

City View

Bettendorf IOWA
a premier city

Spring/Summer 2012

Keeping Bettendorf Residents Informed

City Hires Directors

City hires Elisa F. Topper as Library Director and
Brian Schmidt as Public Works Director



Elisa holds a Masters in Library Science from Florida State University and a Masters in Industrial Relations with an emphasis in personnel management from Loyola University of Chicago. Her extensive experience includes Business Reference Librarian, Special Librarian for a career counseling social service agency, Director of Training for the Chicago Public Library, among others.



Brian has worked for the City of Davenport since 2003 as the Senior Engineer and Stormwater Engineer. He is a graduate of University of Illinois, and is currently enrolled in a project management professional program at St. Ambrose University. Brian has a strong engineering background since working for McClure Engineering and private engineering firms in Iowa and Illinois.

Riverfront Recreation Trail

The new section of the Mississippi Riverfront Recreation Trail is complete. A ribbon cutting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Friday, May 18, which coincides with "Bike To Work Week" and is also the week that the Mississippi Riverfront Trail Inc. is meeting in Bettendorf.

The ceremony will mark the opening of the nearly two mile section of trail that extends the riverfront trail from the I-74 area to Riverdale. This is part of the Mississippi Riverfront Trail that stretches from the headwaters of the Mississippi in Minnesota, to the Gulf of Mexico. Included along the trail will be a scenic riverfront overlook site, located near the intersection of Elm and 35th Street. This multi use trail expansion will improve the quality of life for residents, and provide an even greater tourism attraction for a fast growing group of trail users.

For more information call 563-344-4113.

Pink Heals Tour Coming to Bettendorf

QC Pink Heals fundraiser supports those battling cancer, cancer survivors, and their families

If you see a fleet of pink fire trucks on the road this summer, don't panic. It's just the Pink Heals Tour coming to Bettendorf. Manned by a team of firefighters from across the country called "Guardians of the Ribbon," the procession will arrive at Faye's Field on Wednesday, August 15. Activities will be held from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

The event is still in the planning stages, but you can count on great entertainment, food, and of course, the opportunity to see and photograph the pink fire trucks. Also, local firefighters will be selling Pink Heals t-shirts.

For more information on the Quad Cities Pink Heals Tour, visit qcwearpink.org.





MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Mayor Bob Gallagher

What a beautiful spring. Unseasonably warm temperatures have allowed us to be outside, using the exceptional recreational opportunities in Bettendorf. Spring optimism can also be found in other areas of city government, thanks to the staff's fiscal management and our forward thinking council.

After taking office in January, I worked with the City Council and Department Heads to create a five year strategic plan. The plan includes continued aggressive capital improvement projects, help for businesses that might be displaced by the I-74 bridge project, additional amenities, increased trails and recreational opportunities, and economic development and growth for our City.

An outgrowth of our strategic planning session was the community summit, at which we sought input from citizens representing many diverse groups. At the summit we heard positive feedback related to future recreational amenities as well as our plans to attract new business development. The information from our strategic planning session and the community summit was used to create the City's 2012-2013 fiscal year budget.

On March 6, the City Council voted to reduce the city's property tax levy from \$12.60 to \$12.55 per \$1,000.00 of property valuation. This reduction shows the council's commitment to maintaining our wonderful amenities and services at a reasonable cost to our residents. Bettendorf consistently ranks as one of the least expensive of the largest 15 cities in Iowa in which to live.

It was also decided to add a firefighter next year. This proves that the City Council has made public safety its number one priority.

Economic development was a major part of the discussions during the strategic plan, community summit, and budgeting process. The shops at the former Shopko/Joevan Center are now complete. We welcome Burlington Coat Factory, Upper Iowa University and Pizza Ranch restaurant, all are now open. These businesses took advantage of an 11 year tax increment financing rebate. This incentive was created by the City Council to spur development on this formerly dilapidated site with a requirement that all projects be completed by the end of 2012. This district has experienced a surge in valuation, which is great for our City.

Now that construction is complete, Council has turned its attention to the I-80/Middle Road corridor, where you will see crews working on sewer installation on Middle Road this summer. The City is committed to finding the right type of development for this corridor.

We are also working to repair or replace our City's aging roadways. Two of our major projects include the complete replacement of Tanglefoot Lane from 18th Street to Greenbrier and work on 29th Street.

