

BELLE PLAINE NEWSLETTER

www.belleplaineiowa.gov

March 2025

FROM THE DESK OF PARKS & REC. DIRECTOR April Kressley

Park & Rec Board Member Spotlight: Tracy Papesh

Years on the Park and Rec Board: I was nominated by Mayor Fish and City Council to fill a vacant spot in early 2021. I was then elected to the spot officially in the fall of that same year.

Full-Time Job: I am the Connected Machines Support Specialist at Titan Machinery, Inc.

Family Members: My husband is Adam Papesh, I have a 14 year old son named Tanner Johnson, and 2 dogs Maggie and Liberty who keep my social media full of content!

What are you most passionate about outside of work? I am currently working on obtaining my Iowa Master Gardener Certification through the ISU extension. I have taken on the flag pole down at Box Park as my project for this endeavor. I have had a lot of help from my friends in making that dream become a reality. My other hobby is making sure my kid has transportation to his 17 million activities that he signs up for. As a bonus to that, Tanner now has his permit so I have been delegated as a full time passenger princess, which is nice!

Do you have any hidden talents or unique hobbies? I really like to dig into passions of the past and master the craft. I can crochet, can food, make bread, hand sew just about anything (including a deer blind that my husband shot a hole through), collect and use antiques, as well as other various things. My husband and I enjoy trying our hand at making different kinds of food, from making our own jerky to chicken pot pie from scratch, and lately we have been prepping our venison in any way that we can find. The most recent was venison pastrami that took 7 days but was definitely worth the wait!

What's a fun fact about yourself that most people wouldn't know? Every spring I make and distribute Dandelion Jelly. It's DELICIOUS!

Why did you decide to be on the Park and Rec Board? I have always wanted to serve our beautiful community. I first considered running for City Council but they like to run the meetings well past my bedtime, so when the Parks & Rec position came available, I jumped on the opportunity! As an extension of the Park and Rec Board, I also serve as the chairman of the Carole Sue Donovan Fund Board. I secretly enjoy this task the most, as the decisions made in those meetings solely affect the beautification of Belle Plaine and who doesn't like pretty things?



**REMINDER to set
your clocks
FORWARD one hour
on March 9th for the
start of Daylight
Savings Time!**



LIBRARY EVENTS:

National Grammer Month – Kids of all ages can come in and do a grammar activity and receive a treat/prize!



Friday, March 7th @ 1:00pm: Friday Fun with Sarah Smith from Nettiannes

Friday, March 14th @ 9:30am: Preschool Storytime

Friday, March 14th: Adult Brown Bag Lunch Bunch 11:00am-1:00pm

11am-noon: Read or catch up on a craft;
noon-1pm: Lunch & Laughs (Please bring your lunch & book/craft of your choice)

Wednesday, March 19th @ 3:30pm: Grades 1st-6th After School Fun with MidwestOne

Friday, March 21st: Adult Brown Bag Lunch Bunch 11:00am-1:00pm

Friday, March 28th @ 9:30am: Preschool Storytime

Friday, March 28th: Adult Brown Bag Lunch Bunch 11:00am-1:00pm

Friday, March 28th @ 6:00pm: Grades 3rd-5th Movie & Munchie Night!

March 20th is the first day of



Fire Department Chief: Jason Kaplan

The Belle Plaine Fire Department is proud to announce that we are upgrading our SCBA air



compressor, cascade system and fill

station. This project was made possible with generous donations from Benton County Community Foundation (\$11,500), USA Communications (\$10,000) and the general public through numerous fundraisers. This equipment is used to fill our SCBA (self contained breathing apparatus) bottles. We use these bottles to provide our fire fighters with fresh air to keep them safe while fighting fires. The total cost for this project is \$48,089.00. We expect to have our new equipment installed in March. We could not of done this without the generosity of the public, USA Communications and Benton County Community Foundation. Thank you very much.

