

# The Bridge

Connecting with our residents

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City of Belle Plaine

October • 2020

## Message from the Mayor: Unsettling Times

*Christopher G. Meyer – Mayor*

It seems like every time we turn on the T.V. or pick up the paper these days, there is an event or topic that we as a society and nation are facing that we have not dealt with in recent times. Many of the topics tend to divide us based on our personal understanding and beliefs. Even though most of this is happening in larger cities and populations across the United States, some of this comes full circle back to our small town of Belle Plaine. We all need to support each other and continue being respectful and understanding so that we can preserve the way of life we all know and come to expect.

As we head into cooler temps, it will certainly affect our activity choices in regards to how we navigate COVID. Outdoor patios will be closing soon and will change how we supported our local businesses. Even though the outdoor spaces will be closed, the businesses have plans and safety measures in place to ensure that inside visits will keep us as safe as possible. The changes and additional precautions required continue to put stresses on our local businesses and it is important that our community remains supportive. So please continue patronizing our small businesses in as much as you feel comfortable doing so.

As we all know, the election is quickly approaching. Again, no matter what side of the discussion you find yourself on, please exercise your very important right - get out and vote! There are several ways to vote. If you do not feel comfortable voting in person on Election Day, please check the Minnesota Secretary of State and Scott County websites to help you navigate your options.

Exercise  
your right to  
vote!

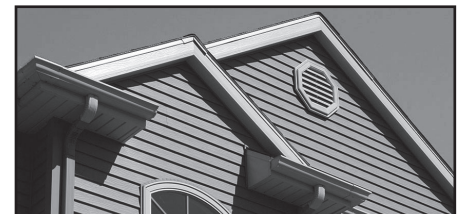
As mentioned in my last article that as summer turns to fall and into winter, the City departments are shifting gears. Public Works is closing the Aquatic Center, preparing the park shelters and bathrooms to close, trimming trees, sweeping streets, and working on winter equipment. The Finance Department is finalizing the 2021 budget and starting to work on the final quarter of 2020 business. Community Development continues to work with developers and contractors for ongoing and future projects and inspecting current building projects. With school back in session, the Police Department has been pro-actively working to keep everyone safe and build relationships with their new school liaison officers. The Fire Department is also preparing for the colder months in terms of equipment maintenance. So as you can imagine, there is a flurry of activity in all city departments.

I also need to mention that the City Council, Boards and Commissions have all been working across the City in various projects. Even though it is a bit different because of COVID, Council Members and Commissioners continue to give of their time and talents to make our favorite hometown the best that it can be. If you have the opportunity, and know who serves in these roles, please thank them and show them the appreciation they all deserve.

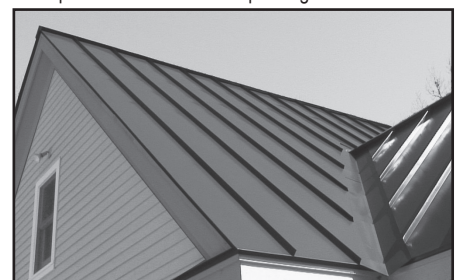
I wish you all continued good health while dealing with the pandemic and hope that you all find ways to get out and enjoy yourselves while the weather remains comfortable.

## Metal Roofing for Houses

Can I put a metal roof on my house? We frequently receive this question at City Hall. The City Council recently updated standards to better describe what is and is not allowed. The Council has specifically authorized the use of metal siding and roofing provided certain quality standards are met. Horizontally placed metal lap-siding has been added to the list of acceptable exterior building materials. Metal roofing with concealed fasteners is allowed on all residential buildings including houses and sheds. Open fastener metal roofing is allowed on sheds that are 200 square feet in area or less. The updated standards are consistent with what was previously allowed, just more clearly defined. The standards help maintain a high standard of architectural and aesthetic compatibility with surrounding properties and help ensure building materials do not adversely impact property values. If you would like to review the updated standards, you can find them online at [belleplainemn.com](http://belleplainemn.com) and search for Ordinance 20-10.



Example of horizontal metal lap-siding



Example of metal roofing with concealed fasteners.

