



The Crow's Nest

Newsletter for Lake Conway Estates

December 2017/January 2018

Lake Conway Estates Residents' Association

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

Website: www.LakeConwayEstates.com

Contact Council members at:

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
lceramembership@gmail.com

Web Site: Unfilled position

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

The Crow's Nest

Publisher: Lake Conway Estates Residents' Association

Editor: Anita Sacco
LCTheCrowsNest@aol.com

Publication
Committee: Barbie Snavelly, Susannah Snavelly

Unanticipated Expenses

The various executive councils who have served our Residents' Association in recent years have had the foresight to prepare budgets and create reserve funds to address large capital improvement projects as well as anticipated maintenance, repair, and replacement costs at our Association properties---the tennis courts on Darden Avenue, and the lake-lot beach/playground/picnic area/ boat ramp on Cullen Lake Shore Drive. As every homeowner knows, however, there are expenditures that can be anticipated and planned for, and then there are those that arise without warning and quite unexpectedly.

Such was the case in mid-October when a depression in the parking area at the tennis courts opened up as the asphalt surface collapsed and fell into a void beneath it. To prevent unsuspecting tennis players from parking on the problem area, the city and police department responded quickly to a request for help, and provided barricades and tape to seal off the area that might collapse further if a heavy vehicle were parked on it. The surface and sub-surface failure became a question of "What caused the problem?"

Did the collapse occur as a result of natural water-caused erosion? Was major storm water drainage work at a nearby residential complex a contributing factor? Did the water line break that occurred at St. Moritz and Darden following Hurricane Irma influence the collapse in any way? These were just few of the questions that arose. And of course, the biggest question became, "Who is going to pay for repair of the area?"

A definitive answer about why the failure occurred has not been ascertained. In the interest of eliminating the hazard that the collapse has caused, the Executive Council decided to proceed with repair of the area after discerning whether there are other weak spots in nearby locations at the tennis courts that could also develop into hazards. It was determined that there *were* other weak areas that needed to be addressed. The services of Asphalt Preservation Systems Inc. were secured, and repair and restoration of the area and subsurface began mid-January.

It should be noted that the alert observation of Darden Street Captain, Scott Cline, facilitated prompt notification of the Residents' Association Property Manager as soon as something amiss was spotted. Additionally, the conscientious stewardship of our Residents' Association properties by Executive Council members continues to assure that our subdivision's voluntary Residents' Association amenities have no equal at the same price elsewhere in Orange County. Careful and prudent budgeting and expenditures assure that we can handle "surprises" when they occur.


Anita Sacco, Editor

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

2	Friday		Groundhog Day
6	Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	<i>Belle Isle City Council – Belle Isle City Hall (Open to the public)*</i>
12	Monday		Lincoln's Birthday 
13	Tuesday		Shrove Tuesday
14	Wednesday		St. Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday
19	Monday		George Washington's Birthday observed (President's Day)  Orange County Public Schools CLOSED
20	Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	<i>Belle Isle City Council Meeting – Belle Isle City Hall (Open to the public)*</i>
22	Thursday		Washington's Birthday (actual)
27	Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	<i>Belle Isle Planning & Zoning – Belle Isle City Hall (Open to the public)*</i>
28	Wednesday		Purim Begins

MARCH

6	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	<i>Belle Isle City Council Meeting – Belle Isle City Hall (Open to the public)*</i>
11	Sunday	12:01 a.m.	Daylight Saving Time Begins (Set clock ahead one hour)
13	Tuesday		BELLE ISLE MUNICIPAL ELECTION
16	Friday		Orange County Public Schools STUDENT HOLIDAY
17	Saturday		St. Patrick's Day
19-23	Monday-Friday		Orange County Public Schools CLOSED for SPRING BREAK
20	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	<i>Belle Isle City Council Meeting – Belle Isle City Hall (Open to the public)*</i> <i>Spring Begins</i>
25	Sunday		Palm Sunday
27	Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	<i>Belle Isle Planning & Zoning – Belle Isle City Hall (Open to the public)*</i>
29	Thursday		National Vietnam War Veterans Day 
30	Friday		Good Friday Passover Begins

* Meeting time and date is subject to change.



Fly the American flag

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

Our LCERA membership number stands at 220 for our fiscal year which began September 1, 2017. Dues are \$150 for the current membership year which ends on August 31, 2018. However, dues for residents new to Lake Conway Estates can be pro-rated. Proration is calculated at the rate of \$12.50 per month by the number of months remaining in the Association's fiscal year, or at \$75, whichever is greater. 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!

Tim Stakes
5120 Dorian Avenue

Javier Nova & Mariana Garcia
5127 Pelleport Avenue

Jessee & Amy Dannemiller
5000 St. Germain Avenue

Please note: Constant updates to our resident contact list often cause our Residents' Directory revisions to be outdated even 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---contact Barbie at the phone number noted above.

Christmas Past *With the Christmas season of 2017 several weeks behind us, Gigi Mahanovic*

of Boy Scout Troop 76 reports that our neighborhood supported the Christmas Luminary activity with about the same level of resident participation as the previous year. Sales of do-it-yourself luminary kits were consistent with 2016 numbers; however, there was a slight increase in the number of residents who requested full-service kits which the scouts assembled, delivered and set up at the homes where they had been ordered.

Additionally, after the start of the New Year, on January 7, the scouts organized a work detail and returned to the lake lot to remove the pile of unused sand left over from the luminary project. Shovels, wheelbarrow, and rakes in hand, they moved the sand to the playground area where they raked and incorporated it into the play area surface.

