

July 2022

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Message from the Mayor: Hometown Pride!

by Christopher G. Meyer, Mayor

A person can tell a lot about a community and its sense of pride fairly easily. I have reflected on this topic in earlier columns about how we all can show the pride in our community by keeping our properties neat and clean, and shining bright.

Another way to look at this concept is through the viewpoint of the City. The City invests in projects that not only serve a purpose, but also projects that bring our citizens together. A great example of this is the Downtown Plaza project that took a parcel of land, which sat empty for many years following the fire downtown. If you haven't already, take the time to attend one of the many events that take place in the Plaza and witness firsthand how a minor investment can turn into a place-maker. Throughout the summer on various Wednesday evenings, there are food trucks and music at the Plaza bringing many people into the Central Business District. We have heard from business owners that this increases traffic and helps foster commerce while bringing us together to meet our newest neighbors and renew friendships. The Downtown Plaza is a great example of public financial investment and city staff working for the community to bring this corner back to life.

The easiest place to see this pride alive and well is at our Aquatic Facility. On a hot summer day, as you drive by the facility and see children and families enjoying themselves, it's apparent that this investment was worthwhile. Projects

like these take many people, hours, days, and at times years to bring an idea to reality. As we look throughout our community at both public projects and private projects, this commitment is evident. We have been fortunate to have private individuals, businesses, and corporations invest their dollars into our community. Whether it is in the planning and discussion phase or final stages of development, these are exciting times in Belle Plaine. It will be interesting to see what will happen as lending interest rates rise again coupled with the overall pressure of the economy. We, as the Council and City Staff continue to work on programs and look for internal and external funding sources to aid in projects, knowing that the long-term investment will be a win for Belle Plaine.

*...attend
an event
in the
Downtown Plaza!*

It's only June and it's hard to believe that the mercury on the thermometer has already touched 100 degrees. It appears that we are in for a hot summer; there is no better reason to enjoy a visit to the Aquatic Facility and cool down.

Bar-B-Que Days will quickly be upon us again and we look forward to this community get-together where we can support each other and the many great organizations that serve us throughout the year. Get out and enjoy that weekend in the park, take in all the events, volunteer a few hours if possible, and most of all enjoy our favorite hometown and those who call Belle Plaine home!

Wishing all a happy, eventful and safe summer season!

It's Lawn Season

The sounds of lawnmowers, trimmers, and leaf blowers highlight growing season in Belle Plaine. Like most Midwest cities, manicured lawns are a hallmark of neighborhoods. Keeping lawns looking good involves regular lawn care and, for some, irrigation. There are some City standards to keep in mind.

Please mow lawns regularly and keep them under eight inches in height. If you are interested, some naturalizing is allowed provided a plan is approved by the City. Naturalizing is planned landscaping that takes effort, as opposed to abandoning lawn or vegetative care.

For irrigation, it's all about timing. To help manage water

demand there is no watering or sprinkling allowed between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. year round. There are no exceptions for new seed or sod. During drought conditions additional restrictions may be placed into effect.

In some cases, lawn care may be lacking. A signed, written code enforcement complaint form may be used to report such instances. The form may be downloaded from the City website at www.belleplainemn.com or picked up at City Hall. You may call to request a form be mailed and/or send an email to receive the form.



2022 Primary Election Absentee Voting

The 2022 Primary Election for Federal, State, County and City offices is August 9, 2022. Absentee ballots and absentee voting are available as of June 24, 2022. City residents can vote absentee either by mail or in person at Belle Plaine City Hall during business hours, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. City Hall will be open additional hours for absentee voting on Saturday, August 6th from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and Monday, August 8th, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Another in-person option for residents is Scott County Public Works at 600 Country Trail East, Jordan MN 55352.

For voters who request the ballot through the MN Secretary of State (MN SOS) website, they will receive the ballot by mail. Ballots requested by mail can be returned in one of three (3) ways:

- The voter may take it to Scott County Public Works, 600 Country Trial E., Jordan, MN 55352
- The voter may take it to the Scott County Government Center, 200 4th Ave. W, Shakopee, MN 55379
- The voter may return by mail per instruction on the absentee envelopes.

*** Note: a ballot mailed to the voter can not be dropped off at City Hall.**

The Primary Ballot

It is very important in the primary election to follow all instructions printed on the ballot. Minnesota recognizes four parties. The voter chooses one party and only votes down that one column for federal and state offices. City offices are non-partisan offices; instructions on the ballot will inform the voter as to how many candidates they may choose.

Register to Vote

You can vote in Minnesota if you are a US Citizen over the age of 18 having lived in Minnesota for over 20 days and have completed all felony sentencing and have not had your right to vote revoked by the court.

If you have changed your name, moved or haven't voted in the last 4 years, you need to register in order to vote. A list of accepted registration documents can be found on the Minnesota Secretary of State website (<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/media/4693/election-day-registration.pdf>). Voters can register now through July 19; after July 19, the voter will need to register at the polls on Election Day.