Another attraction to both businesses and residents is our green space. On October 1, 2011, the City hosted an open house and dedication ceremony for Faye's Field located near the Library and Family Museum at the Learning Campus.

The site is named after Faye Clow who played an integral role in the development of the Bettendorf Learning Campus and managed the City's public library for 30 years, before retiring in 2008. Faye passed away on February 18, 2011, after a brief illness. The City is glad to honor her passion with Faye's Field.

Looking forward to future development, the City also acquired approximately 100 acres on Forest Grove Road for a park. The Pleasant Valley School District owns land adjacent to ours where they plan to build a school. We are working together to create a strategy that will benefit both the city and the school system. This is an example of the type of collaboration that will serve the community well in the future.

This summer will also bring continued construction of separated trails. These trails are typically 10 feet wide and placed along major arterial streets. The trails provide a variety of benefits to our citizens that include an alternate mode of transportation, recreation access for runners, walkers, cyclists and healthy lifestyle choices for everyone. More importantly, these trails provide connectivity for citizens that cannot transport themselves in vehicles. The major trail construction projects that will be completed this year include the Devils Glen trail from Middle Road to Devils Glen Park, and the Middle Road trail from Devils Glen Road to Parkway Drive.

The City will continue to help those businesses who may be forced to relocate as a result of the I-74 corridor project. This summer you will see more demolition in areas along the bridge route to prepare for bridge construction.

We all know Bettendorf is a wonderful place to live, work, and play. I look forward to working with City Council and staff in 2012 to move our City forward.

Thank you to council and staff for helping me transition into my new role as Mayor. Your help is much appreciated.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The 4th of July holiday is just around the corner and so is Bettendorf's 4th of July parade & festival.

Beginning June 1, watch Cable Channel 9 or visit www.bettendorf.org for updates.

Mayor and City Council



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CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

City Council holds its regular meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole meetings are held at 5:00 p.m. on the Monday prior to the regular meeting and on the fourth Monday of each month, if necessary. All meetings are held at City Hall, 1609 State Street, 2nd floor.

City Information

CITY OFFICES CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS

New Year's, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents' Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving, day after Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

There is no garbage, yard/bulky waste, recycling pick up on the above holidays, except for Good Friday. Check your garbage guide, Channel 9, webpage or Citizen Information E-mail for holiday pickup schedule.

CITY WEBPAGE
www.bettendorf.org

CITY ADMINISTRATOR
Decker Ploehn
563/344-4007
dploehn@bettendorf.org

CITY OFFICE HOURS
8:00 a.m-5:00 p.m.
Monday-Friday

GENERAL INFORMATION NUMBERS

City Hall
563/344-4000

Police Department
563/344-4015
Emergency: **911**

Fire Department
563/344-4052
Emergency: **911**

Family Museum
563/344-4106

Library
563/344-4175

Parks & Recreation
Administration
563/344-4113

Building Inspection Services
563/344-4074

Public Works
Garbage, Yard Waste, &
Recycling
563/344-4088

Engineering
563/344-4055

Mass Transit
563/344-4085

Building Maintenance
563/344-4065

Community Center
563/344-4112

Splash Landing
563/344-4124

Life Fitness Center
563/344-4119

Palmer Hills
Golf Course
563/332-8296

Economic Development
563/344-4060

Community Development
563/344-4055

Code Enforcement
563/344-4064

Outdoor Summer Concert Series

The Bettendorf Public Library will host the most amazing outdoor concert series beginning Thursday, June 7, from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m., and continuing every Thursday through July 26, at the same time.

The Summer Concert Series will be held at the new Faye's Field, located on the Learning Campus, between the Library and the Family Museum. These concerts will bring a variety of music to Bettendorf, including appearances by Whoozdads?, The Josh Duffee Orchestra, Danika Holmes, and more.

The performances are free and open to all ages. Attendees are encouraged to bring a picnic dinner to enjoy during the event. No seating will be provided, so also bring either blankets or lawn chairs.

For further details contact the Library at 563-344-4175. The Summer Concert Series is sponsored by the Bettendorf Public Library Foundation.

Check Out Palmer Hills this Summer!