Considering the fact that fewer scouts were available this past Christmas to assist with the luminary project, logistics were well planned and were executed efficiently and conscientiously. The collaboration between the scouts and our Residents' Association was mutually beneficial. The LCERA luminary tradition was continued, and resident support of the project helped the Boy Scouts raise funds to go to Skymont Scout Reservation in Tennessee for summer camp in 2018.

**POSITION
FILLED**

Many thanks to Duban Avenue resident, Ingrid Breckon, who has volunteered to serve as the Street Captain for residents on Duban Avenue (17 homes) and Ponceau Avenue (7 homes). Ingrid will assist with delivery on those two streets of *The Crow's Nest* newsletter and periodic information of benefit to all in Lake Conway Estates. Her spirit of volunteerism is appreciated.

They're Baaaaaaack If you've experienced a traffic hold up on Hoffner Avenue anywhere between Conway Road to the east and Hansel Avenue to the west, and no trash trucks or school busses are visible, chances are that a pair of Sandhill Cranes are lollygagging on the asphalt roadway. Their bird brains don't recognize that standing in the middle of a heavily used thoroughfare can be hazardous to their health. So far, fortunately, motorists wait patiently for the birds to get off the road. The cranes are distinctive because of their large size and the fleshy crimson area on their forehead.

Sandhill cranes are a migratory bird and there are several subspecies. The Florida Sandhill crane is less common and is endangered. Sandhill cranes are fairly social birds that live in pairs or family groups. In Florida, they are protected by both state and federal law. There are high monetary penalties for killing them.



In Belle Isle

The City of Belle Isle is divided into seven districts, and each district is represented by a commissioner who sits on City Council. Usually, commissioners are elected *At Large* in municipal elections, and term of office is three years. In recent weeks, City Council has seen some personnel changes within its seven commissioner seats. In District 6, appointee, Lenny Mosse found it necessary to resign in order to deal with personal business concerns. Mr. Mosse had been appointed to fill the remaining term of Commissioner Lydia Pisano when she had been elected as Belle Isle City Mayor in 2016. **Alexa Dowlen** has now been appointed to complete the remaining months of the term for District 6 which expires this year; however, she will not be a candidate for that seat in the Belle Isle Municipal Election on March 13, 2018.

Additionally, District 4 Commissioner, Bobby Lance, recently resigned his seat because he had moved and was no longer a resident in the district he represented. The term for his seat expires in 2019, and in the interim, Trentwood Boulevard resident, **Mike Sims**, has been appointed to complete the remaining term for Belle Isle District 4.



The western part of Lake Conway Estates lies in District 1 and is represented by Commissioner **Ed Gold**. The eastern part of LCE, beginning on the eastern side of St. Marie Avenue, is located in District 7. Commissioner **Sue Nielsen** represents District 7. Both commissioners reside in Lake Conway Estates although their districts extend beyond our subdivision boundaries.

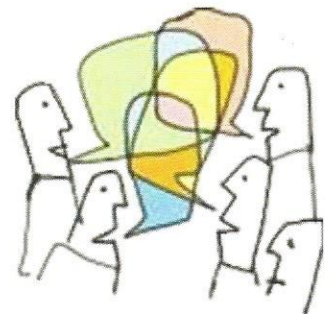
Commissioners for Belle Isle Districts 5 and 6 were due to be elected this March; however, the incumbent for District 5, Harv Readey, was the lone applicant for qualification back in November of 2017; and therefore, automatically continues as District 5 commissioner. Two gentlemen qualified as candidates for the District 6 seat: **Andrew Thompson** and **Jim Partin**. Both men will be on the ballot for the municipal election on March 13. This will be an *At Large* election which means all qualified voters in the City of Belle Isle--regardless of the district in which they live---can vote for their choice of candidate for District 6. Municipal election voters will also be asked to decide on 13 questions regarding City Charter revisions.

Turnout for Belle Isle municipal elections has been consistently and pitifully low in past years. Usually less than 20 percent of registered voters cast a vote, whether in person at one of the two polling places serving the city, or by absentee ballot. It behooves residents to pay attention to their representation on City Council. Our commissioners determine our property tax rate as well as health and safety and property issues that influence our quality of life and property values.



There is another matter of interest for city residents that should be cause for concern. An increasing number of false alarms requiring police response have resulted from alarm systems that activate unnecessarily. Deputy Chief, Travis Grimm, of the Belle Isle Police Department recently reported the following finding at a City Council meeting. In 2017 there was a serious uptick in false alarms responded to in the city at both residential and commercial locations. That translates to a potential for significant cost increases to the city, not to mention inherent and serious safety issues for officers whose manpower and time could be better spent on bona fide policing and enforcement matters within Belle Isle. Bottom line: In multiple ways, false alarms are a costly threat to safety and quality-of-life issues for both residents and officers. Enactment of fees to offending residents and property owners for false alarm responses by the BIPD may be considered by Belle Isle officials.

Still another topic under discussion is the question of annexation of properties and areas contiguous to Belle Isle. At a city workshop meeting on January 11, preliminary talks by city council members began for the purpose of gauging support for annexation. Attorney Dan Langley discussed the various ways annexations can occur and what legal guidelines must be followed. It was pointed out that the city should have a clear idea of what goals would be met by pursuing annexation, as well as the pros and cons of such an action.



Utilizing various maps of the City of Belle Isle and surrounding areas, City Manager, Bob Francis, provided an overview of possible options to consider. Commissioners weighed in on what areas they felt should be included. One of several issues that has prompted the discussion is the fact that BIPD has no jurisdiction on sections of the numerous roadways that border the city. Of particular concern are the streets in the area of Cornerstone Charter Academy and Pine Castle Elementary. The several blocks along Hoffner Avenue near the Randolph public boat ramp in unincorporated Orange County are problematic also, and at times, dangerous. Discussions will be on going.