

BELLE PLAINE NEWSLETTER

www.belleplaineiowa.gov

January 2025



REGISTER YOUR PETS FOR 2025!

Please register your cats and dogs for 2025 at City Hall by January 31st. Make sure we have a copy of your pet's current rabies certificate.

REMINDER:

Penalties for non registration go into effect February 1st!



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Police Chief.....Kris Hudson



Congratulation to Officer Logan Garwood on his graduation from ILEA on December 13th. We are proud of you and excited to have you back!

Thank you to everyone who donated winter apparel for our Winter Clothing Drive. We were able to help people in our community as well as donate the "extras" to Showers of Blessings in Vinton!

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas holiday, and a safe and happy New Year!

Garbage/Recycling Pick-up Information

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

January 2nd	Garbage Collection
January 8th	Recycling Collection
January 9th	Garbage Collection
January 16th	Garbage Collection
January 22nd	Recycling Collection
January 23rd	Garbage Collection
January 30th	Garbage Collection

Please remember do NOT place any garbage items in your recycling bin!
Glass, Styrofoam & plastic bags are garbage!



If you have any questions, please contact city hall at 319-444-2200.



2025 Urban Chicken Permits are PAST DUE. If you have chickens you must renew your permit annually in December. Reminder letters & renewal forms were sent out in November. Register your chickens now!

Please call City Hall with any questions!

FROM THE DESK OF PARKS & REC DIRECTOR April Kressley



Once again, we had a great season of basketball! We had a total of 5 teams representing Belle Plaine. We were able to host the first weekend of games in November and are very grateful to our HS boys' and girls' team who worked the event at both the HS and Elementary gyms. We would like to thank all of our volunteer coaches-Tylar Gallagher, Morgan Mitchell, Jeff Timm, Tad Jacobi, Kelly Hoey, and Greg Johnson. We would not be able to have these great opportunities without our volunteers!

THANK YOU!!!

JANUARY LIBRARY EVENTS:

Wednesday, January 1: **CLOSED** for New Year's Day



Friday, January 10: **Preschool Storytime** 9:30am

Friday, January 24: **Preschool Storytime** 9:30am



City Hall & City Shop will be **CLOSED WEDNESDAY, January 1st**, for New Years Day Holiday

NURSING HOME EVENTS:

January 8th at 6:45pm- Night Bingo with St. Micheals

January 15th at 7:00pm- Night Bingo with Grace Community

January 21st at 2:00pm- Travel program with Karen Bradley

January 28th at 2:00pm- Resident and Food Council Meeting



January Birthdays!

Melanie H. 1/9

Sandra P. 1/17

Ronald B. 1/29

Activities are subject to change and weather permitting.

Hello, neighbors! My name is Emma Peebles, and I am honored to serve as your new Belle Plaine Community Development Executive Director.

I am originally from Des Moines and my husband is from Bratt, Florida, but my family and I spent several years living in different states due to my husband's career in welding. During that time we experienced life in a handful of places before we decided to settle down here in Belle Plaine. We moved here from Flomaton, Alabama in July 2022, where we ran a small business that focused on my husband's love of motorsports through custom designed aftermarket parts.

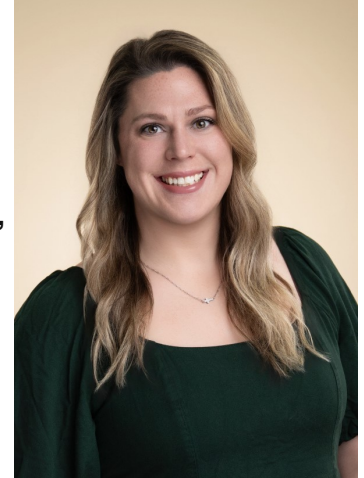


Photo Credit: Jen Lewis Photography

My husband and I have three wonderful children: Braiden, 14; Henley, 8; and Rhett, 6. During our years of travel, I was a stay-at-home mom, dedicating my time to supporting my children as they grew. Now I'm excited to transition into this new role and contribute to the community that has embraced us so warmly.

As your BPCDC Executive Director, my goal is to continue fostering a sense of togetherness and support in our town. I'm committed to listening to your ideas, working on initiatives that strengthen our community, and ensuring that our great town flourishes to where everyone can connect and grow. Whether it's improving local programs or finding new ways to bring us all together, I'm excited to serve and collaborate with each of you. Please don't hesitate to reach out to share your thoughts or just to say hello—I look forward to getting to know you better as we work together to make our town an even better place to live, work, and enjoy life.

A note from the BPCDC Board of Directors - Emma is expected to begin work once the formalities of her hire are complete. Look for her to be out and about in our community this month. Office hours will soon be established. To contact BPCDC, email director@bpcdc.net or call 319-434-6481.



From the Belle Plaine Area Ambulance-

We will have our annual meeting on Monday, January 13th at 7:00 PM at the ambulance shed & the public is welcome to attend. We would like to take a moment and thank our community and the surrounding communities for their continued support of our crew. We look forward to serving you in 2025 and hope you all have a happy, healthy, and safe New Year!

FROM THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR Steve Beck

2024 was quite a year! There were so many things that we endured through and made it out the other side once again. We started out the year with a continuation of a very serious drought which left our water system vulnerable and heavily depleted. We had two giant back-to-back water main leaks on the main lines coming into town and then an epic blizzard all in the first two weeks of the year. The Public Works crew saved the day during each of those serious events, and we are so thankful for them. They went on to find several huge water leaks that saved millions of gallons of water. The rains of spring helped to start replenishing our aquifer and the levels held pretty steady throughout the year even though we only received occasional rains. With some more water in the aquifer, we were able to perform a widespread main flushing effort that drastically improved the water quality that we all had been struggling with during the drought. We were able to perform an additional late year flushing in some areas of town that still needed attention. We are planning on doing regular flushing in following years so long as the rains continue to fall regularly. We made some major headway on moving our comprehensive water study Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and submitted the first draft to the DNR for review which moved us one step closer to achieving our short-term and long-term water quality and quantity needs. Our water treatment plant is still in the design stages but is on track and we are working on the next steps for this component of the larger project.

We had multiple test wells drilled to monitor for potential new well sites. With the severity of the drought and our community being in the center of it all for such a long time, we had several opportunities to partner with the state of Iowa, Iowa State, and the University of Iowa colleges of engineering to perform studies of our situation, how we handled it, and ways to protect against such challenges in the future. It has been great working with them all and I am learning so much about new technologies and practices that can be incorporated with some more old-school ways of doing things that create opportunities to save a lot of money in the long run.

Our wetland grants will provide funding for the first phase of the rebuilding of the wellfield aquifer recharge locations established by our engineers. If everything goes according to plan, construction on these components should start early to mid-spring. With all the blessings of rain we received our entire region is still very behind on precipitation and it will take some time to replenish the deficit. Yet, we are still hopeful. We have so much to be thankful for and I appreciate everyone's patience as we work towards finding the solutions and building the infrastructure to create a more resilient community.

I wrote about this previously but since we have been so fortunate with decent weather so far this winter I wanted to print this again for those that may not have seen the original post.

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.

Here's to a Great New Year and opportunities to continue building up the community in 2025!!!