Only a year and half ago, construction for the new I-74 River Bridge began and so much has been accomplished. The Iowa and Illinois departments of transportation have made huge strides, including constructing the westbound foundations that will hold the 164-foot tall arches, as well as starting to set the steel girders over the river piers. All 239 drilled shaft foundations for the eastbound and westbound river crossing have also been completed.

From ice to rising river levels, working in the river can be very challenging. Construction workers hop onto crew boats each day to get to the work sites, and they rely on barges to deliver project materials such as steel and concrete in all types of weather. But sometimes it gets too cold or the rain causes flooding and bridge work has to slow for a while.

With extraordinary effort and patience, crews are working to make the I-74 River Bridge a reality.

In Bettendorf, you can already see new roadway taking shape north of the river. Nearly all of the Y-shaped piers are complete.

The deck for the new I-74 westbound viaduct, off-ramp to Grant Street, and on-ramp along 14th Street are progressing well. In addition, about 3,000 feet of storm sewers have been installed along the median of I-74.

What’s next?
Having a faster, more reliable I-74 will be worth it in the end, but it will require cooperation and patience. Next year, the DOT will begin removing the westbound viaducts (bridges over land) to make way for the new bridge structure. In order to do this, local traffic will need to be detoured around the viaducts via 14th Street in Bettendorf and 19th Street in Moline. The westbound bridge crossing will remain open, but it will be reduced to one lane for local traffic only. Eastbound I-74 traffic patterns will remain the same as they are today throughout 2019. All interstate thru traffic will be detoured to I-80 and I-280 during this time.

Did you know?
Access across the Mississippi River using I-74 will always remain open in both directions for local traffic throughout construction.

Throughout construction, you’ll always have access to downtown, businesses, and all special events in Bettendorf and Moline.

Remember....
Drive with caution, obey the posted speed limit and watch for construction signs in the work area!
Mayor’s Message

The City of Bettendorf is recognized as one of the most sought-after communities in which to live, work and play. Over the years, Bettendorf has adapted a unique lifestyle that combines a vibrant business community and premier residential living. I am proud of what we have accomplished and I’m excited about the changes that are occurring in our city.

I’d like to start with our downtown. The new I-74 bridge is taking shape. You can see that nearly all of the Y-shaped piers are complete and waiting for the decking to be affixed in the coming months. We are still expecting a completion date of 2021. If you are like me, fascinated with the bridge construction, I recommend visiting the city’s webpage at www.bettendorf.org and clicking on the live camera feed link. You can watch the construction of the new bridge any time of day or night.

The Bridges Lofts should have its first occupants this December. Many of the apartments will have riverfront views, along with many other cool amenities. This Bridges is a great addition to our downtown that has already spurred development on neighboring parcels.

The State Street Fire Station renovation was recently completed. It includes 4,250 square-foot of new space on the first floor and a 1,280 square-foot on the second floor. There are now three new bays to house fire apparatuses, second floor sleeping quarters, and first floor administrative offices. The existing bays were renovated into extra storage and office space, which are much needed additions to the station.

Work has begun on the City Hall Plaza, which will incorporate sculptures, landscaping, a pedestrian path, and a fountain. These improvements will be completed in time for the holidays, with the new annual plantings coming in the spring.

Ascentra Corporate Headquarters, a 40,000 square-foot building, is being constructed in the downtown area. When completed, there will be over 100 employees housed out of their new facility. The anticipated completion date is June 2019.

Recently, a wonderful addition to the riverfront was open to the public. The Riverfront Jetty, located where the Isle riverboat was previously docked, has a park setting with beautiful landscaping, benches, and bike path. The jetty can be rented for special occasions by contacting the Isle of Capri.

Other areas of the city have also seen growth and change. The TBK Bank Sports Complex, which is located at the corner of Middle Road and Forest Grove Road, opened this year. The sports complex has hosted over 1,800 sports teams, and has created over $10 million in economic impact on the region to date.

Because of the growth and changes in our city, we have received many awards, including the Certificate of Verification for the City of Bettendorf in partnership with MidAmerican in a 100% Renewable Energy Vision. This certificate verifies that 50.8% of electricity delivered to Bettendorf customers came from renewable sources. This percentage will grow annually as MidAmerican Energy’s wind projects are completed.

We will continue to see new housing development in our city. There will be more regional and national sports competitions coming to Bettendorf, which will complement our residential growth with tourism dollars. Investments in our infrastructure will continue, which will support housing and economic development, not only in Bettendorf but the entire Quad Cities. Greater broadband capacity and higher speeds will be available for residents and businesses, making our community more connected.

