

The Bridge

Connecting with our residents

ECRWSS
Postal Patron
Standard
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 9
City of Belle Plaine

August • 2022

Message *from the* Mayor: A Busy Summer!

by Christopher G. Meyer – Mayor

It is amazing how quickly the days and weeks fly by as we all continue to be so busy. It seems like I was just writing my article for June and now we are already into August.

As a community, we were fortunate to have great weather for our annual Bar-B-Q Days celebration. We all knew it would be a hot weekend and this year did not disappoint. The final numbers have not been released but by the amount of people in the park and around town, the success was very evident. As mentioned in other years, this would not happen without the hundreds of volunteers that give their time and talent to pull together all of the activities, food stands, and sponsorships. This is really what the true meaning of small-town living is all about, where neighbors come together for the greater good of the whole community. So, on behalf of the City of Belle Plaine, thank you all who stepped up and did your part! It is so fun to be in the park and visit with people that grew up here and come back for that weekend to reconnect, as well as meeting many new friends and neighbors.

As one gets out and about, the sights and sounds of summer are in full swing and some of the activities coming to completion. We will now see several of the baseball and softball leagues and teams completing their seasons or starting the playoffs. This is always a huge reminder that summer is moving quick. Swimmers continue to enjoy the hot days at the Aquatic Center. As August hits and moves along many of our lifeguards return to college and the final weeks of that facility will soon be upon us as well. So, if you have not had the opportunity to visit the Aquatic Center, try

do so in the next few weeks to enjoy the experience before it closes for the season.

As a community, we continue to see many of the spring and summer projects well underway or in some cases nearing completion. Another sign of a busy season. Street maintenance, seal coating and park and trail maintenance all continue as part of the Public Works Department. They are also busy completing several large projects such as the redesign and redevelopment of Fountain Park. As we wait for the playground equipment to be installed much of the other ground work is underway and is in the final push. Another large project that is now substantially complete is that of the downtown gateway parking lot. This is now a great welcoming site into the downtown area and our city. A special shout-out to local business Gerres Welding and Manufacturing for your great skill and craftsmanship on the arch and fencing panels. This work is the highlight of that entire project. We are fortunate to have a dedicated and community focused business in our community to step up on this project.

As we are now into August, I encourage residents to get out and enjoy the community. The Food Truck and Music events continue every other week in the Downtown Plaza, which is always a very enjoyable family event. Farmers markets, church festivals, civic and service club events are all planned for the coming months so mark your calendar and help support our great community.

Enjoy the final weeks of summer in our favorite hometown.

... sights and sounds of summer are in full swing ..

2022 Primary Election is August 9

Here are a few items to note to help your voting experience at the polls:

- When voting in the primary election, it is very important to follow all instructions printed on your ballot. For state and federal offices, voters must choose a party and only vote down the selected party column. Minnesota's ballot recognizes four political parties, the voter chooses one party and only votes for the offices of that party.
- City offices are non-partisan offices; the ballot instructions will inform the voter as to how many candidates they may choose.
- Sample ballots may be viewed on the City's website or the MN Secretary of State website <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/whats-on-my-ballot/>
- If you are already registered to vote, presenting your driver's license is your choice but may speed up the process.
- If you have changed your name, moved, or haven't voted in the last four years you will need to register in order



Elections continued on page 2

to vote. Please have documentation available in order to register to vote on election day. A list of accepted registration documents can be found on the Minnesota Secretary of State website <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/media/4693/election-day-registration.pdf>.

- The polling location for City residents is 218 North Meridian Street. Enter on the north side of the building at the City Council Chamber Doors. Please follow signs directing voters.
- If you have any COVID symptoms, have been exposed to COVID, or have been directed to self-quarantine, please follow CDC guidelines. You may request an absentee ballot or utilize car side voting.

Please note that City Hall will be open Saturday, August 6th from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm for absentee voting. If voting absentee on the 6th, please use the front door at City Hall.

If you have any questions prior to election day, please contact City Hall at 952-873-5553.



Join us for

MUSIC & FOOD

in

DOWNTOWN BELLE PLAINE

(Downtown Plaza - corner of Main Street and Meridian Street)

Wednesday, August 10 & 24
and Friday, September 23

Live Music: 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Food Trucks & Business Specials: 4:30 pm - 8:00 pm

City Council Contacts:

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

218 N. Meridian St. | P. O. Box 129 | Belle Plaine, MN 56011
Phone: 952-873-5553 | Fax: 952-873-5509

www.belleplainemn.com



City Council Highlights & City Notices

July 18, 2022

- Approved Regular Session Minutes of June 21, 2022.
- Approved Work Session Minutes of June 21, 2022.
- Approved Accept Letter of Retirement from Todd Otto, Firefighter, Effective July 13, 2022.
- Approved Resolution 22-075 Appoint David Friest and Larry Hanson as Public Works Seasonal Employees.
- Approved Approve Temporary On Sale Liquor License for an Event on September 10, 2022 for Our Lady of the Prairie Church at 200 E. Church Street.
- Approved Resolution 22-076 Appointing Election Judges for the 2022 General Election and Assist with Absentee Voting.
- Approved Resolution 22-077 Appoint New Seasonal Life Guards for the 2022 Belle Plaine Aquatic Center Season.
- Approved Resolution 22-078 Adopting the Special Assessment for Delinquent Fire Bills.
- Approved Resolution 22-081 Authorize Purchase of a S64 Skid Loader for Public Works.
- Approved Resolution 22-082 Authorize Purchase of SCADA System Upgrade for the Public Works Wastewater Treatment Plant and Water Treatment Plant.
- Approved Resolution 22-083 Approving Guidelines and Policy for Paperless Council and Commission Meetings.
- Approved Resolution 22-080 Accepting the Preliminary Engineering Report and Calling for the Public Hearing on 2023 Improvement Project. 4-1.

Funds Still Available for Toilet Rebate

Conserve water by replacing your toilet. If you are a resident of Belle Plaine and have an active water and sewer utility account, you may be eligible for a \$75.00 rebate by replacing an existing toilet with a new high efficiency toilet with the WaterSense label on it. For details or to download an application visit the City website www.belleplaine.mn.com.



August 2022 Government Calendar

- 1** Design Committee5:15 p.m.
City Council 6:30 p.m.
Work Session 7:15 p.m.
Closed Session.....8:00 p.m.
- 8** EDA Commission..... 5:00 p.m.
Planning Commission 6:30 p.m.
- 9** Public Safety 7:30 a.m.
- 11** Public Works 9:00 a.m.
- 15** Parks Commission..... 5:00 p.m.
City Council 6:30 p.m.
Work Session 6:45 p.m.