

The Bridge

Connecting with our residents

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City of Belle Plaine

February • 2016

Notes from the City Administrator

City Communications

You may be familiar with some, though not all, of the ways that the City communicates with residents. Obviously there is the monthly Bridge newsletter that you are currently reading. We also post a number of updates on our City website. Whether you are looking for the most up-to-date information or something in more detail, most everything is there. Check out the City's home page at belleplainemn.com for the scrolling pictures that provide recent updates and also the Jobs page for anyone seeking local employment opportunities. We include upcoming events and information with the monthly utility bill inserts.

The City maintains a Facebook page and provides updates on everything from emergency water shut-offs to the pool schedule. Please like "City of Belle Plaine" to keep updated. We recently also utilized SurveyMonkey to assist a local Girl Scout with her Silver Project in determining the most suitable amenities to be added to the City's dog park. Surveys such as this are a great way for us to get feedback from residents on specific issues, and one that we plan to use more frequently in the future.

Big thanks to Laura Blue, our Community Development Assistant, for all things media related. Although her title might not relay her gift for graphic design, we are very thankful to have her as part of our staff and her ability to keep everyone in the loop!



Thank You, Belle Plaine

To the citizens, council, and staff of Belle Plaine, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to serve nearly 5 years on the Belle Plaine City Council. Being elected twice was a great honor and a task I never took lightly. My time spent on council was challenging, yet rewarding. We experienced many positive changes, and my hope is for this energy to keep moving forward.

Throughout my tenure, I was very fortunate to work with excellent staff members in all the departments, in addition to commission and committee members; all of which come together to do the best for the city. The citizens of Belle Plaine are very fortunate to have such a dedicated and strong team of people leading the way. Keep up the great work council and staff, and remember to put Belle Plaine First!

Upon my departure from council, Henry Pressley has been appointed to fill the open spot. I know that he will do an excellent job as your new City Council member. Henry possesses the careful and thoughtful decision making skills necessary to help keep the city strong.

The city of Belle Plaine is a great place to live for all ages; I am proud of the great sense of community, combined with a welcoming persona. I thoroughly enjoyed my time in the city and the relationships that were built. I would like to thank everyone who supported me; all the time, effort, and thoughts in doing so is greatly appreciated. I wish the best for all in 2016.

Sincerely, Scott Schneider

A Warm Welcome -

Please welcome the newest member of the City Council, Henry Pressley Jr. Councilman Pressley was appointed after the resignation of Scott Schneider. He will also serve as Vice Mayor and is Council Liaison for the Economic Development Authority and Planning and Zoning Commission.



Grant Money Available For Qualified City Residents

The Housing Redevelopment Authority recently reauthorized Housing Incentive Programs for 2016 and re-allocated \$30,000 for their implementation. The purpose behind these grants is to assist qualified City residents with home rehabilitation and promote housing development. Two of the three programs have income qualifications. Grant funds can be used to make your home more energy efficient by replacing an old furnace, windows, doors or even the roof. The Single Family Home Down Payment Program can help potential home owners buy or build a new home within the Belle Plaine City limits. Before you begin any home improvement projects this year check to see if you are eligible for any of the Housing Incentive Programs. For an application or more information, visit the City website; www.belleplainemn.com/housing-redevelopment-authority or call 952-873-5553 and ask for Laura Blue. Watch for more information in the EDA Utility Insert and the other City media outlets.

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Council Highlights & City Notices

January 4, 2016

- Adopted the professional appointments.
- Adopted the committee appointments.
- Approved the retiree monthly insurance benefit.
- Declared the official intent to reimburse certain expenditures from the proceeds of bonds.
- Appointed Dawn Meyer as Temporary Acting City Administrator.
- Re-appointed Jacqueline Hillstrom as Seasonal Pool Manager.
- Approved a large assembly permit for the Belle Plaine Hockey Association for event on February 13, 2016

January 19, 2016

- Approved a minor subdivision for 412 North Elm Street.
- Re-appointed Dick Coleman as a member of the Economic Development Authority.
- Appointed Ashby Carter and Brittney Cotner as members of the Planning Commission and Catherine Tarbell and Joe Lenz as Alternates.
- Appointed/Re-Appointed Ben Stier and Rachel Kelm as members of the Park Board and Nick Jensen as an Alternate.
- Approved a façade loan request by Neisen's Corner Bar, 101 East Main Street.
- Accepted cash donation of charitable gambling proceeds from Friends of the Library.
- Authorized the purchase of Microsoft Office Professional 2016 Software.
- Acknowledged update on Wellhead Protection Plan Phase II.
- Approved conditional use permit for the establishment of a studio apartment at 106 East Main Street.
- Adopted Ordinance 16-01, repealing and replacing Section 1107.23 of the City Code relating to rental housing, and authorized summary publication.
- Approved concept plan for Ridgeview Medical at 165 West Commerce Drive.
- Authorized submittal of grant applications to the Scott County Community Development Agency for economic development related projects.

City of Belle Plaine February Government Calendar

1	Design Committee	5:15 p.m.
	City Council	6:30 p.m.
2	Public Works	11:00 a.m.
	Public Safety	4:30 p.m.
8	EDA	5:00 p.m.
	Planning Commission.....	6:30 p.m.
15	Presidents Day	Offices Closed
16	Park Board	5:00 p.m.
	City Council	6:30 p.m.

HRA Grants Continued...

Single Family Home Down Payment Grant Program: Homeowners may apply for down payment assistance in an amount of up to \$2,000 upon purchase of a new home or construction of a home utilizing at least one contractor with its business located in the 56011 zip code.

Energy Efficient Improvements Grant Program: Matching grants up to \$1,000 can be utilized for energy efficient improvements on the home; such as windows, doors, water heaters, and furnaces. Applicants must meet the 80% income limits for Scott County.

Façade Beautification Grant Program: Matching grants up to \$1,000 can be utilized for improvements to the outside of the home, including landscaping, painting, and lighting; and repair or replacement of windows, siding, doors, roofs, stucco, brick, and awnings. Applicants must meet the 80% income limits for Scott County.

The Belle Plaine Police Department Annual Report is available on the City website. Visit the Police Department page to read about their good works for the community.

City Council Contacts:

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