

# The Bridge

Connecting with our residents

ECRWSS  
Postal Patron  
Standard  
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Permit No. 9  
City of Belle Plaine

July • 2020

## Message from the Mayor: The Bright Side!

*Christopher G. Meyer – Mayor*

**W**ith all that is going on in the world today, it would be very easy to take a negative position and have a bad attitude - that is for sure! It seems that there have been huge life events happening between my columns the last few months. So, I've named this article, "The Bright Side", with the intention of looking at all of the great things that are going on in our town and all around us!

Summer is finally here, and even though COVID has put a limit many of the activities we would normally participate in, it is great to see how people and organizations are adapting to find ways to still make things happen. As a Council, we were very excited and determined to find a way to bring outdoor seating to many of our Belle Plaine restaurants and bars. This took some "out of the box" thinking and planning from the City and business owners, and has proven to be a huge success! I have heard repeatedly how people are enjoying these venues and it brings back a little sense of our normal life before COVID. We will continue this conversation after the summer season and hopefully find a way to make this an ongoing opportunity. Baseball is again alive and well within the community, which brings a sense of peace. Again, it is not happening at the full levels we are used to, but it is still great to hear the action and see the lights on at night and is a great relief to many! As we all know our beloved BBQ Days celebration has also been affected with the whole State of Minnesota order and will now be scaled back. I do know that the Belle Plaine Festivals and Events is working

hard to bring the great fireworks show to the community as well as the Miss Belle Plaine Queen coronation. So please get out and support these events as much as possible and buy a button from one of the candidates to let them know we there for all of them during this very different year.

The City has been working very hard on a few warranty items with the Belle Plaine Aquatic Center and it is now ready to open. The opening date is scheduled for July 25 (weather permitting), then we can see and hear all of the people enjoying the facility! It will be a great sign that summer is somewhat back to normal.

Our 2020 street projects are well underway and coming along as planned. We remain confident that the part of the project on the southeast corner of town by Hickory Boulevard and Main Street East will result in some commercial growth. There continues to be conversations with the property owner as well as potential developers, and at this point, everything looks very promising!

Housing is in full swing with many new homes under construction as well as several rental property projects that will assist with our large demand for units within the city. Community Development is working hard to bring additional buildable lots to the city as our inventory continues to get depleted. This is an area that we continue to see interest in and we remain hopeful that additional investments will happen.

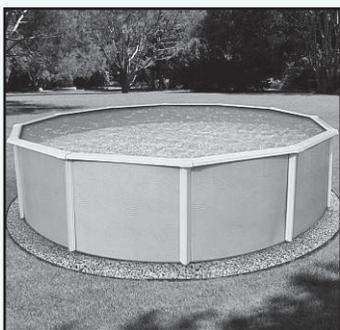
*Look to  
the bright  
side!*

*Mayor's Message Continued Page 2*

## Residential Swimming Pool Requirements

**R**esidential swimming pools are the order of the summer! Pool requirement questions continue to pour into City Hall. Here's what you need to know about pool standards.

Minnesota Rules Chapter 1300.0120 (Permits) requires building permits be issued for pools taller than 24 inches or pools designed to hold more than 5,000 gallons. This means most pools, even store bought pools, need a building permit from the City. This is a state rule not a city requirement.



Pool locations have to meet certain standards. Pools can't be put in your front yard, under utility lines, or over underground utility lines. Pools have to be set back at least ten feet from side and rear property lines. Pools have to be at least six feet from a dwelling.

Pools have to meet certain safety features. In ground pools must be completely covered with an approved power safety cover or completely enclosed in a fence. Above ground pools have to be completely enclosed with a permanent wall or fence. A pool with a continuous rigid wall exceeding four feet in height may replace the required fence. When the pool is not in use, property owners must remove access ladders and store them inside. If pool lights are used, light cannot spill or shine upon adjacent properties.

Building permit applications are available online at [www.belleplainemn.com/permits-licenses-forms](http://www.belleplainemn.com/permits-licenses-forms) or by contacting the Community Development Department.

One final note of "bright side" information is to acknowledge outgoing Police Chief Tom Stolee for his dedication to the residents of the City of Belle Plaine. I was fortunate to work with Tom over the years in my roles as Fire Chief and Mayor and will always be very grateful for his leadership and friendship.

As always please get out and enjoy the parks, paths, fields and forests around our "Favorite Hometown"! Have a very enjoyable, healthy and safe summer season.

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Is the compost site open?** - Yes, it is located at 2311 Union Trail and for the use of Belle Plaine residents. The site is open from sunrise to sunset, Monday - Friday until the first snow fall. Grass clippings and leaves are accepted, but branches are not. Please do not leave bags at the compost site.

### WATER RESTRICTIONS For All Belle Plaine Residents

Due to the anticipated demands on the water system throughout the Spring, Summer and Autumn months and to encourage water conservation, **city-wide water restrictions are in effect year round.** For questions, please contact the Belle Plaine Public Works Department at 952-873-6742.

**NO WATERING OR SPRINKLING** is permitted between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. for all homes and businesses located within the City.

**NO EXCEPTIONS** for new sod or seed.

In the event of a violation, it is a \$50.00 fine for the first offense and a \$100.00 fine for each subsequent offense.

### City Council Contacts:

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## 2020 Election

**Vote absentee or vote early** Absentee voting for the primary election began on June 26, 2020. If voters have concerns about their health or choose not to vote at the polls during COVID, they may utilize the absentee voting process. Voters may request an absentee ballot online at the Minnesota Secretary State website [www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting](http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting) and if you choose to vote absentee, you can track your ballot throughout the process.

After June 26th, voters may also vote in person, absentee at the Scott County Highway Department, 600 Country Trail East, Jordan, MN 55352. Social distancing guidelines need to be followed and a mask may be necessary.

**Voter Registration** - Save time at the polls on Election Day or with the absentee process by confirming your voter registration. Visit [www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote](http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote) to see if you are registered. Tuesday, July 21st is the last date to pre-register for the primary election, after that date you will have to register at the polls on election day. A list of the documentation needed to register is available the at MN Secretary of State website.

**Vote at the Polls** - August 11, 2020 is the primary election for County, State and Federal Offices. Due to COVID, voters will see a change at the polls in August. Polling places must comply with the social distancing guidelines and voters should expect to wait in lines, which may extend outside. Voters will be asked to wear a mask and hand sanitizer will be available to use upon entering and leaving the polls. There will be other visible differences at the polls.

We ask voters that voters please be patient at the polls. We are striving to keep voters and the election workers safe and healthy as well as maintaining a healthy community.

**Questions** - For questions regarding the elections, visit the MN Secretary of State website [www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/](http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/) or call Belle Plaine City Hall at 952-873-5553.



Minnesota response rates continue to be among the highest in the nation - watch the count at <https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html>.



### July 2020 Government Calendar

<b>3</b>	4th of July Observed .....	City Offices Closed
<b>6</b>	Design Committee .....	Canceled
	City Council .....	Canceled
<b>13</b>	EDA .....	5:00 p.m.
	Planning Commission .....	6:30 p.m.
<b>14</b>	Public Safety .....	7:30 a.m.
<b>16</b>	Public Works .....	9:00 a.m.
<b>20</b>	Parks Commission .....	5:00 p.m.
	City Council .....	6:30 p.m.