – 55th Ter.; Shannon Wells – 57th St; Sara Fathree – 58th Place.

Kudos to the Planning Committee who did an outstanding job! Thank you for your ideas, time, and effort. And thanks for blowing up all those balloons!

Officers and Committee Chairs

PRESIDENT – Greg Hall
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STREET DIRECTORS (04/04/2023)

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

Donated Food from BIW

Unused food from the Annual Meeting and Dinner was donated to Fire Station #17, located on NW 50th St. between Villa Ave. and May Ave. Dave Campbell delivered the food on behalf of BIW. These are the firefighters who attend our annual Neighbors Night Out event.

Votes Cast at Annual Meeting on Improvements for Belle Isle Park

The results of the voting for the most desired Belle Isle Park improvements are tallied! Of the 54 ballots cast the five top priorities are:

1. More trees and shade
2. A larger or second pavilion with more seating
3. A splash pad
4. New picnic tables
5. New playground equipment

These priorities will be given to the MAPS 4 Parks Improvement Committee for their consideration about Belle Isle Park, located in our neighborhood at 2701 NW 62nd St.

Thank you to all of you who attended the Annual Meeting and for your input on this important project. We will keep you posted on further developments.

Submitted by Toni Taylor-Glenn, resident on 62nd St.

Belle Isle School, continued page 1

The building renovation includes 5 additional classrooms, a competitive gym, and a rejuvenation of the grounds.

The bond issue has also approved the establishment of a new Belle Isle High School. Our students will have a new avenue to their high school destinations. The location of this new facility has yet to be chosen by the OKCPS District at this time.

Within the past 3 years, Belle Isle M.S. has expanded the sports options by joining the OSSAA (Oklahoma Secondary School Activity Association). This enabled students to compete against various schools within the Oklahoma City Public Schools (OKCPS) district.

Today's youth are extremely tech-savvy. A new option Belle Isle is offering this year is Esports, which is competitive video gaming.

Students get to have an annual dance which allows them to dress up and enjoy "an evening out." This is also an opportunity for parent and community partnerships to help make these events special and very memorable.

Belle Isle is the only middle school that offers a Math Exploration class. This class takes the math concepts students are learning and applies them to real-life situations.

Every year, the teachers put on a festival for each grade which is centered around certain periods of time – i.e., Greek and Roman period, Colonial Period, 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, & 60s. These festivals give students a chance to experience the food, dress, music and other things that were present during those periods.

We want to thank Karen at BIEMS for providing all the pertinent information about the school.

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 \$660.00 over and above their \$35.00 yearly dues.

They are Randy & Laura Link/Mary Jo Puttroff; Lone Brown; Sharon Gowdy; Susan MacHugh; Molly Holbrock; Cathy & Melvin Fitzhugh; J.J. Jones; Marjorie Long; Mary & Joe Davenport; Lexie & Shawn Garrison; James Weber; Barbara Pirrong; Mike & Earlene Parr; Chris & Bronwyn Hoch; Vaughn & Tracey Johnson; Diane & Paul Visor; Seannene Smith; Kenneth & Anne Blood; Joey Freeman; Eunice Khoury; Janice & A. Lee Segell.

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. Thank you for supporting our neighborhood!



Melvin helping Tonya, both of 55th Ter., put away the stackable chairs.



Friendly conversation during clean up! Laura and David Patterson, 55th Place, and Jim and Rebecca Cusher, 55th St.



Sara Fathree, 58th Place, having fun while taking down the balloons.



Cathy & Melvin Fitzhugh, 55th Ter, removing the BIW banner for use at BIW's next event.

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

Non-Profit
Organization
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BIW email is biwestokc@gmail.com
www.biwokc.com



Calendar of Events in 2023

- June 6 Bi-monthly Business Meeting, 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM at Belle Isle Library.
If you reside in Belle Isle West, you are welcome to attend.
- June 29 Volunteers needed for setting out flags, see article below.
- August 1 BIW Business Meeting at Belle Isle Library 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM. Meeting lasts one hour.
- September Neighbor's Night Out. Date has not been announced yet but we need to start planning this family event in Belle Isle Park.

Volunteers Needed to Set Out Flags on Thursday, June 29

Every home in our neighborhood gets a small American flag placed in the yard by a volunteer to celebrate Independence Day. The flags are provided annually by the Belle Isle West Neighborhood Association (BIW).

Meet at Belle Isle Park (2701 NW 62nd St.) on Thursday, June 29 at 6:30 PM to pick up flags. Contact Greg Hall, hallgreg05@gmail.com if you have a question.

On the neighborhood survey, the highest rated project we have is the display of flags on July 4th.