So many changes, so little time. If you would like to learn more about our City, please follow us on Facebook and Twitter. You can also visit our webpage at www.bettendorf.org or take part in our Bettendorf 101: City Citizen Academy. You can also contact me directly, or your council person, if you have any questions or concerns.
Car Burglaries Continue

Car burglaries and car thefts continue to plague Bettendorf and the Quad Cities. The Bettendorf Police Department has had 51 reported stolen vehicles since the beginning of 2018. There have been over 670 stolen vehicles total this year in the Quad Cities. Please always remember to take your keys out and lock your vehicles whether in your garage or outside.

It is also a good idea to keep a detailed inventory of your valuable possessions, including a description of the items, date of purchase, original value, and serial numbers. Keep a copy in a safe place away from home. This is a good precaution in case of fires or other disasters. Make a photographic or video record of valuable objects, heirlooms and antiques. Your insurance company can provide assistance in making and keeping your inventory.

You can also mark your valuables with your driver's license number using an engraver. Marked items are harder for a burglar to dispose of and easier for police to recover and identify the rightful owner.

Iowa School Bus Safety

The Bettendorf Police Department reminds drivers about required stopping for school buses. Information from the Iowa Department of Transportation

Scenario 1: Traveling on a Two or Three-Lane Road

Approaching the bus from the rear: When you see flashing red or amber warning lights, you are not permitted to pass the school bus and should be prepared to stop. Stop behind the school bus when the school bus stops and the stop arm is extended. Stop no closer than 15 feet from the rear of the bus, and remain stopped until the stop arm is retracted and school bus starts moving again. Proceed with caution.

Meeting bus from the front: When you see amber warning lights flashing you must slow your vehicle to no more than 20 mph and be prepared to stop. Stop in front of the bus when the school bus stops and its stop arm is extended. Remain stopped until the stop arm is retracted. Proceed with caution.

Scenario 2: Traveling on a Road with Two or More Lanes in Each Direction

Approaching the bus from the rear: When approaching from the rear, the rules are the same as for a two- or three-lane road. When you see flashing red or amber warning lights, you are not permitted to pass the school bus and should be prepared to stop. Stop behind the school bus when the school bus stops and its stop arm is extended. Stop no closer than 15 feet from the rear of the bus, and remain stopped until the stop arm is retracted and school bus starts moving again. Proceed with caution.

Meeting the bus from the front: When meeting the bus in one of the opposite two lanes (or more), you do not need to stop, even if the bus has stopped with lights flashing and stop arm out. The bus is not permitted to load/unload children who must cross this type of roadway, unless there are traffic control devices or law enforcement present. This is the only time you may pass a school bus that is stopped and has its stop arm extended.

Also Remember:

• Never pass a school bus with flashing lights from the rear.

• School bus drivers may prepare written reports of vehicles that pass a stopped school bus and deliver those reports to law enforcement. The local law enforcement agency shall initiate an investigation to identify the driver. If the driver cannot be identified then the owner of the vehicle can be charged for the violation.

• 1st Offense conviction for passing a school bus carries a fine of $250.00 to $675.00 and a mandatory 30-day suspension of your Iowa driver's license.

• National school bus safety week is October 22-October 26.

On October 30 from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., members of the Bettendorf Police Department will be hosting an educational event in front of Hy-Vee located at 2900 Devils Glen Road. Officers will be distributing reusable cloth grocery bags and providing educational materials on school bus safety.
Sign Up for Alert Iowa

Alert Iowa is a statewide emergency messaging system that can be used by state and cities to disseminate emergency information. Messages can be issued via landline, wireless phone, text, and/or email. If you would like to receive alerts issued from the City of Bettendorf, select “Bettendorf” in the community section. This system is offered through the Scott County Emergency Management Agency and the State of Iowa.

To learn more about Alert Iowa or to sign up, visit www.bettendorf.org and click on the Alert Iowa link located on the main page. If you do not have internet access and you need help registering, please call 866-998-9367.

Citizen Request Application

The City now offers YourGOV, a free innovative citizen request application that allows residents to conveniently report non-emergency issues/service requests using the web or smartphone.

In just a few steps, YourGOV users can submit common issues such as potholes or vandalism, complete with location, details, and photos. Once submitted, YourGOV will automatically deliver requests to city staff.

To submit a request or to learn more about the application, visit www.bettendorf.org and click on the YourGov icon on the main page.