Election Questions

For information regarding the election, visit the MN Secretary of State website, www.sos.state.mn.us. You can check to see if you are registered to vote and preview the offices that are on your ballot.

If you have any questions, call City Hall at 952-873-5553 and ask for elections.

Downtown Project Update

The City Council declined bids for Phase I of a planned Downtown Improvement Project. This does not mean the necessary improvements to critical infrastructure are being dropped. Rather, the Council will now investigate combining Phase I and Phase II of the project for 2023 construction. This will allow further consideration of project funding while continuing to move toward needed updates.

City Council Authorizes Limited Keeping of Backyard Chickens

Months of thoughtful discussion and citizen involvement resulted in the City Council approving the keeping of backyard chickens. While standards allow keeping of hens, several requirements limit the scope and purpose for raising chickens, one of which is that a permit is required. This means if you currently have chickens or you would like to raise chickens you need to secure a zoning permit. Permit applications are available at City Hall or on the City website. Any resident who is currently keeping chickens is encouraged to voluntarily apply for a permit as soon as possible to avoid potential code follow up.

Residents in certain residential zoning districts may keep up to six hens at any one time provided a one-time permit is issued. Hens may be kept as an egg source only. No slaughtering or sales of chickens or by-products, including eggs, is allowed. Keeping of waterfowl or roosters is prohibited. Hens must be kept in an approved coop and run and can't be kept in a dwelling, garage or other structure. Basic standards for proper care and feeding of hens are required. Proper storage and handling of food and waste material is necessary. Specific standards for coops and attached runs are identified. Coops and runs must be setback at least ten feet from property lines and 25-feet from all dwellings.



Permit applications and complete rules and regulations are available at www.belleplainemn.com

Conserve Water & Save Money

Residents of Belle Plaine can now submit applications for a \$75.00 rebate when they replace an existing toilet with a new high efficiency toilet with the WaterSense label on it. Both residential and business customers connected to water service provided by the City of Belle Plaine are eligible for this rebate. Some of the terms of the program include:

- Only one service address per application.
- Rebates are for customers – not contractors or builders.
- Residential customers are eligible for up to (3) rebates, commercial customers are eligible for up to (6) rebates.
- Rebates cannot exceed the purchase price of the toilet.
- Applications must include the make and model number of the toilet, as well as an invoice or proof of purchase.
- This rebate only applies to the purchase of NEW toilets with the WaterSense label on them. Old toilets must be disabled or destroyed and properly disposed of.



See the City of Belle Plaine website for complete terms and conditions of the program to determine eligibility. Funds are limited and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Call City Hall for any questions or download an application from the City website;

www.belleplaine.mn.com.

City Council Highlights & City Notices

June 6, 2022 - Regular Session

- Approved Regular Session Minutes of May 16, 2022.
- Approved Work Session Minutes of May 16, 2022.
- Approved Resolution 22-061 Accepting the Body Worn Cameras Audit Report.
- Approved Authorizing Internal Posting to Seek Candidates for the Assistant Public Works Superintendent Position.
- Approved Large Assembly Permit and Road Closure Request by Belle Plaine Festival and Events for Bar-B-Q Days Celebration on July 15, 16, and 17, 2022.
- Approved Resolution 22-063 Re-Appointing and Appointing New Seasonal Life Guards, Head Guards and Aquatic Staff for the 2022 Belle Plaine Aquatic Center Season.
- Approved Ordinance 22-06, an Ordinance Amending Chapter Four by adding Section 412.00 to the City Code Regulating Possession of Catalytic Converters and Resolution 22-062, a Resolution Authorizing and Approving Summary Publication of Ordinance 22-06.
- Approved Large Assembly Permit for Adult Night at the Aquatic Center on July 8, 2022.
- Approved Temporary On-Sale Strong Beer License for Belle Plaine Festival and Events for Bar-B-Q Days on July 15, 16 and 17, 2022.
- Approved Resolution 22-064 Establishing 2022 Absentee Ballot Boards.
- Accepted Resignation of Part Time Seasonal Public Works employee Robert Stier and Authorized Advertising to Seek Candidates to Fill the Position.
- Approved Food Vendors for German Days.
- Authorized Bio Solids Removal by Chard Grading and Excavation, LLC in the amount of \$33,665.63.

June 21, 2022 - Regular Session

- Approved Regular Session Minutes of June 6, 2022.
- Approved Work Session Minutes of June 6, 2022.
- Approved Work Session Minutes of June 14, 2022.

