



# The Crow's Nest

*Newsletter for Lake Conway Estates*

February/March/April 2018

*Lake Conway Estates  
Residents' Association*

P.O. Box 593242; Orlando, FL 32859-3242

Website: [www.LakeConwayEstates.com](http://www.LakeConwayEstates.com)

Contact Council members at:  
[info@lakeconwayestates.com](mailto:info@lakeconwayestates.com)

Or Use membership directory for  
Individual contact information

*Executive Council*

President: Bob Buzzetti  
Vice President: Jenny Palmer  
Treasurer: David Sherard  
Secretary: Rosie Maltby

*Committee Chairman*

Membership: Barbie Snavelly  
[lcramembership@gmail.com](mailto:lcramembership@gmail.com)  
Web Site: Pamela Rogan  
Property Mgr. Bob Buzzetti  
Street Captains: Anita Sacco

LCERA membership dues are \$150 per year. The fiscal year begins September 1 and ends August 31 of the following year. A \$25 discount is available to Lake Conway Estates residents who remit dues **PRIOR TO OR AT** the annual meeting every September. Keys are dispensed by Barbie Snavelly.

Payment may be made by check remitted to the P.O. Box listed above or by **Pay Pal** at [www.LakeConwayEstates.com](http://www.LakeConwayEstates.com)

*The Crow's Nest*

Publisher: Lake Conway Estates Residents' Association  
Editor: Anita Sacco  
[LCTheCrowsNest@aol.com](mailto:LCTheCrowsNest@aol.com)  
Publication Committee: Barbie Snavelly,

## If Spring Is In The Air....

.....it must be time for two of our most popular Residents' Association-sponsored events, the Easter Egg Hunt and the LCERA Annual Picnic.

Lynn Armstrong will be the Activity Coordinator of the Easter Egg Hunt which will take place at the Lake Conway Estates Residents' Association lake lot situated on Cullen Lake Shore Drive. The event will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 31 and will include announcements, story time, games, and the egg hunt. We have it on good authority that a very large Easter Bunny will hop by for a photo op.

Boaters, please take note that the double gates to the lot will be padlocked at dusk on the evening of Friday, March 30, and the boat ramp will be unavailable for use until 1:30 p.m. on Saturday afternoon on the 31<sup>st</sup>, when the Egg Hunt and activities have concluded.

Not quite a month later, on Sunday, April 29, our Annual Picnic will also take place at the lake lot. Two years ago your Executive Council deviated from the traditional Saturday date and moved the event to a Sunday with the result being better turnout of residents. This year the picnic will begin at 4:00 in the afternoon on Sunday.

If you and your family will be attending, please R.S.V.P. to Membership Chairman, Barbie Snavelly for tickets so you can also participate in the door prize drawings. You must be present to win. The request for tickets also gives your Executive Council an idea of how much chicken to order so we have neither too much nor too little. Barbie can be reached at 407-859-6890. If you would like to donate a professional service or a gift to be included in the door prize drawings, contact Barbie for that as well.

We anticipate a visit by Orange County Firefighters with their fire engine, barring any emergency where they may be called away. They will do blood pressure checks and provide home fire safety tips and information. Be sure to stop and chat with them.

A clown and age-appropriate organized games and activities for youngsters was well received last year and will be repeated once again. Your Association will provide fried chicken and beverages which are supplemented every year by the side dishes, salads, and the desserts residents provide for the covered-dish aspect of our picnic.

There is no cost for LCERA members; however, there is a fee to help defray expenses for non-member residents and/or guests of members. Membership dues (\$150) for the fiscal year which ends August 31 will be accepted at the gate.

