



# The Bridge

Connecting with our residents

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City of Belle Plaine

May • 2018

## Message from the Mayor

### Small Town or Small City?

By Christopher G. Meyer - Mayor

**S**mall town or small city? This is a question that as residents we need to continually give input and have ongoing discussions about. What are the differences, pro and cons to each, and how will we as a community manage going forward? Over the past few months while in conversation with residents I have heard comments such as “I want to keep Belle Plaine a small town” or something along the lines of “we don’t need any more housing growth, the town is the right size now”. Then of course, there is the whole other side of the conversation that involves people who want more retail and commercial business options available in the City; such as more sit-down restaurants, additional fast food restaurants, more choices for retail shopping, additional recreational type amenities, and the list goes on and on. We all get tired of hearing the old saying “What came first the chicken or the egg?” However, this is exactly the issue that we are dealing with at City Hall on a number of different avenues. We are working not only on those projects and issues that are happening as we speak, but are also continuing to manage for future generations that will call Belle Plaine home. We also hear the constant talk of lowering taxes and lowering water bills, which requires additional growth in all areas (residential, commercial, and industrial), that allows the costs to be shared by more properties. Then again, with additional development comes increased costs in other areas for the City; such as additional public safety needs, and more infrastructure to maintain (roads, parks, trails, water and sewer systems). So, this is a very tough balancing act, to say the least.

We recently had a round-table discussion with many of the area realtors and land developers. A common theme that came through is the high cost of land, materials and labor for the installation of infrastructure; such as streets, water and sewer, that make it economically unfeasible for future residential lot development. It was nice to hear at this same meeting that as a City, Belle Plaine has some of the lowest fees for developers and it should not be considered a hurdle to the process as compared to many of our neighboring cities.

Then we take a look at commercial development which would include retail, restaurants, strip malls and those

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types of options. The same answer always comes back whether as a City we are initiating the conversation, or we are responding to an inquiry, that is there is not enough population to justify the investment. Many of these types of businesses require a certain amount of population. They will draw a circle around the city and include a portion of the adjoining townships, which at this point is lacking on many of the required numbers. So again, how can we kick start this without further residential development - and the circle continues. We also are competing for private investments with the rest of the cities in our area.

Industrial development is a totally different animal compared to the others and comes with completely different needs and wants by developers. The big ones are labor force, transportation, shovel ready land for development, city investment such as TIF financing, tax abatement or land donations, this list goes on and on. Again as a community, we have to continually decide at what level of investment we want to be involved. Many of these projects would require an investment on the front end which would come from our tax dollars with the idea that once established, the buildings and workforce would be a long-term investment and will repay the City for many years to come. But again, we are competing with much larger cities that have the financial resources to gain the upper hand in most of these negotiations.

So where does this put our great little City of Belle Plaine? We are fortunate that there is currently investment going into some of our additional residential lots. Not nearly the amount that we need for the demand, but as the market continues to grow, hopefully will spark more investment. We are in discussions with several new businesses that are looking at projects within the City. Staff and Council are working hard to bring these to reality. As the future comes at us, we will see more “out of the box” thinking, planning, and commitment from the City in order to make these things happen.

Due to our location near the metro area, our small town will continue to grow and our small city will continue to be managed in a manner that maintains our values, keeps us safe, and keeps our citizens wanting and excited to call Belle Plaine home!

Stay updated on the 2018 Street Projects and local road closures by monitoring our FB page and checking the City website.

# Bell Plaine Swimming Pool



## Pool Opens Saturday, June 2

(Weather permitting)

### Pool Kick - Off Party - June 1

## Pool Pass Information

### PHOTOS ARE REQUIRED ON POOL PASSES

The City of Belle Plaine requires photo identification on pool passes. Photos are taken at City Hall (218 N. Meridian Street) during regular office hours (Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) and for your convenience, during extended hours at City Hall on the following dates:

Friday, June 1 (Kick-Off Night)	8am - 7pm
Saturday, June 2 (Pool Opening)	11am - 3pm
Monday, June 4	8am - 7pm
Thursday, June 7	8am - 7pm

Pool Passes can be purchased on-line at [www.belleplainemn.com](http://www.belleplainemn.com).

Pool passes must be paid for prior to or at the time photo is taken.

Questions or concerns please call 952-873-5553.

## AQUA FITNESS

June 11 - August 15

Mondays & Wednesdays

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

## DIVE-IN Movie Night

Save the Date!  
Friday, July 20



### City Council Contacts:

<b>Mayor, Christopher G. Meyer</b> <i>cmeyer@ci.belleplaine.mn.us</i>	612-756-0662
<b>Paul Chard</b> <i>pchard@ci.belleplaine.mn.us</i>	952-873-4568
<b>Cary Coop</b> <i>ccoop@ci.belleplaine.mn.us</i>	612-964-1008
<b>Theresa McDaniel</b> <i>tmcdaniel@ci.belleplaine.mn.us</i>	952-393-1654
<b>Ben Stier</b> <i>bstier@ci.belleplaine.mn.us</i>	952-292-4683
<b>Belle Plaine City Hall</b> <i>cityhall@ci.belleplaine.mn.us</i>	952-873-5553

## May 22 Filing for City Offices

The filing period for Mayor and for two (2) City Council Members offices opens Tuesday, May 22, 2018. The filing is from May 22 at 8 am and closes June 5th at 5 pm. The filing fee is \$2.00.

To be eligible for a City office, an individual must be a qualified city voter, at least 21 years of age on the date of taking office, U.S. citizens, and a resident of the City for at least 30 days before the election. An individual who has been convicted of a felony under either state or federal law cannot hold elective office in Minnesota unless the individual's civil rights have been restored.

The County, State and Federal primary election is Aug 14th. The City of Belle Plaine operates under a primary system. If requirements are met, then City offices will be included on the primary ballot. The 2018 general election is November 6th. If you have any questions, please contact City Hall at 952-873-5553.

## Swimming Pool Meter

Fill your swimming pool at a reduced rate by requesting a pool meter at City Hall during regular business hours. The minimum usage must be 5,000 gallons to qualify for the reduced rate.

Stay up to date on the happenings of the City - Minutes and Agendas are available at [www.belleplainemn.com](http://www.belleplainemn.com)

## May 2018 Government Calendar

7	Design Committee .....	5:15 p.m.
	City Council .....	6:30 p.m.
8	Public Safety.....	4:30 p.m.
10	Public Works.....	9:00 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.
28	Memorial Day .....	Offices Closed

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[www.belleplainemn.com](http://www.belleplainemn.com)