-All Members of the Belle Plaine Fire Department



Garbage/Recycling Pick-up Information

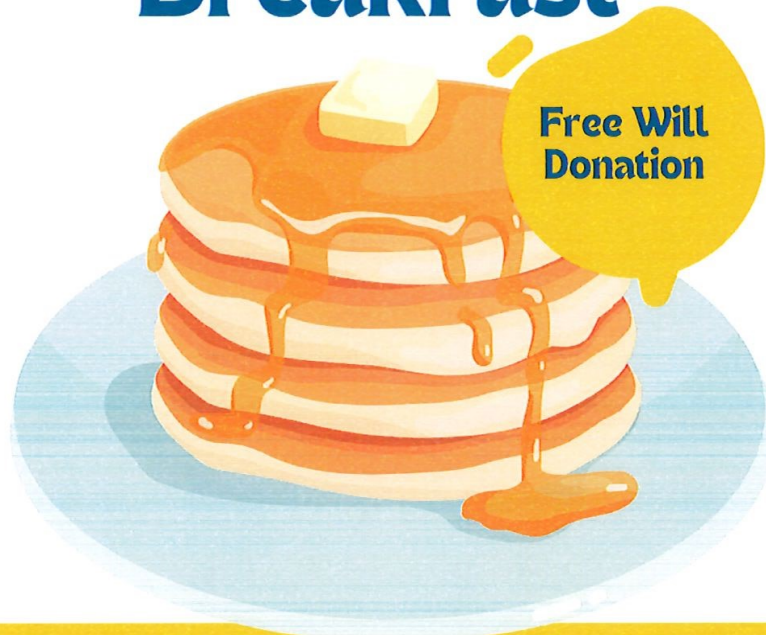
Below are the Serious Sanitation collection dates for March 2025!

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| March 5th | Recycling Collection |
| March 6th | Garbage Collection |
| March 13th | Garbage Collection |
| March 19th | Recycling Collection |
| March 20th | Garbage Collection |
| March 27th | Garbage Collection |

All bins need to be curbside for their respective collection days by 6AM!!!



Lions Club PANCAKE Breakfast



SUN, MAR 23 7:30AM-12PM

COMMUNITY CENTER

1309 5th Ave

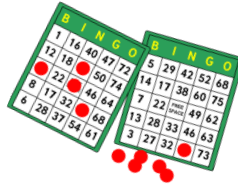


NURSING HOME EVENTS:

March 6th @ 2pm Hair Chalk

March 11th @ 2pm Travel Program

March 12th @ 10am Sweet Pea Visit & 6:45pm Night Bingo with Youth Group



March 17th @ 11am St. Patty's Happy Hour

March 18th @ 3:30pm Tie Pillows

March 19th @ 10am Sweet Pea Visit & 7:00pm Night Bingo with Youth Group

March 21st @ 3:30pm Rock Painting

March 25th @ 2pm Resident and Food Council Meeting

March 26th @ 3:30pm Lucky Jeopardy

March 28th @ 2pm March Resident Birthday Celebration!

Resident March Birthdays:

Steve K.- March 19th

Don P. – March 25th



City Administrator Steve Beck

We have a new emergency siren located at Anderson Park. During a storm last year the existing siren was damaged due to a power surge. The new siren is still needing a few additional parts and programming before going live. The City tests our emergency warning sirens the first Friday of every month at 1pm. Our siren system is primarily an outdoor warning for anyone who may be outside during bad weather events. Many residents are able to hear the warning sirens from inside their homes but not everyone. As spring approaches and you see severe weather headed our way it's a good idea to take cover and turn on your weather radio for updates.



The City will be transitioning to a new Online Payment System



at the end of March/beginning of April. The new system will be gov windows, very similar to gov pay. More details will come as this transition gets closer.

Please watch the City Website and Facebook page for updates!

Spring isn't so far away, and the weather isn't the only thing warming up! Our 2025 Investment Drive has begun. Every year we rely on local businesses and community members to invest in the community-focused work that Belle Plaine Community Development does for everyone here in our lovely town. Investments go towards everything that BPCDC does to uplift Belle Plaine: from all of the holiday and special events, to helping find resources and grants for small businesses, the beautification of our Main Street, and hopefully many more things in the days, months, and years to come.



Anyone interested in becoming an investor is encouraged to reach out to Emma at director@bpcdc.net, call in at 319-434-6481, or stop in at the office at 1214 9th Avenue – the lower level of the

Tippie-Mansfield Center. There are multiple levels for investing with different perks, although any amount of investing is greatly appreciated.

While I am still getting settled and organized into my role here at BPCDC, I have already enjoyed getting to meet with quite a few businesses in town. I haven't been able to visit everyone yet, I do have a working list, and if I haven't been around to you yet, I will be soon! Thank you to everyone for the support and well wishes as I have gotten started, I truly appreciate it.

I am still working on my project of updating and strengthening our Community Directory for our local businesses. If you have a business you would like to have listed, or an update for one currently on the list, please let me know! My hopes for this list is that it enables everyone to have a well-informed way of knowing what services and shops are right here in Belle Plaine so we can always have the choice to shop small and keep our economic growth trending upwards. Shopping local is the best way to support your small town!

