



BELLE PLAINE NEWSLETTER



www.belleplaineiowa.gov

December 2024

FROM THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Steve Beck

We will be getting an emergency generator at the Belle Plaine Fire Station installed soon thanks to a Community Development Block Grant for Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR). Two bids were handed in at City Hall on 11/22 at 4pm. The council will need to approve the winning bid and then we can move forward with the next steps. This is exciting news and will contribute to a higher level of community resiliency during power outages due to extreme weather and other emergencies.

When our community is forecasted to receive a snowstorm we evaluate the projected storm intensity, accumulation, and duration and provide our best guess on what we might expect to deal with from a snow removal standpoint. If a snow emergency is declared there is no parking allowed on any street or avenue until the declaration is removed. The snow emergency system has been in place for many years, and it significantly reduces the amount of traffic accidents, vehicular issues, and cars stuck in snow piles. It significantly increases the quality of the work our plows can perform on the roadways, and it results in a much cleaner downtown district when all the snow is removed from sidewalks by staff before plowing occurs. If a snow emergency is declared, it will begin at a certain time and will be removed once the streets are cleared. All streets are cleared before alleys in most circumstances, with the exception of the downtown district around City Hall. Any parked cars remaining on the roadways during a snow emergency declaration are subject to towing and fines. Parking is allowed at the City parking lot located on the corner of 11th Street and 8th Avenue during snow emergency declarations.

The HAWK System (High-intensity Activated crossWalk) is fully operational at the pedestrian crossing near Longfellow Elementary School on the corner of 7th Street and 7th Avenue. This will be a much safer option for anyone wishing to cross Highway 21 (7th Avenue). Directions for how to use the system are located near the crosswalk. The system is designed to stop traffic on the highway but I highly recommend to everyone using it to be looking both ways and watching out for traffic. It will take everyone some time to get used to the new system and could be unfamiliar to out-of-town travelers.

I hope everyone has a safe and very Merry Christmas!!!



City Hall & City Shed will be **CLOSED**
December 24th & 25th for the Holiday!

*Happy
Holidays*

REGISTER YOUR PETS FOR 2025!

The new pet licenses are in for 2025! Please register your cats and dogs at City Hall before the end of January.

Reminder: make sure we have a copy of the current rabies certificate.





Belle Plaine Library New Director....



I am very excited to be joining the Belle Plaine Community Library as their new Director! I am looking forward to working with this wonderful staff and seeing all of you who currently use the library and hope to see more Belle Plaine residents come in to say “hi” and stay to look around!

I grew up in Belle Plaine– attending Belle Plaine Community Schools and am so fortunate to be able to serve our community once again through the library.

I know I have big shoes to fill with Kristi leaving, so I am very fortunate to have her training me before she retires!

-Jackie Toennies

FROM THE DESK OF PARKS & REC DIRECTOR...April Kressley

Over the summer, the Park and Rec Department took over ownership of the Sound Park, which is located in downtown Belle Plaine. We worked hard to clean up the area and make the space more welcoming. Trevor Abernathy, with Lawns to a T, was hired to help with the grounds. The area was cleaned up and prepared for new sod, which included moving some rose bushes and lining those with landscaping brick. The sod was laid and taken great care of by our volunteers Lon Weber and Kim Blink! The pergolas were then installed by Brian Longnecker and Lon Weber, while benches were also built and placed under the pergolas. The Sound Park looks fantastic, but we could not have done any of this without a generous donation from the Mansfield Charitable Foundation and all of our volunteers! There will be one more addition to the park coming this spring.....stay tuned!



DECEMBER LIBRARY EVENTS:



Wednesday, December 4th- Open House for Kristi's Retirement 3:00-6:00PM

Friday, December 13th- Preschool Storytime 9:30AM

December 24th & 25th, Closed for Christmas Holiday!

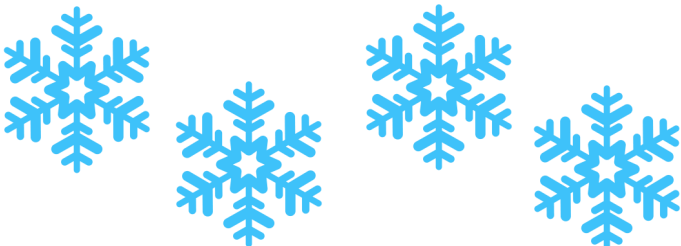
Garbage/Recycling Pick-up Information



Here is the Serious Sanitation garbage and recycling pick-up schedule for the coming weeks!

December 5th	Garbage Collection
December 11th	Recycling Collection
December 12th	Garbage Collection
December 19th	Garbage Collection
December 26th	Recycling Collection
December 26th	Garbage Collection

Recycling collection date change due to holiday
Any questions about garbage & recycling collection please call City Hall!





The new pedestrian crossing lights on 7th Avenue are up and working! This system will light as follows when activated!



- Flashing Yellow
- Solid Yellow
- Solid Red
- Flashing Red– this indicates the countdown to lights turning OFF

Please use caution in this area as we all become more familiar with this new system– especially during school crossing times!

