

# The Bridge

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City of Belle Plaine

December • 2016

## Welcome Newly Elected City Officials

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the newly elected officials. Mayor Elect Chris Meyer and Council Elect Ben Stier, Cary Coop, and Theresa McDaniel will be taking office in January of 2017.

## Truth In Taxation

The Belle Plaine City Council will conduct a public hearing on Monday, December 5, 2016 at 6:15 p.m., for the City budget and the amount of the property taxes it is proposing to collect to pay for the costs of services the City will provide in 2017. The hearing will be held in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 218 North Meridian Street, Belle Plaine, Minnesota 56011.

All Belle Plaine residents are invited to attend the public hearing of the City Council and to offer comments on the budget and the proposed amount of 2017 property taxes.

## Bluff Preservation Standards Updated

The City Council recently approved an update to existing bluff preservation standards. Bluff preservation standards are intended to manage, stabilize, and conserve defining features in our Belle Plaine landscape. The action reflects efforts to responsibly plan and manage finite resources. Bluffs provide stormwater discharge routes, scenic vistas, open spaces, wildlife habitat, and resting areas for migrating species along the Minnesota River corridor. Updated standards provide specific definitions of words and terms used in relation to bluff preservation. The code language update retains an existing prohibition of land disturbing activities within blufflands and bluff impact zones and discourages development of slopes greater than 18 percent that are not blufflands. The update to standards requires certain stormwater best management practices be identified and employed when conducting activities on steep slopes. Bluff preservation standards further our sustainability goals by encouraging development that meets present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. For additional information please contact Community Development Director Cynthia Smith-Strack at City Hall.



### Coffee with the Mayor

**When:** Thursday, December 1, 2016

**Where:** McDonald's Restaurant  
1050 East Enterprise Drive

**Time:** 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

## Tis the Season for Giving!



Tis the season of giving, and once again the Belle Plaine Police Department and the Girl Scouts are sponsoring the third annual toy drive that gives new toys to children in need. From November 27th till December 19th, the Belle Plaine Police Department will be accepting donations for the Belle Plaine Police Toy Drive. All donated toys will be distributed to local children who are far less fortunate.

Last year, the generous Belle Plaine community donated over 300 toys. The officers and girl scouts had a wonderful time giving back to the community and hope this year will be just as successful.

Collection will kick off on Sunday, November 27th at 8:00 a.m. through Friday, December 19th at 5:00 p.m. All toys should be new and unwrapped. Gifts are accepted for children up 16 years of age. Realistic looking toy weapons and gifts with food will not be distributed.

Families in need of toys can come to the police department between December 13th through December 23rd to pick out toys.

While purchasing items for smaller children is a simple task, donors often wonder what to get pre-teens. It is recommended sporting equipment, board games, books, hand-held electronics and similar items. The drop off locations are; City Hall, Coborn's Grocery Store, Oak Crest Elementary School, Chatfield Elementary School, Belle Plaine High School (during business hours) and the Belle Plaine Police Department (24 hours). Feel free to contact the police department with any questions at 952-873-4307.

## Traditions Holiday Event & Community Tree Lighting

Thurs., Dec. 1 | 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Court Square Park & Episcopal Church

Tour the Hooper - Bowler - Hillstrom House  
Horse & Wagon Rides | Visit with Santa  
Tree Lighting | Reindeer Exhibit

Sponsored by the Belle Plaine Historical Society

## Council Highlights & City Notices

### November 7, 2016

- Approved joint employment contract for the School District Communications Coordinator.
- Called for public hearing to consider issuance of cable franchise.
- Approved application for Susteen Secure View Next Generation Grant and purchase of a mobile field command unit for Belle Plaine Police Department.
- Adopted special assessment for delinquent code enforcement at 1006 Park Lane.
- Authorized and directed execution of grant agreement with Metropolitan Council for Local Planning Assistance Program Grant.
- Approved large assembly permit for Belle Plaine Historical Society for Holiday Traditions Event at Court Square.

### November 21, 2016

- Authorized the replacement of a skid steer.
- Approved the renewal of premises permit for the Belle Plaine Chamber of Commerce at Neisen's Corner Bar, Huck's Shipwreck Saloon, and Johan's Bar and Grill.
- Approved renewal of premises permit for the Belle Plaine Friends of the Library at Sparetime Tavern, Borough Bowl, and Red Door Bar.
- Approved renewal of premises permit for German Days, Inc. at Andy's Bar and Grill.
- Adopted special assessment for delinquent utility accounts.
- Authorized acceptance of Southwest Metro Drug Task Force Joint Powers Agreement.
- Approved loan policy and procedures for BPEDA's Restoration, Opportunity, Sustainability and Enterprise (ROSE) Loan Program.
- Discontinuation of Interim City Administrator pay upon successful completion of City Administrator Votca's performance evaluation.
- Approved conditional use permit to allow residential apartment and a variance to reduce parking stalls at 229 North Meridian Street.
- Conducted a public hearing for accepting applications for cable franchise.

### City Council Contacts:

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## SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR COMMISSIONS

The Belle Plaine City Council is seeking applicants for positions on the following commissions. The per diem is \$40 per meeting. Interested persons may download an application at [www.belleplainemn.com](http://www.belleplainemn.com) or by contacting the City office at 952-873-5553. Applications due by December 21, 2016.

Commission	Monthly Meeting Time & Date	Vacancy
Planning & Zoning	6:30 p.m. Second Monday	One
Design Committee	5:15 p.m. First Monday	Two
Park Board	5:00 p.m. Third Monday	One

## Archery Park Grand Re-Opening

The Public Works Department recently constructed new targets, concrete walkway and handicap accessibility at the Archery Park. The project was funded through a grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and cash donations by the Chamber of Commerce and German Days, LLC. Attending the re-opening event were (from left to right) Park Board Commissioner Rachel Kelm, Mayor Mike Pingalore, Public Works Superintendent Al Fahey, Eagle Scout Wyatt Herrmann, and Council Member Cary Coop.



## December 2016 Calendar

<b>1</b>	Coffee with the Mayor .....	7:00 a.m.
<b>5</b>	Design Committee .....	5:15 p.m.
	Truth in Taxation Hearing .....	6:15 p.m.
	City Council .....	6:30 p.m.
<b>6</b>	Public Works .....	11:00 a.m.
	Public Safety .....	4:30 p.m.
<b>7</b>	Destination 2040 .....	6:00 p.m.
<b>12</b>	EDA .....	5:00 p.m.
	Planning Commission.....	6:30 p.m.
<b>19</b>	Park Board .....	5:00 p.m.
	City Council .....	6:30 p.m.
<b>23</b>	Christmas Eve Observed .....	Offices Close Noon
<b>26</b>	Christmas Day Observed .....	Offices Closed
<b>30</b>	New Year's Day Observed .....	Offices Close Noon

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 Belle Plaine, MN 56011  
 952-873-5553 • [www.belleplainemn.com](http://www.belleplainemn.com)