

The Bridge

Connecting with our residents

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City of Belle Plaine

July • 2016

Primary Election - August 9

NEW this year for election in addition to absentee ballot process you may now vote "in-person" 7 days before the election. This new procedure allows a person to vote at the Scott County Government Center, the voter can put their ballot through the ballot box knowing their ballot is accepted and the ballot doesn't go through the absentee board as in absentee ballot process. If you need to vote before election day and you go to Scott County, 7 days before the election, you can choose whether to vote absentee or put your ballot in the box on those last 7 days before the election. As in previous years you still can vote absentee by mail or by going to Scott County starting on June 24, it is only 7 days before the election when the voter can enter the

ballot in the ballot box.

In addition, City of Belle Plaine residents will vote using new voting equipment for the primary election. The new equipment was used at the Belle Plaine School Board election last year. For more information about the new equipment, visit www.scottcountymn.gov.

The MN Secretary of State's has a new website (www.sos.state.mn.us) which is very informative regarding elections and the voting process. You can view your ballot prior to voting, confirm you are registered, find your polling place, request an absentee ballot, and register online. If you choose to register online, which may save you time on election day, you must do so by July 19.

For the MN Primary Election of

Important Dates

- **June 24** - Absentee Ballots available by mail or in person at Scott County Gov. Center.
- **July 19** - Last day to pre-register to vote before the primary.
- **August 2** - Start date to vote absentee "in-person" – absentee ballots directly into ballot box
- **August 9** - Primary Election

Federal and State offices, you must vote down your party line, voters can't cross party line. Please remember to look at both sides of your ballot, because our local primary is on the back side of the ballot.

If you have questions, please call City Hall (952-873-5553) and ask for elections.

Prevent Crime in Your Neighborhood

The Belle Police Department takes your family's safety and Crime Prevention seriously. There are several programs aimed at this goal. Each program relies on a cooperative effort between the Police Department and the Community. By working together, Belle Plaine remains one of the safest cities in Minnesota and a great place to raise a family.



One of the newer programs which has a nationally recognized track record of success is the **Crime Free Multi-Housing Program**.

It is a crime prevention program designed to reduce crime on apartment properties. It is a cooperation between Property Owners/Managers, Residents, and Law Enforcement which keeps good residents in and bad residents out.

Tiger Watch is a one of a kind program created by Police Chief Tom Stolee. It provides safe places for children and adults if they feel threatened or unsafe. Participating businesses or institutions display the "Tiger Watch" sticker at the entrance of their building letting people know there is a qualified person who will stay with them and call the proper authorities.

Lock It or Lose It is an ongoing awareness program to reduce theft from cars and garages. The Police Department wants our residents to know, "If you don't lock your car and close your garage at night, you're making it a target for crime."

And finally, **National Night Out** is a community event meant to increase awareness about police programs in all communities, such as; drug prevention, town watch, neighborhood watch, and other anti-crime efforts. It is held the first Tuesday of August and will be at Heritage Square. Come for free hot dogs and a lot of fun.

The Police Department has several more programs and services too. Please don't hesitate to contact the Belle Police Department with your questions or concerns.

Belle Plaine Wins City of Excellence Award



Police Chief Tom Stolee accepting award for "Creative Public Safety Programs."

On Thursday, June 16 the League of Minnesota Cities announced the winners of the City of Excellence Award and the City of Belle Plaine won the topical category of "Creative Public Safety Programs." Police Chief Tom Stolee launched the Tiger Watch Program in 2014 with the mission of "We are here if you need us."

Council Highlights & City Notices

June 6, 2016

- Approved modified job descriptions.
- Approved change to weekly hours for staff accountant and office assistants.
- Accepted cash donation from Belle Plaine Chamber of Commerce for electrical service at Union Square.
- Approved large assembly permit for Belle Plaine Festival and Events for Bar B Q Days on July 15, 16 and 17, 2016.
- Approved intoxicating liquor license for Belle Plaine Festival and Events for Bar-B-Q Days on July 15, 16 and 17, 2016.
- Approved large assembly permit for Belle Plaine Lions Club for Beep Ball Event at Union Square on August 7, 2016.
- Authorized cooperative agreement with Scott County for public safety information and radio systems.
- Authorized application of an OSHA safety grant for city hall improvements.
- Authorized the purchase of Dragon Speak Software for the Belle Plaine Police Department and Administration.
- Accepted cash donation from Belle Plaine Festival and Events for community pool expenditures.
- Mayor Pingalore read the German Days proclamation for the event on June 17-18, 2016.
- Approved the bond sale for the 2016 street improvement project.

June 20, 2016

- Authorized grant application to Metropolitan Council for Destination Belle Plaine 2040.
- Appointed Kyle Strobel and Alex Erickson as members of the Belle Plaine Fire Department.
- Approved large assembly permit for the Belle Plaine Fire Relief Association.

June 20 Continued

- Approved temporary intoxicating liquor license for the Belle Plaine Fire Relief Association.
- Appointed Roger Pivec as Public Works Seasonal Employee.
- Authorized the purchase of brush equipment for Public Works Department.
- Approved temporary 3.2% intoxicating liquor license for Our Lady of the Prairie Catholic Church.
- Directed staff to prepare a resolution for the July 5, 2016 council meeting regarding approval of a 5-foot variance as requested for 100 Oakwood Drive.
- Denied the request for variances for driveway surfacing and second driveway at 840 East Court Street.
- Approved a conditional use permit for used auto dealership, auto repair, and rental at 405 Enterprise Drive.
- Adopted Ordinance 16-07, Pertaining to Solar Energy Systems, and authorized summary publication.
- Approved the planned unit development final stage and final plat for Ridgeview Health Center.
- Ordered a feasibility report for the 2017 street improvement project.

Radon Concerns?

If you have concerns about Radon in your home, follow the link provided on the City website for more information.

www.belleplainemn.com



Coffee with the Mayor

When: Thursday, July 7, 2016
Where: Heng's Bakery & Diner
 108 West Main Street
Time: 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

City of Belle Plaine July Government Calendar

4	Independence DayOffices Closed
5	Public Safety 4:30 p.m. Design Committee 5:00 p.m. City Council 6:30 p.m.
6	Public Works..... 11:00 a.m.
7	Coffee with the Mayor..... 7:00 a.m.
11	EDA 5:00 p.m. Planning Commission..... 6:30 p.m.
15 - 17	Bar B Q Days 4:00 p.m.
18	Park Board 5:00 p.m. City Council 6:30 p.m.

City Council Contacts:

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