



The Crow's Nest

Newsletter for Lake Conway Estates

Jan/Feb/Mar 2023

Lake Conway Estates
Residents' Association

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

Website: www.LakeConwayEstates.com

Contact Council members at:

lceramembership@gmail.com

OR 407-602-4994

Executive Council

President: Jason Hunter
Vice President: Bill Parker
Treasurer: David Sherard
Secretary: Chanelle Huff

Committee Chairmen

Membership: Allyn Bencen

lceramembership@gmail.com

Web Site: Rogan Marketing and
Communications
roganmarketing.com

Property Mgr. Jason Hunter

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.

Membership Chair dispenses access cards

Payment may be made by check remitted to the P.O. Box listed above or by **Stripe** at www.LakeConwayEstates.com

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SPRINGTIME: Lake Lot Activities – March 25 & 26

Warmer weather that arrives with spring is always accompanied with increased use of the LCERA lake lot by members. After “winter” conditions, the first Residents’ Association-sponsored events in recent years have been the Lake Conway Estates Easter Egg Hunt and the LCERA annual picnic.

In the several years prior to COVID restrictions, the two events were scheduled on the same weekend in order to utilize---for both events---the rental tent, tables, and chairs that had always been ordered for the annual picnic. This year will be no exception. The two events will be held the weekend of Saturday, March 25, and Sunday, March 26.

Mortier Avenue resident and street captain, Lynn Armstrong, will again be organizing and conducting the egg hunt with the assistance of numerous volunteers on Saturday, March 25, beginning at 10:00 a.m. A larger-than-life Easter Bunny is expected to hop by for a photo op with children in attendance. The event is open to all neighborhood (LCE) children and grandchildren. Participation is *not* dependent on Residents’ Association membership. Children must be accompanied, however, by an adult resident of Lake Conway Estates. The egg-hunt-by-age-group activities will include a story time, chalk drawing, and of course a visit with the non-verbal Easter Bunny who most likely will hop away after 10:45 a.m.

On Sunday, March 26, beginning at 2:00 p.m. the LCERA Annual Picnic will take place at the lake lot. All households attending are requested to provide a covered dish that will feed at least six persons. There is no admission fee for Resident’s Association members; however, there will be \$5.00 fee per head which will be collected at the gate for adult non-members and guests of members. The Association will provide a meat entree and non-alcoholic beverages. The event will conclude at 6:00 p.m.

As in past years, attendance by Orange County firefighters and EMT’s---complete with emergency vehicles---has been of interest to all demographics. Blood pressure readings always prompt interest, particularly for seniors. For the younger set, Kiwi the Clown and her assistant---who create balloon art and perform face painting---is an ever-popular addition.

To prepare for the busy weekend events on March 25 and 26, the lake lot facilities and boat ramp will be unavailable for use beginning the morning of Friday, March 24 through Monday morning, March 27.

Those who are able are encouraged to walk to the event. No parking will be available within the lake lot property, but parking on surrounding area streets is an option.

Anita Sacco, Editor

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MARCH

7	Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	<i>Belle Isle City Council - Belle Isle City Hall *</i>
12	Sunday	12:01 a.m.	Daylight Saving Time begins.
13 – 17	Mon – Fri		Orange County Public Schools – Spring break
17	Friday		St. Patrick's Day
20	Monday		Vernal Equinox/First Day of Spring
21	Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	<i>Belle Isle City Council - Belle Isle City Hall *</i>
24	Friday	All Day	LCERA Lake Lot <i>CLOSED</i> (Event Preparations)
25	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	LCE Easter Egg Hunt – Lake Lot
26	Sunday	2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	LCERA Annual Picnic – Lake Lot
27	Monday	All Day	LCERA Lake Lot <i>CLOSED</i> (Event Cleanup)
29	Wednesday		National Viet Nam War Veterans' Day 

APRIL

2	Sunday		Palm Sunday
4	Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	<i>Belle Isle City Council - Belle Isle City Hall *</i>
7	Friday		Good Friday
9	Sunday		Easter Sunday 
18	Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	<i>Belle Isle City Council - Belle Isle City Hall *</i>
28	Friday		National Arbor Day

* Meeting time and date is subject to change.



Fly the American flag.

Membership Musings

by Allyn Bencen, Membership Committee Chairperson Phone: 407-602-4994

Many thanks to former Membership Committee Chairperson, Rachel Tierney, for the time and talent she invested in her appointed volunteer role serving the members of our Residents' Association. We wish her well in her new endeavors.



Of the 452 homes in our subdivision, by the end of January, the number of households that had joined our voluntary LCE Resident's Association totaled 258! As the temperatures warm up and residents begin thinking about utilizing our lake lot and tennis court amenities again, it will not be a stretch to realize an even larger number of LCERA members. Use the LCERA phone number above for any inquiries about membership. Please do leave a message if necessary. In the alternative, you can also leave a message utilizing iceramembership@gmail.com.

For residents renewing membership, once membership dues are paid, expect at least 24-48 hours before your key access card is updated for access to amenities. If you are a new paying member and need to obtain a key card, reach out via our membership phone or email to connect and set up a time to pick up the card.

FAST CONTACTS NEEDED: PLEASE HELP!

