

The Bridge

Connecting with our residents

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City of Belle Plaine

March • 2016

Notes from the City Administrator

What is a Community?

Based on the formal definition, it is "1 : the people living in a certain place (as a village or city) : the area itself. 2 : a natural group (as of kinds of plants and animals) living together and depending on one another for various necessities of life (as food or shelter)." The City of Belle Plaine clearly embodies both of these definitions. We can easily look to large community gatherings such as St. Patrick's Day, German Days, and Bar B Que Days as some examples. Often times though, it is the quieter, daily events that define community. Many of these are led by outside groups, but touch many lives and are ways that the City can engage with residents and businesses. Two examples of these smaller programs are Families Moving Forward and Dementia Friendly Community.

Starting in 2015, the local faith communities joined together to participate in the Families Moving Forward program. Families in need stay for one week at a local church and receive meals and assistance from volunteers. Both the Police and Fire Departments have taken part in this program by serving meals to program participants. A new initiative for 2016 is being led by The Lutheran Home Association and will strive to make Belle Plaine a Dementia Friendly Community. This program is just starting, but will tie in well with the Tiger Watch Program started by the Police Department to ensure that everyone feels safe in Belle Plaine.

Do you want to be a more active part of this community? If so, we encourage you to connect – whether through a City project or committee, a local event, or something you are passionate about. There is something for every age and background – just ask!

Good Works of the Belle Plaine Park Board

The Belle Plaine Park Board is one of the four Boards and Commissions that serve as advisors to the City Council and assist in determining City Policy. The minutes of each meeting are available on the City website www.belleplainemn.com/city-boards-commissions.

The Park Board was established in 1997. The eight member commission consists of two City Council liaisons, and five at-large members and an alternate. Board members serve a three-year term and assist with making recommendations relating to the parks, trails, open spaces, and recreation services in our community.

Being involved in the development and redevelopment of the parks and trails within Belle Plaine is the primary function of the Park Board. Some recent highlights include the playground at Prairie Park, the Archery Park, and the Disc Golf Course at Court Square. The Park Board also reviews residential and commercial developments as well as street reconstruction projects to ensure that the City's goals for parks, trails, and sidewalks are met.



Park Board Members, front row, left to right. Council Liaison Cary Coop, Chris Kehr, Ben Stier, Nick Jensen. Back row, left to right. Kathy Joerg, Liann Hanson, Council Liaison Mike Pingalore, Rachel Kelm.

City of Belle Plaine is One of MN's Safest Cities



Belle Plaine has been honored as one of Minnesota's safest cities! Belle Plaine has been selected by SafeWise as one of Minnesota's safest cities for 2016. At the February 16 City Council Meeting, Mayor Mike Pingalore presented Police Chief Tom Stole with the award from SafeWise. To read more about SafeWise visit www.safewise.com.

Council Highlights & City Notices

February 1, 2016

- Approved the State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreement and Court Services Amendment with the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.
- Appointed Tyler O'Brien as Ice Rink Attendant.
- Mayor Pingalore presented former Council Member Scott Schneider with an appreciation plaque for his five years of service on the City Council, EDA, Planning Commission and Design Committee.
- Approved plans and specifications and authorized bid advertisement for the 2016 street improvement project.

February 16, 2016

- Approved large assembly permit for Belle Plaine High School Cross Country Team for event on June 18, 2016.
- Authorized the City of Belle Plaine to participate in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities Program.
- Authorized submittal of the 2016 DNR Public Archery Range Grant.
- Approved the annual Safe Assure Contract and Safety Committee recommendations.
- Authorized the 27th annual Recycle/Clean Up Day for Saturday, April 30, 2016.
- Called for public hearing on proposed ordinance amendments pertaining to large assembly, trapping, and ATV's.
- Authorized flooring upgrades and furniture for the Fire Department building.
- Authorized the Mayor and City Administrator to execute the Access Management Plan Memorandum of Understanding for TH169 from south of Jordan to MN19 (280th Street West).
- Accepted the 2016 Pay Equity report.



Coffee with the Mayor

When: Thursday, March 3, 2016
Where: Heng's Bakery & Diner
 108 West Main Street
Time: 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

City of Belle Plaine

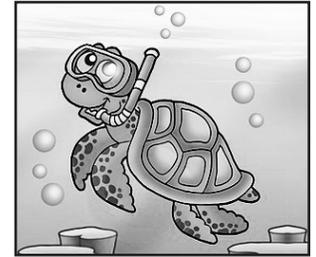
March Government Calendar

3	Coffee with the Mayor	7:00 a.m.
7	Design Committee	5:15 p.m.
	Public Safety	6:00 p.m.
	City Council	6:30 p.m.
8	Public Works	11:00 a.m.
14	EDA	5:00 p.m.
	Planning Commission.....	6:30 p.m.
21	Park Board	5:00 p.m.
	City Council	6:30 p.m.



Swimming Pool Updates

Hot summer days will soon be here and City Staff is busy planning the 2016 Pool Season. Watch for notices and updates on the City's website, Facebook page, and the cable channel. Weather permitting, the pool will open Friday, June 10th at 1:00 p.m. The Pool Kick Off Party will be held Thursday, June 9th from 5:00-7:30 p.m. - watch for details. Remember to get your pool pass or punch card, they are available now!



Swim Lesson registration begins on March 25th for **on-line registration only**. All other swim lesson registration will begin at the Youth Fair held April 2nd at the Belle Plaine High School. New this year is a cancellation / change fee for swim lessons. The 2016 Spring and Summer Community Education Brochure will be available soon with current swim lesson information.

Rental Property Owners

Is your rental license up-to-date?

Call City Hall if you are not sure.

952-873-5553

RECYCLE and CLEAN-UP DAY

Sat.,

April 30

8:00 a.m. - Noon

Watch for more details in the City media outlets.

City Council Contacts:

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