Beginning at dusk on Thursday, April 26, and extending through noon on Monday, April 29, the lake lot will be padlocked and unavailable for boaters. This is necessary to facilitate the delivery and set up of a large tent and other items---tables, chairs, potty---on the asphalt area of the lake lot. Breakdown and pickup of all those items will occur the day after the picnic

*Anita Sacco, Editor*

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## April

- 1 Sunday **EASTER SUNDAY**   
April Fools' Day
- 3 Tuesday 6:30 p.m. *Belle Isle City Council – Belle Isle City Hall (Open to the public)*
- 17 Tuesday 6:30 p.m. *Belle Isle City Council Meeting– Belle Isle City Hall (Open to the public)\**  
Income Tax Day
- 24 Tuesday 6:30 p.m. *Belle Isle Planning & Zoning – Belle Isle City Hall (Open to the public)\**
- 29 Sunday 4:00 p.m. **LCERA ANNUAL PICNIC** Lake Lot on Cullen Lk. Shore Drive

## May

- 1 Tuesday 6:30 p.m. *Belle Isle City Council Meeting– Belle Isle City Hall (Open to the public)\**
- 3 Thursday National Day of Prayer
- 13 Sunday Mother's Day 
- 15 Tuesday Peace Officers Memorial Day  (half-staff until sunset)  
6:30 p.m. *Belle Isle City Council Meeting– Belle Isle City Hall (Open to the public)\**
- 19 Saturday Armed Forces Day 
- 22 Tuesday 6:30 p.m. *Belle Isle Planning & Zoning – Belle Isle City Hall (Open to the public)\**
- 28 Monday **MEMORIAL DAY**  (half-staff until noon)  
Orange County Public Schools STUDENT HOLIDAY
- 30 Wednesday Orange County Public Schools LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

\* Meeting time and date is subject to change.

 Fly the American flag



### Lake Conway Estates Residents' Association

#### ANNUAL PICNIC

Sunday, April 29, 2018 – Start time 4:00 p.m. at the lake lot on Cullen Lk. Shore Dr.

#### Potluck Dinner (bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share)

Free for LCERA members; \$5 per head for resident non-members and guests. Secure tickets from Barbie Snavely, Membership Chairman. Ticket holders get to participate in door prize drawings. There will be organized activities for children and a visit from Orange County Fire and Rescue.

**Please note:** Boat ramp is closed for launches on Thursday, April 26 at dusk and reopens for use Monday, April 30 at noon.

## *Membership Musings* by Barbie Snavelly, Membership Chairman Phone: 407-859-6890

Our LCERA membership number stands at 221 for our fiscal year which began September 1, 2017. Dues are \$150 for the current membership year which ends on August 31, 2018. Dues for residents new to Lake Conway Estates can be pro-rated. Listed below are the most recent new residents to Lake Conway Estates who have joined our residents' association. Please note their information in your directory. Welcome!

**Greg & Carrie Hunsucker                      5101 St. Marie Avenue**

*Please note:* Our most recent Residents' Association Directory is several years old and revised contact information often changes before the directory can go to press. If you would like a list of the neighbors on your own street---as well as their contact information ---be in touch with Barbie at the phone number noted above.

*Lake Conway Estates*

## *Easter Egg Hunt\**

Lake Conway Estates Lake Lot  
Saturday, March 31, 2018  
10:00 a.m.

Activities include:

*Announcements, Story Time  
Games, Arts and Crafts  
Egg Hunt*

*The Easter Bunny will be hopping by  
(Bring your camera)*



Children must be accompanied by a parent or grandparent

*Event Coordinator, Lynn Armstrong*

*Boat ramp will close Friday, March 30 at dusk  
and reopen at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 31*