# November 3, 2020 General Election

## ABSENTEE OR EARLY VOTING

### **Absentee in Person -**

- Absentee voting has begun for the November 3, 2020 General Election at the Scott County Public Works building at 600 Country Trail East, Jordan, MN 55352. Hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday and limited Saturday hours - please see Scott County's website [www.co.scott.mn.us/702/Absentee-Voting](http://www.co.scott.mn.us/702/Absentee-Voting). You will be asked to follow all social distancing guidelines and wear a mask.

### **Absentee by mail -**

- If voters are concerned about their health or choose not to vote at the polls during COVID, please use the absentee voting by mail process to submit your vote. Voters may request an absentee ballot online at the Minnesota Secretary of State website. When you request an absentee ballot online, you can track your ballot through the process. [www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/](http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/)
- If voting absentee by mail, once you have completed your ballot you either mail it in the envelope provided, or drop it off at one of the drop sites throughout Scott County. One of the locations is the Belle Plaine Public Library. Hours for ballot drop off at the library are Monday – Friday, 8:00 -11:00 a.m. and 12:00 - 4:30 p.m. and on Saturday, October 31 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

## VOTER REGISTRATION

- If you have moved or haven't voted in previous elections, register now through October 13, 2020 at the MN Secretary of State Website. After October 13, 2020, you will need to register on Election Day at the polls. The documentation voters will need to provide for registration is available on the Minnesota Secretary of State website. [www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/](http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/)

## VOTING AT THE POLLS

- Due to COVID, there are changes at the polls. Our polling location will comply with all social distancing guidelines. Voters should expect a wait time and may be asked to wait outside of the building until it is their turn to vote. Voters will be asked to put on a mask before entering the polling place and hand sanitizer will be available as voters enter and exit the polls. We ask patience from all voters and as we strive to keep voters and the election workers safe and healthy. We do not want to risk anyone's health when it comes to their right to vote.

## QUESTIONS

- For all election questions, please visit the Minnesota Secretary of State website. [www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting](http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting). You may also call City Hall at 952-873-5553.



Visit [belleplainemn.com/city-projects](http://belleplainemn.com/city-projects) for more updates.

## City Project Updates

### City Hall Safety Updates

In 2017 the City Council approved safety updates to City Hall. During the shutdown time due to COVID there have been many updates within the front offices. Changes include the location of the drop box, greeting area redesign, and required secured absentee voter spaces starting in 2022.

### Episcopalian Church Restoration

The City Council approved the submittal of the Legacy Grant to secure funding for restoration and preservation of the historic Episcopalian Church. The grant is currently under review and will be announced in late November of 2020.

### 2020 Street Improvement Project

The 2020 Street Improvement Project is in progress which includes street and utility improvements for portions of Forest Street from Grove Street to Walnut Street, Storm Water Restoration at Blaha Ravine and the extension of Hickory Boulevard and Prosper Street.

**Sledding Hill** – Located between Forest Street and Beaver Street. The sledding hill will have one small run and two longer runs with lighting and parking at the bottom of the hill on Beaver Street. The hill is expected to open Winter of 2020.

## City Council Contacts:

<b>Mayor, Christopher G. Meyer</b> <i>cmeyer@ci.belleplaine.mn.us</i>	<b>612-756-0662</b>
<b>Paul Chard</b> <i>pchard@ci.belleplaine.mn.us</i>	<b>612-685-8873</b>
<b>Cary Coop</b> <i>ccoop@ci.belleplaine.mn.us</i>	<b>612-964-1008</b>
<b>Renee LeMieux</b> <i>rlemieux@ci.belleplaine.mn.us</i>	<b>952-356-4126</b>
<b>Patricia Krings</b> <i>pkrings@ci.belleplaine.mn.us</i>	<b>952-836-4302</b>
<b>Belle Plaine City Hall</b> <i>cityhall@ci.belleplaine.mn.us</i>	<b>952-873-5553</b>

## October 2020 Government Calendar

<b>5</b>	Design Committee .....	Canceled
	City Council .....	6:30 p.m.
<b>12</b>	EDA .....	5:00 p.m.
	Planning Commission .....	6:30 p.m.
<b>13</b>	Public Safety .....	7:30 a.m.
<b>15</b>	Public Works .....	9:00 a.m.
<b>19</b>	Parks Commission .....	5:00 p.m.
	City Council .....	6:30 p.m.