

# The Bridge

Connecting with our residents

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City of Belle Plaine

August • 2018

## Message from the Mayor : Important Partnerships Make the City Thrive

*Christopher G. Meyer – Mayor*

I have mentioned in previous articles how important it is that we, as residents, get involved in our community by sharing our time and talent and make this an even greater place to live, work, and play!

In addition to the much-needed resident involvement, the City also relies heavily on many other partnerships. When talking about this type of topic, there is the possibility of forgetting a certain organization or person. I mention this upfront qualifier because I am going to focus on a few of these partnerships, but by no means does that mean the City does not appreciate the many other partnerships that we have across the community.

I will start with the largest and longest relationship that we, as a City, have had - the Belle Plaine Chamber of Commerce and Belle Plaine Festivals and Events. It amazes me that after all of these years that many people are confused that they are actually stand-alone organizations and do not operate under the umbrella of the City. Over the BBQ Days weekend, many people asked me questions about BBQ Days policies. When I explained to them that we, as Mayor and the City Council, have no authority over these organizations, I knew that there was confusion. So with that being said, the Chamber has always been an independent, non-profit organization with the mission of business advancement and community relations within the City of Belle Plaine. As a City, we are very fortunate to have this organization provide funding for many projects and programs that are owned and/or put on by the City of Belle

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Plaine. This is possible through monetary donations from the Chamber’s charitable gambling and fundraising proceeds such as BBQ Days. Just as important is the human capital and the hours they give back in terms of volunteering across the community at so many different events.

In the past few years, the German Days Organization has become a real driving force within the community. Besides the annual celebration that they host every year, this organization is also involved in charitable gambling and in turn gives many dollars back to the City through donations. Again, some of these donations are project specific, while others are general donations from the gambling funds and will go into the City general fund to cover projects and program costs.

The Friends of the Library group also has a very long history in the City of Belle Plaine. As the name would suggest, their main goal is to support the local branch of the Scott County Library system within the City. This organization also has charitable gambling funds that are donated back to the City annually and used for facility and capital improvements of the library building. At this time the City is exploring the possible expansion of the library building. There are significant contributions set aside from this group that can be put toward the project if it were to move forward.

Other organizations within the community that remain very visible and provide great resources are: Belle Plaine Rotary Club, St. Patrick’s Day Committee, Belle Plaine Lions Club, Belle Plaine Community Food Shelf, the Knights of

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## Primary Election - August 14

The Primary Election is held August 14th in the City Council Chamber at 218 North Meridian Street from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm. It is important to remember that when voting in the MN Primary Election that you vote down one party line and don’t cross party lines on the front side of the ballot. If you make a mark in both columns, you will receive an error message when entering your ballot in the counter. The primary ballot is a two sided and non-partisan races are on the back.

Scott County recently purchased electronic poll pads, these will be used for the voter to check in the day of the election. An election judge will register you on the electronic poll pad using your name and date of birth, or you may choose to present your state-issued license for a quick retrieval. A receipt will be printed and you will sign the voter oath receipt. The electronic poll pad replaces the book where you previously signed your name. It is expected to be more efficient as you register because you will register in the order that you came through the door and not based on the letter of your last name.

If you are not already registered, you can register to vote on the day of the Primary. Same day registration will also be completed on an electronic poll pad. You will need to bring a form of photo identification along with proof of residency, for a list of acceptable documents, please see the MN Secretary of State website. [www.sos.state.mn.us/media/3270/election-day-registration-2018.pdf](http://www.sos.state.mn.us/media/3270/election-day-registration-2018.pdf)

Absentee voting is currently taking place at Scott County until August 13th. If you have questions regarding elections please see the MN Secretary of State website [www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/](http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/) or call City Hall at 952-873-5553 and ask for elections.

Columbus, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and many school sponsored organizations that all give back time, talent, and in some cases financial assistance. Then we can take a look at all of all of the wonderful churches and the clubs, circles and groups that operate within these organizations that are continually working to make Belle Plaine a better place. The list of organizations goes on and on, and again, all are noticed and appreciated!

We are fortunate to live within a community where even though we have differences of opinion on topics at times, overall we are neighbors and are there for each other day in and day out.

It amazes me that when crisis hits our little corner of the world whether it is a personal issue such as a death in the family, or a community issue like a fire or storm damage, we quickly rally together to make each other's lives better and face these issues together.

I love the idea of "paying it forward". It does not have to be about money, it means a lot more if you are giving of yourself to your neighbors and your community. A little does go a long way!

In closing, I would like to take a minute and reflect on another great and successful year of our community celebration of BBQ Days. This was the 60th year and shows how hundreds of us volunteer our time and talent to make this happen. I also need to commend our City staff (police, fire, public works and city hall staff) that go above and beyond to help make this happen.

Summer is going quickly past us, so get out and enjoy your community! Meet a new neighbor, try a new activity and enjoy the beautiful prairie we all get to call HOME!

## Swimming Pool Events

### Carnival Spectacular



Friday, August 3

1 - 5pm

Dunk Tank  
Games!  
Bounce House

Pool Closes for the Season  
Sunday, August 26.

## Belle Plaine Fire Relief Association

### Open House Fundraiser

Aug. 11 • 12 pm

Belle Plaine Fire Hall

*Celebrating  
124 Years of Service*

Live Entertainment &  
Beer Garden

Featuring:

**Open Highway**

8pm - Rain or Shine

FREE EVENT!



Bring your family  
and friends!

• TUESDAY, AUGUST 7TH, 2018 •

5:00 - 7:30 PM

HERITAGE SQUARE PARK

500 East Orchard Street

- Food
- Water Games
- Give-a-Ways
- Bounce Houses
- Face Painting by BP Royalty
- Bike Helmets for the first 120 Kids who have their bike inspected!

**We hope to see you there!**

Belle Plaine Police Department • 952-873-4307

### City Council Contacts:

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### August 2018 Government Calendar

<b>6</b>	Design Committee .....	5:15 p.m.
	City Council .....	6:30 p.m.
<b>7</b>	National Night Out / Community Conversations .....	5:00 p.m.
<b>9</b>	Public Works .....	9:00 a.m.
<b>13</b>	EDA .....	5:00 p.m.
	Planning Commission .....	6:30 p.m.
<b>14</b>	Primary Election .....	7:00 a.m.
	Public Safety .....	4:30 p.m.
<b>16</b>	Rain Date Community Conversations .....	5:30 p.m.
<b>20</b>	Park Board .....	5:00 p.m.
	City Council .....	6:30 p.m.