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City of Belle Plaine

March • 2019

Message from the Mayor: A Community of Service

Christopher G. Meyer – Mayor

I recently had the opportunity to attend a conference in which former Speaker of the House Paul Ryan was the main speaker. He reflected on his days moving through the ranks of all the different political positions that he has held which eventually led him to the Speaker position. He was a very dynamic speaker. One of the main themes that he focused on was the fact that a person is either what he calls a “do-er” or a “be-er”. The idea behind a “do-er” is that a person steps up and gets involved to make things happen and strives for change to make things better. A “be-er” is the other part of the population that is fine just being what they are, living within their current situation and basically settling for life as is with no desire to help facilitate change or make things better.

This had me thinking of all of those people who live in our community that day in and day out strive to make the city a better place, their own lives better, and who look out for their neighbors and community members. It does not take a person long to see this in action when you look at the food shelf, local church organizations, service clubs, Veterans organizations, Fire Department, and school groups - this list is endless. When looking at this as an elected official, you realize the investments that are made, not only in human capital in terms of the hours volunteers selflessly give, but also the huge financial impact this makes on a community. Many of the organizations raise funds, which are then donated back to the City for parks, equipment, programs, and events. The donations reduce the impact on the City budget that is directly connected to our property taxes – without these additional funds, it’s possible some projects may not be funded at all.

*...consider
sharing your
talents*

The opportunity to be a “do-er” is as easy as looking in our local paper or on our local Facebook pages to find activities and events that are taking place in our community. As citizens, I would ask that we not only appreciate these services, but also support the organizations by attending their fundraisers, purchasing their products, give a donation of money, or volunteering your time. It is always easier to look for the down side of things rather than to step up and join the group and volunteer to make things better for all.

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to speak on KCHK radio on their Mayor’s Monday segment, it is an opportunity that I get to participate in a few times a year. While being interviewed on that program, I was able to talk about all of the great things happening in Belle Plaine and reflect on all of the people who make our city a great place to live, operate a business, and raise our families.

So, as you reflect on this idea, I would ask that if you have not been a “do-er” recently that you consider sharing your talents with a local group or organization. As the saying goes, “it takes a village”, which is so true. I am certain that there are tons of untapped talent in our community, that if brought forward would continue to make our favorite hometown the best it can be.

In closing, I would like to give a shout out to our Public Works crew for a great job dealing with these grueling past few weeks of snow fall.

Think Spring!!

Spotlight on - Belle Plaine Police Department

The Belle Plaine Police Department consists of eight full-time officers, one investigative sergeant and the Chief of Police. We also employ six part-time officers who fill in for vacation or sick time and work at city events. Our civilian staff includes two administrative assistants who handle records, evidence custody, data practice items, and body camera storage amongst many other duties.

In 2018, we handled 8,138 contacts and calls for service, which is 712 above the 7,426 that we handled in 2017 and 830 more than we handled in 2016. This trend does continue upward, but it is not alarming to us with growth of not only residential housing, but also commercial properties and businesses that add to an increase in calls.

The Police Department function has changed over the years to become more than responding to calls for service, investigations and/or performing traffic stops. We are also active in several volunteer events that make us proud to be involved in our caring community. Our Toy Drive, Shop with a Cop, Lions Club beep ball and bowling events, F.I.S.H., Santa Shack, Cricket for Cancer, and National Night Out are just a few of the events we host or participate in throughout the year.



We utilize technology advancements to enhance the Police Department, many of which have brought attention to Belle Plaine locally and statewide. Some of the advancements that have been implemented are Tiger Watch, Nixle, Be Seen Be Safe Safety Vest Program, body cameras, cell phone forensic unit, and our newest free app for our community – See Something Send Something.

Additional services and programs offered that might be of interest are vehicle unlocks, vacation house watch, medication drop off program, bicycle and business registration, dog licensing and our Belle Plaine crime map. Visit the Police Department page at belleplainenmn.com for more information.

We put out a yearly annual report that is typically presented at the second City Council meeting in February. Feel free to check this out at any time on the City of Belle Plaine website under the Police Department link.

We are proud to work for this community and continue to promote safety and understanding in all that we do.



Pictured from left to right: Mickey Semantel, Dave Weckman, Ben Pederson, Jake Nelson, Jared Tveitbakk, Matt Brandt, Detective Sergeant Terry Stier, Chief Tom Stolee, Brian Vycital, Sterling Cayer, Kris Moloney, Nik Friedges.
Not pictured – Kelli Crandall, Jeff Koslowski, Sasha Urban and Administrative Assistants Lori Latzke, and Nicole Jensen.

RECYCLE
and
CLEAN-UP
DAY

Sat.,
April 27
8am - Noon

Watch for details in the City media outlets.

Find information about how you can be code compliant in the
GUIDE TO CODE COMPLIANCE
Brochures are available at City Hall, or at www.belleplainenmn.com. For more information,
contact the Community Development Department.

Snow Removal Regulations - Parking will not be permitted on residential streets when snow has accumulated to a depth of one-half (1/2) inch or more. Downtown parking will be posted as NO PARKING during a snow emergency.

City Council Contacts:

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March 2019 Government Calendar

4	Design Committee	5:15 p.m.
	City Council	6:30 p.m.
11	EDA	5:00 p.m.
	Planning Commission	6:30 p.m.
12	Public Safety	4:30 p.m.
14	Public Works	9:00 a.m.
18	Park Board	5:00 p.m.
	City Council	6:30 p.m.

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