Over the years, Palmer Hills Golf Course has provided many hours of enjoyment to residents and visitors. Due to the commitment of the City Council and Park Board, a number of improvements have been made to the course.

Over the past six years, improvements include a new clubhouse, electric carts, permanent asphalt surfaces on parking lots, enhanced landscaping, repairs to the erosion issues on holes 9 and 10, completed renovations to holes 14, 15, and 16, and now in the process of replacing the entire golf course irrigation system.

Renovations are scheduled to be completed by late June. Until then, Palmer Hills is offering a \$25 "play all day" rate that includes golf cart. Partial season passes are also available for more frequent players, \$249 and \$199 for golfers 60 and older. With the partial season pass, golfers can play any time and any day of the week through June 30. Carts are not included.

For further information about the golf course, call 563-332-8296 or visit www.palmerhillsgolf.com.

Volunteer Opportunity

Parks & Recreation is looking for volunteers to serve as Park Ambassadors. Volunteers watch for vandalism, assist park visitors, provide first aid, and act as "Good Will Ambassadors" for the City.

The City provides a shirt and hat for easy identification. Shifts run every evening 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Each ambassador works one night a week and placed in teams of two, whenever possible.

Applications are available at City Hall, 1609 State Street or at the Herbert D. Goettch Community Center, 2204 Grant Street. Call 563/344-7170 for further information.



Family Museum's Summer Traveling Exhibit: Building Brainstorm



The Family Museum unique summer exhibit, *Building Brainstorm*, opens Saturday, May 19.

Step inside a design studio and become an architect, designer, or engineer. Visitors can design a dream home, build a skyscraper model, rearrange furniture, and much more. The exhibition introduces children to the design process, including collaborative problem-solving, planning, revisions, and execution.

This is a bilingual (English and Spanish) show created by Brooklyn Children's Museum in association with The Center for Architecture Foundation.

More Summer Fun at the Family Museum

The Family Museum has plenty of week-long camps to keep kids busy this summer! Ages 3 to 10 will enjoy *All About Slime*, *Cooking Up Fun*, and *Bug Hug*.

Disney Princess Dance Camps is offered all summer. Dance with Belle, Cinderella, and Ariel. Also enjoy Hip Hop Camps, Camp Rock, and Superhero Training Camp.

For a complete summer schedule, visit www.familymuseum.org or call 563-344-4170.

Museum's Summer Hours

Summer hours begin Tuesday, May 29

Monday through Saturday
9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Thursdays
Open until 8:00 p.m. with half-price admission after 5:00 p.m.

Sundays
Noon-5:00 p.m., half price admission



1609 State Street
Bettendorf, Iowa 52722

Would You Like to Know What is Happening in the City of Bettendorf?

Visit the City's webpage at www.bettendorf.org, watch Cable Channel 9, or follow the City on Twitter.

Subscribe to the Citizen's Information E-Mail List.

You will receive weekly updates on city events, holiday schedules, garbage collection schedules, job openings, and more! Information will be sent as plain text or Adobe Acrobat (PDF). Your e-mail address will not be shared with or sold to any third party. You may unsubscribe at any time.

To join, visit the City's webpage at www.bettendorf.org and click on the Citizen Information E-mail link located on the main page under the "Did You Know" section.

Sign up for the 2012 Fall Bettendorf 101: City Citizen Academy

The academy gives residents an in-depth look at how their city government operates through discussions, demonstrations, and site visits.

We are now taking names for the 2012 fall Bettendorf 101: City Citizen Academy, which is scheduled to begin on Thursday, September 6. The City hosts two academies each year, spring and fall. Each academy runs for approximately seven weeks. Classes are held on Thursday nights from 6:00 until 9:00 p.m. with the exception of bus tours.

Participants should not miss more than two sessions. During the academy, participants may be asked to climb stairs, take part in walking tours, and sit for an extended period of time. You must be at least 18 years of age and be a resident of Bettendorf. To make sure every attendee gets the most out of the academy, class size is kept to 30 participants.

To have your name added to the list for the next academy, please e-mail lhaldeman@bettendorf.org or call 563/344-4033. Space is limited. If you do not make the fall academy, your name will be added to the list for 2013 spring academy.

For more information about Bettendorf 101: City Citizen Academy, visit the City's webpage at www.bettendorf.org and click on the link located on the main page under the "Did You Know" section.