## In Belle Isle

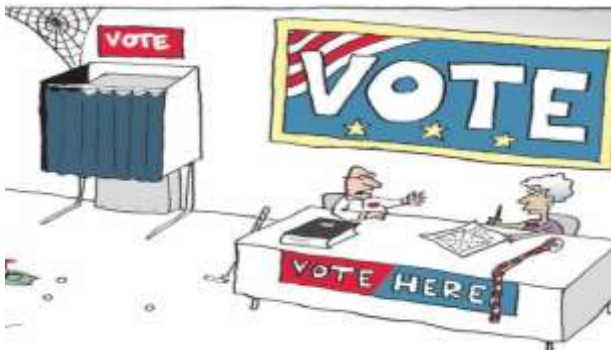
Pitiful. That's the best way to describe the turnout for the municipal election that was held on Tuesday, March 13. Of the 5,069 registered voters in the City of Belle Isle, only 810 or 15.98 percent of all eligible City voters bothered to exercise their right and privilege, whether by absentee ballot, early voting, or at the Belle Isle precincts on election day.

You may recall that *all* qualified voters in Belle Isle were asked to choose a commissioner for District 6 in the City. This was an *At Large* election, so all registered voters in Belle Isle could cast a ballot no matter what district they live in. Besides voting on a commissioner specifically for District 6, citizens were also asked to vote on 13 proposed amendments to the Belle Isle Charter.

Jim Partin and Andrew Thompson, both of whom reside in the Belle Vista subdivision, were the candidates who had qualified to run for the District 6 seat on City Council. Mr. Partin prevailed in both of the Belle Isle voting precincts and will take his oath of office at the BI City Council meeting on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at the Belle Isle City Hall. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. The total vote count for the commission seat was 470 for Jim Partin, 329 for Andrew Thompson.



All 13 amendments were approved by substantial margins although some were viewed more favorably than others. One can only hope that voters were indeed informed when making their selection and did not opt to “hopscotch” their choice down the ballot.



*"I guess most people need a better reason than that they can."*

The expenses incurred when holding an election are financed by taxpayer dollars. The cost of this municipal election to Belle Isle residents would have been the same even if 100 percent of the electorate had turned out rather than the paltry 16 percent that did. Citizens are short-changing themselves in more ways than one by not participating in the election process.

In larger elections that include federal, state, and/or county candidates and questions, voters receive a sample ballot in the mail so they can consider the choices and mark their selections on the sample for reference when they go to the polls. Absentee ballots, of course, include all pertinent information.

There was no sample ballot from the office of the Orange County Supervisor of Elections for the Belle Isle Municipal Election on March 13. Such a mailing, no doubt, would have increased the election cost to Belle Isle, but would it have improved voter turnout during early voting opportunities or on Election Day?

In fairness, the Belle Isle District 6 candidates and the proposed charter amendments were listed on the City web site as Election Day drew near. Residents could even hear a brief summary of the 13 charter amendments narrated by City Manager, Bob Francis, if they chose to access that feature on the Belle Isle web site. In this day and age, however, there are still residents who are not internet active---some by choice, some by happenstance. If those individuals receive nothing the old-fashioned way--- in the mail---or if residents receive a postcard reminder but disregard it because it is perceived to be “junk” and inconsequential, how are they to be informed about elections? More importantly, what is a reasonable expectation of citizen-voter responsibility for being cognizant of elections, candidates, and issues?

The municipal elections in Belle Isle are truly “grassroots.” Apathy and disinterest by our local electorate in time will have a monetary and diminished quality-of-life consequence. In coming months, additional amendments to the City Charter will be considered and proposed for the next municipal election in 2019. Also, voters will be asked to elect a Mayor as well as commissioners for Belle Isle Districts 2, 3, and 4. Those who are able should avail themselves of the useful information that can be found on the Belle Isle web site, [www.cityofbelleislefl.org](http://www.cityofbelleislefl.org).

On a totally different note, City Council will be continuing to discuss the feasibility of allowing short-term residential rentals in the City. Specifically, should Airbnb rentals in private homes be permitted? If allowed, should it be stipulated that the home owner must be in residence at the property? Presently, Chapter 7, Article 2 – Section 7 of the Belle Isle Code allows for rentals of no less than seven months. Commissioners are looking for input from residents as well as short-term hosts before they make any final decisions that would change the present code pertaining to this issue.