From time to time there are situations---as in quality of life and safety issues--- when it would be advantageous to have a communication method that would enable the fast transmission of an important message to all LCE residents, regardless of affiliation with our Residents' Association. Please consider providing your e-mail address to the Membership Committee contacts listed above. Your information would only be utilized to advise all residents of immediate situations that may affect them. Thank you for your help and support.



Déjà vu

Long-time residents will recall the days when every street entrance into Lake Conway Estates from Hoffner Avenue was flanked on each side by masonry columns; and on each column, the name of the of the appropriate street was affixed with large wooden letters. The pillars visually identified and unified our subdivision. Over subsequent decades, some columns were routinely maintained by neighbors; others, however slowly deteriorated.

Eventually, as a brick wall was being considered for construction along properties in LCE that bordered Hoffner Avenue, it was decided that *both* a brick wall and the existing columns would not be aesthetically pleasing, and many property owners agreed to the removal of the columns, anticipating the construction of a brick wall. There were some holdouts, however.

Pictured to the left is a pillar that has painstakingly been restored by Clint Armstrong, son of Mortier resident, Lynn Armstrong. Clint owns and operates his own home maintenance and repair company, *Armstrong Residential Services*. His business phone is 407-716-9772.

Chili Cookoff a Success!

All reports indicate the First-Ever LCE Chili Cookoff which was held at the Residents' Association lake lot on Sunday, February 5 was a well-supported "hit" with the cookoff winner receiving a \$50 gift card. Indications suggest LCE home cooks are looking forward to more of these types of events in the future. Such culinary events promote community and the opportunity to socialize with neighbors in a close-to-home attractive outdoor setting that is convenient for all. Can anyone say, "Barbecue Cookoff"?



In Belle Isle

A Fond Farewell

Two highly regarded Belle Isle public servants recently announced their imminent departures from leadership roles within the City. Early in February, Belle Isle Police Department Chief, Laura Houston, declared her plan to retire. Chief Houston assumed leadership of BIPD in 2016 after having served as Deputy Chief under Chief Rich Ring who resigned. Shortly after being named Chief, her mettle was tested when Belle Isle police officers were among the very first responders to answer the call for assistance at the Pulse Nightclub nearby on Orange Avenue in Orlando where 49 people were killed and many more injured on June 12, 2016.

Chief Houston has been a prolific grant writer who has enabled BIPD to benefit from grant awards that have facilitated the purchase of state-of-the-art technology and programs that keep the BI Police Department up to date with best practices in modern community policing. Deputy Chief, Travis Grimm was sworn in as Acting Police Chief at the BICC meeting on Tuesday, March 7. Lt. Jeremy Millis was sworn in as Deputy Chief. Both officers have served Belle Isle for multiple years and have demonstrated meritorious service.



At the February 21 BI City Council meeting, City Manager, Bob Francis, declared his intention to resign from that position by providing the contractually-required notice. Mr. Francis is a well-credentialed city manager who had been a front runner for the position over numerous other candidates for the post when he was hired by City Council in April of 2017. An Air Force veteran, he has served the City well, wearing many hats, and his work weeks have always been well in excess of 40 hours. The City Manager has kept the council fully informed as to the financial condition of the City and its future needs. He has also overseen the staff at city hall and has directed and supervised city departments, he has seen to the enforcing of laws and provisions of the council and has prepared and submitted the annual budget. He has facilitated the creation of numerous citizen advisory boards and committees to promote citizen input, oversight and participation in City government.

In typical fashion, Bob Francis has worked to enable a smooth transition for an incoming Acting City Manager when a candidate is selected by city council. The Acting City Manager will see to the day-to-day administration of City business until BI city commissioners select a credentialed applicant to hire for the city manager position.

Belle Isle Newsletters Available On Line

The City's quarterly newsletters contain a wealth of useful information, but because of publishing and mail expense, hard copies are no longer being distributed to Belle Isle residents by U.S. mail. Electronic copies can be viewed at the Belle Isle web site www.belleislefl.gov. Senior citizens who are not internet active or have no access to a computer can request delivery of a paper copy of the Belle Isle quarterly newsletter by contacting the **Belle Isle Police Department Senior Watch Officer, Jennifer Bausch at 407-240-2473.**

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT.....

Periodically, through the efforts of the BI Solid Waste Committee, the City sponsors electronics recycling events with collection sites at the BI City Hall. Items collected for recycle include: Computers (Desktop/Laptop); Lithium Ion batteries; Household batteries; Electronic batteries and accessories; LCD monitors; Circuit boards; Printers; Copiers; Cell phones. All hard drives are shredded. To receive notice of events like these, request that your name be added to the City's list for electronic notifications at www.belleislefl.gov.

Volunteer Opportunities: Boards and Committees

Currently, there are several openings for Belle Isle residents who are interested in volunteering and becoming part of our City government. Opportunities exist on the Comprehensive Advisory Board, the Solid Waste Committee, the Tree Board, and the Transportation Advisory Board.

Interested residents should respond by sending a letter of interest, resume, and application for City Council to consider via e-mail to the City Clerk at yquiceno@belleislefl.gov. Applications can be found on the Belle Isle web site at www.belleislefl.gov.