MERRY CHRISTMAS



2025 Golf Cart Registration Stickers are available at City Hall. Golf cart registration is \$7.50 annually.



The City of Belle Plaine requests that you still register your UTV/ATV and provide us with your insurance information. (No Fee for UTV/ATV's)

NURSING HOME EVENTS:

December 4th- 5:30PM Family Night (Dinner and Music)

December 10th- 2:00PM Travel Program with Karen Bradley

December 16th- 2:00PM BPHS Choir Caroling

December 24th- 11:00AM Food and Resident Council Meeting

December 24th- 2:00PM Resident Christmas Party!

December 31st- 2:00PM New Years & December Birthday Party!

December Birthdays

Craig P. 12/03

Renee S: 12/05

Joyce S: 12/20

Ila U: 12/22

William J: 12/28

Activities are subject to change & weather permitting!



FIRST LUTHERAN'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK

1523 Sunset Drive, Belle Plaine

Sat., December 14th

In the Family Life Center

9:00-11:00 a.m.

We will be selling all kinds of cookies, candies and other treats!

Don't let Christmas baking stress you out this year! We have done all the work for you!

Supplemental Funding by Thrivent Financial





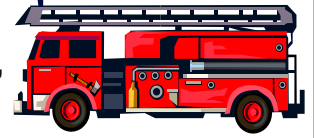
Winter Clothing Drive

The Belle Plaine Police Department & Foundation 2 are teaming up again to host another winter clothing drive to benefit those in need this winter season. We are collecting winter coats, gloves, hats, scarves, snow pants & boots in sizes ranging from newborn to adult. All items should be new or gently used.

Donations will be accepted until December 15

Donations can be dropped off at Belle Plaine City Hall. 1207 8th Avenue

Belle Plaine Fire Department



As 2024 comes to an end, we continue to serve our community. This past year we added two new recruits to our department, Jacob Ehlen and Jeremy Ginther. Please congratulate these guys when you see them in public.

I wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Chief Kaplan

POLICE CHIEF KRIS HUDSON.....

We hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and were able to spend time with your loved ones. It is hard to believe that December is upon us! Our second annual winter coat drive is underway. If you have items to donate, bring them to city hall. All we ask is that the clothing is clean and serviceable.

We will have our annual Holiday With A Cop event on December 18. If you would like to make a monetary donation to this cause, you may do so at City Hall. This benefits children in the Belle Plaine Community School District.

Stay warm and stay safe!



Join Us At

Faith In Christ Church
 In celebrating
 Christ
 With Carols & Cookies

Friday December 6, 2024

6:30 PM

Faith In Christ Church
 708 15th St, Belle Plaine, IA



Belle Plaine Community Development Corp. Board of Directors wishes to express its appreciation to all who adopted biocells this past summer and kept them free of debris and weeds, including Biocell Committee members Brian Baumgartner, Teresa Hermsen, Vicki Schwab and Melissa Croy. They and the following individuals and businesses devoted many hours to make sure their biocells were looking good throughout the summer: Dan and Jo Blanchard, Regina Andrews, Hartig Drug, Belle Plaine Dental, The Regal Fritillary, Trish Carl, Johnson Insurance, Drahos Shoes, Remington Seeds, Belle Plaine Hardware, Heather Davis Tammi Cook and Judy Schlesselman. Your efforts did not go unnoticed!

We look forward to 2025, when the committee expects to complete all biocell plantings in our downtown area. Be sure to watch for more progress when spring arrives!

Another Holiday Homecoming is in the books and we hope you took part in this annual holiday kickoff. Many businesses joined in to offer specials on Shop Small Saturday. The Shop Local slogan is important not only at the holiday season but year-round as your local merchants keep our business district alive. Each one appreciates your support throughout the year.

The success of Holiday Homecoming depends upon the volunteers who work tirelessly ahead and during the event to make it one you and your family will remember. Our deepest appreciation goes to Teresa Hermsen, Dennis and Vicki Schwab, Kim Blink and Lon and Jodi Weber for organizing and pulling off another delightful lighted parade. Kudos also go to Tammy and Mike Manley, the Belle Plaine FFA, BPCDC board members Amber Hoover and Mindy Atkinson, Belle Plaine City workers and any others who helped in any way with Holiday Homecoming. Without volunteers, this event and others sponsored by Belle Plaine Community Development simply would not happen.

Watch for news coming soon about our Annual Meeting, set for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22 at the Belle Plaine Area Museum. Invitations will be sent to our 2024 Investors; the general public is also welcome to attend.

Lastly, we welcome Belle Plaine native Brittany Davis to our Board of Directors and thank Heather Carl and Ryan Devereux for their service as they leave the board.

Seasons greetings to you all and best wishes for the New Year!

Belle Plaine Community Development Corp. Board of Directors
Amber Hoover, Mindy Atkinson, Steve Beck, Brittany Davis, Brian Baumgartner, Mitch Jacobi, Sara Johnson, Judy Schlesselman