June 21, 2022 - Regular Session Continued

- Approved Resolution 22-065 Appointing Election Judges for the 2022 Primary and General Elections and Assisting with Absentee Voting.
- Approved Resolution 22-066 Resolution Authorizing a Water Efficiency Rebate Program, Allocating Funding, and Approving Program Guidelines.
- Approved Resolution 22-067 Accept Donation from Friends of Library \$20,000.00.
- Approved Acknowledged Receipt of Position Classification and Compensation Study Report.
- Approved Resolution 22-068(A) A Resolution Approving a Variance Reducing the Number of Parking Spaces Required at 551 Park Street East from 33 Spaces to 17 Spaces.
- Approved Resolution 22-069: A Resolution Approving A Conditional Use Permit and Site Plan for Belle Plaine Lemonade Properties LLC Part Of Lot 1, Block 1 Tatiana Fields.
- Approved Ordinance 22-07, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 8 of the City Code to Provide for the Keeping of Chickens in Certain Residential Zoning Districts.
- Approved Resolution 22-070, A Resolution Authorizing Summary Publication of Ordinance 22-07, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 8 of the City Code to Provide for the Keeping of Chickens in Certain Residential Zoning Districts.
- Approved Resolution 22-071 Resolution Authorizing Amendment to the 2022 Fee Schedule.
- Approved Minor Subdivision Lot 1, Block 1 Tatiana Fields – Belle Plaine Lemonade Properties LLC.
- Approved Resolution 22-073(A), Resolution Approving Minor Subdivision of Lot 1, Block 1 Tatiana Fields.
- Approved Resolution 22-072 Deny the 2022 Improvement Project Bid.
- Approved Resolution 22-074 Authorizing Preliminary Report for the Proposed 2023 Street Improvement Project.

July 2022 Government Calendar

4	Fourth of July	City Offices Closed
5	Design Committee	5:15 p.m.
11	EDA.....	5:00 p.m.
	Planning Commission	6:30 p.m.
12	Public Safety.....	7:30 a.m.
14	Public Works.....	9:00 a.m.
18	Parks Commission.....	5:00 p.m.
	City Council	6:30 p.m.
	Work Session	6:45 p.m.

City of Belle Plaine

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Belle Plaine Events

Join us for

MUSIC & FOOD

in

DOWNTOWN BELLE PLAINE

(Downtown Plaza - corner of Main Street and Meridian Street)

Wednesday Nights

July 13 & 27, August 10 & 24
and September 23

Live Music: 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Food Trucks & Business Specials: 4:30 pm - 8:00 pm



The Belle Plaine Aquatic Center Presents

DIVE-IN MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, July 22 at 8:30 PM
203 W. Prairie Street

\$1 Per Person Admission



*No Swimming in the pool.
** Concessions available. Food is only allowed on the deck, not in the pool.

Summer 2022 Dates:

Readmobile



at Heritage Square
500 East Orchard Street, Belle Plaine

at Fountain Park
801 West Forest Street, Belle Plaine

July 6 and 20	9:00 - 9:45 AM	July 6 and 20	10:00 - 10:40 AM
August 3 and 17	9:00 - 9:45 AM	August 3 and 17	10:00 - 10:40 AM

FREE programming from the Scott County Library providing activities, books to borrow and snacks.

The Belle Plaine Aquatic Center Presents

Adult Night!
Must be 21+ to enter

Friday, July 8
8:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Advanced Ticket Sales Only \$10 each
Registration ends July 5 at 12:00 PM
Limited spots available. Minimum number of registrants to host event.

Join us for this one night only event! 21 & Older only! Pre-registration only!
Tickets will not be sold at the door. Yard games, classic rock, swimming and fun!



Fun in the sun!



Aquatic Facility



Splash Pad



Downtown Plaza



Belle Plaine Aquatic Center Hours

\$8.00 Admission
Children 3 and under FREE

OPEN SWIM HOURS
Monday - Friday - 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Monday - Wednesday & Friday 6:00 - 9:00 PM
(Thursday Resident Free Swim)
Saturday - 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Sunday - 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM

FREE SWIM
Thursday - 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Must present your Resident Discount Card or Aquatic Pass for Admittance.
(No paid admissions admitted during Free Swim)

FREE FAMILY SWIM
Sunday - 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Must present your Resident Discount Card or Aquatic Pass for Admittance.
Must be with a family. (No paid admissions admitted during Family Swim)

AQUA FITNESS Fee: \$4 Admission or Aquatic Pass
Monday & Wednesday - 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM
Tuesday & Thursday - 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

LAP SWIM Fee: \$4 Admission or Aquatic Pass
Monday & Wednesday - 6:30 AM - 8:00 AM
Tuesday & Thursday - 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM

* For the Resident Discount card residents must pre-register with address and/or Utility account number for discounted entrance price. Registration is accepted online Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Please allow up to 48 hours for processing, registration is processed during regular business hours at City Hall.

*The Belle Plaine Aquatic Center is owned, operated and fully funded by the City of Belle Plaine. The City of Belle Plaine has defined a resident as an individual who lives within the city limits and pays city tax dollars.