Users of the Apple iPhone can download the free YourGOV app in iTunes App Store. Users of Android smartphones can download the free app in the Google Play Store.
Bettendorf’s holiday celebration “Tis the Season” will be held on Sunday, December 9, at the Waterfront Convention Center. Doors open at 1:00 p.m. and entertainment will begin at 1:30 p.m.

Seniors 60 and above are invited to enjoy holiday music, entertainment, and refreshments. This event is free and open to all QC seniors.

Registration begins Tuesday, November 13 until Monday, December 3 or until event is full.

Beginning November 13, call 563-344-4000 to RSVP.

NO EARLY REGISTRATIONS.

Tis the Season Returns

Winterfest will be held at the Family Museum on Sunday, December 2, from noon - 5:00 p.m. This event is free with a donation to the food pantry.

Visitors will enjoy fun activities for all ages including holiday crafts, performances by the Family Museum dancers and other musical groups. Children will meet Santa and Mrs. Claus and real reindeer. For more information call 563-344-4106.

Noon Year’s Eve

Countdown to 12:00...NOON, that is! It’s a special New Year’s party for the younger set at the Family Museum on December 31, 9:00 a.m.-noon.

There will be music, noisemakers, hats, and confetti. Admission is $9 /person.

The academy is a free seven week workshop that gives residents an in-depth look at how their City operates.

There are two academies each year, spring and fall. Classes are held on Thursday nights from 6:00-9:00 p.m. with the exception of bus tours.

Participants should not miss more than two sessions, and may be asked to climb stairs, take part in walking tours, and sit for an extended period of time.

The 2019 spring academy Begins Thursday, April 4. To register call 563-344-4033 or email your name, address, phone number, and email address to lhaldein@bettendorf.org.

Space is limited and class will fill quickly.

For more information about the academy, visit www.bettendorf.org and click on the link located on the main page.

Sign Up for Bettendorf 101: City Citizen Academy

You must be a Bettendorf resident and be at least 18 years of age.

Visit Discover Bettendorf to view a calendar of special events, to find places to stay and great restaurants.

Looking for a special gift, visit the City’s on-line store where you can purchase merchandise with the city logo.

Both Discover Bettendorf and the City’s on-line store can be found at www.bettendorf.org.

Follow the City of Bettendorf on Twitter and Facebook
Are You Ready for Winter?

As winter approaches, staff prepares for snow/ice control. The following information will help residents understand their responsibilities during the winter months.

As winter approaches, staff has already begun the preparation for this year’s winter maintenance season. The following information will help residents understand their responsibilities during the winter months.

The city standard for snow/ice control is bare pavement everywhere on public streets within 24 hours following the cessation of snowfall from an average storm of 4-6”. Alleys are the last priority and will be accomplished, unless successive snow events require city assets to be employed on main streets continuously.

Residents are encouraged to remove vehicles from streets to allow crews to push snow to the curb. City Code prohibits parking in turnaround areas of cul-de-sacs until snow is cleared.

When clearing driveways, make sure the snow is not pushed into the street. This is covered by City Code and violators can be cited. It is an operational hazard that crews sometimes plow snow back into driveways when pushing snow to the curb.

City Code requires sidewalks to be cleared of snow and ice within 48 hours of the conclusion of snow event. This means bare surfaces, regardless of how much snow falls or ice accumulates.

Any sidewalk over six feet wide is the city’s responsibility to clear. Any sidewalk six feet wide or less is the responsibility of the homeowner. This includes not only sidewalks in front of the home, but also in the back of the property and beyond a privacy fence that may surround the backyard. Property owners who fail to do this can be cited and the city will do the work by contractor and charge the resident.

Questions concerning residents’ responsibilities during winter months, call Public Works at 563-344-4088.

Skating Season is Almost Here!

Frozen Landing Family Ice Rink opens November 23, weather permitting.

The rink, which is located at Middle Road and 23rd Street, is open to all ages and ability levels. There is no charge to skate. Skate rentals are available for $2.00 for both children and adults. Concessions will be available for purchase.

No hockey is allowed on the rink.

Hours of operation are:
Monday thru Thursday, 3:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Friday, 3:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Sunday, Noon - 6:00 p.m.
These hours may change depending on the weather.

For more information, call 563-549-0587 after November 23.

Cross Country Skiing at Palmer Hills Golf Course

Palmer Hills Golf Course will offer groomed cross country skiing trails, weather permitting. Rental equipment including skis, poles, and boots will be available for all ages. The cost of rentals is $5 per hour with $12 daily maximum.

Equipment Rental Hours:
Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
These offerings will be dependent upon a 4” minimum snow pack.

For more information, call Palmer Hills Golf Course at 563-332-8296.