Progress is a bit slower than anticipated for the arch in general, but it is critical that the project team take time at this phase to ensure that the arch is correctly positioned before moving on to the next piece.

This year, the progress has been steady on both sides of the river to expand I-74. Contractors are paving interstate lanes and ramps, reconstructing I-74 overpasses, building retaining walls, and constructing the viaducts (bridge over land). While detours are needed to complete these tasks, improvements are continually made to your route, including improvements to traffic signal timings and signage as well as to the traffic flow on the interstate ramps. Detours and road closures are inconvenient, but it will all be worth it in the end. Your patience and understanding have helped make everything go smoothly.

Watch the progress on webcams at I74RiverBridge.com and follow the project @I74RiverBridge on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

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**MATERIALS USED IN 2019**

**IOWA**

- 14,400 CUBIC YARDS OF CONCRETE
- 580,000 LBS OF REBAR
- 1.7M LBS OF STRUCTURAL STEEL

**RIVER BRIDGE**

- 22,000 CUBIC YARDS OF CONCRETE
- 1.5M LBS OF BLACK REBAR
- 1.7M LBS OF STAINLESS STEEL REBAR
- 4.5M LBS OF STRUCTURAL STEEL

**ILLINOIS**

- 13,000 CUBIC YARDS OF CONCRETE
- 3.2M LBS OF REBAR
- 3.3M LBS OF STRUCTURAL STEEL

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**I-74 River Bridge Construction Update**

Everyone is excited about the new I-74 River Bridge and it’s fascinating to witness the construction in the river. As 30 steel pieces come together to form the arch for the Iowa bound bridge, each and every step is carefully calculated.

Some of you may have heard a rumor circulating that the arch alignment is off, maybe even by five feet. This rumor is false! The angle and position of the arch is inspected and adjusted every step of the way and the alignment is currently within the allowable limits. The arch is built using a cantilever method with cable stays. The cable stays are anchored at the base of the piers located on either end of the arches. They are then attached from the vertical supports (the green/blue towers) to the arch segments as they are installed to allow the contractor to adjust the angle and position.
Since I have been Mayor, the focus for the City of Bettendorf has been to have a financially sound community with quality services, a growing business population, and a destination for entertainment and living. For the past several years, city leaders and staff have been working diligently to achieve these aggressive goals.

In FY 18/19, Bettendorf continued our approach of having a lean operating budget but aggressive capital investment. Finance is in the process of closing FY 18/19 that ended June 30. It is expected that all funds will end the fiscal year within budget and with adequate fund balances to start the new year. Stable fund balances are the foundation for financial sustainability and help us to keep taxes low and to respond to surprises, such as harsh winters and flooding.

It is no surprise that the City has seen a rise in new residential construction projects. From January to September 2019, there have been 196 building permits issued, which include single family, condos/townhouses, and apartments. The City has also seen a growth in new businesses. If you drive by the TBK Bank Sports Complex, you will see new restaurants, a coffee shop, a gas station and convenient store, a hotel, and much more. The value of this growth tops $30 Million.

To continue to offer the best amenities, the City conducted a Feasibility Study, managed by the firm Perkins+Will out of Chicago. The purpose for the study was to assess whether Splash Landing, the Community Center, and the Life Fitness Center should be improved or potentially replaced. Recently, residents were asked to give their opinions concerning the future of these amenities. Conceptual drawings of a new recreation/fitness/community center should be completed and presented at a joint meeting with the Council and Park Board in the near future.

In 2019, the City spent approximately $10M on road construction. We have over 25 projects ranging from $50,000 for pavement preservation on new asphalt streets and alleys to $1.8M on the extension of Hopewell Avenue from its current end East of Middle Road to Criswell Street. Several other large projects included over $550,000 spent on patching Middle Road from Devils Glen Road to Belmont Road in preparation for an overlay next Spring, over $825,000 on patching on Devils Glen Road and almost $1M on the extension of the Spruce Hills Recreational Trail from Utica Ridge Road to 18th Street. We anticipate another aggressive construction program in 2020, which will include projects such as the reconstruction of 18th Street from Lincoln Road to Central Avenue, a hot-mix asphalt overlay of Middle Road from Devils Glen Road to Belmont Road and extensive full depth patching of Middle Road from Belmont Road to Woodfield Drive.

We are also preparing for this winter in several ways. We have begun receiving additional salt deliveries to supplement our remaining supply from last year and will continue doing so until we reach capacity of approximately 6,500 tons. Last Winter, we used approximately 5,500 tons of salt and we have the ability to purchase beyond our 6,500 tons as needed during the winter season. Staff is reviewing snow routes and procedures in a continuing effort to provide the best snow removal possible.

Before I close, I do want to talk about the 2020 Census and why it is important that every Bettendorf resident is counted. We need to ensure that our City receives its fair share of federal funds for essential programs such as health care, education, housing, business growth, and to strengthen our political representation at the regional, state and federal levels. The information gathered from the Census gives the City Council and staff the tools to make decisions and help plan for our City’s future. It is important to know that your responses are safe and protected by federal law. Your information cannot be used against you by any government agency including the FBI, CIA, DHS or ICE. If you would like to learn more about the 2020 Census, please visit 2020CENSUS.GOV. The City will also share information about the Census through its website, www.bettendorf.org, and on social media.
New Radar Speed Signs in School Zones

The City has begun installation of new radar speed signs in school zones. Existing electronic signage is being replaced and additional locations will be added during the process.

The goals of the new signage is to increase drivers’ awareness as they enter school zones. Drivers need to be alert in these areas due to the increase in pedestrian traffic, the presence of crossing guards stopping traffic, and the possibility of traffic backups at peak times.

School calendars, school zone times, and speeds can be programmed to ensure that signage can be turned off/on and is correct based on the time and day of the week. The Police Department will also have cloud access to data collected by the signs that will provide alerts if vehicles are speeding in specific school zones, which will allow the department to focus enforcement efforts in areas where it is most needed.

The speed limit in school zones in the City of Bettendorf is 25 mph. Drivers need to be attentive to speed limit signage in each school zone and heed the visual warnings provided by the electronic signs.

Smoke Testing in Sanitary Sewer System

Earlier this summer, McClure Engineering Co. began the process of smoke testing the City’s sanitary sewer system to help identify sources of inflow and infiltration (I&I). This testing will be a two-year process done during the drier summer months, and the results will be combined with sewer flow monitoring data to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the sewers. Reducing I&I is extremely important as it can cause the system to be overloaded, which can lead to backups in homes, pipe failures, and treatment issues at the Water Pollution Control Plant. All of those potential problems come at a price to residents as sewer rates have to be increased to help fund repairs or fund the increased treatment costs. In a perfect system, the water and sanitary sewer systems would form a closed loop where every gallon of water that is pumped out by Iowa American Water Co. would either be consumed by residents by drinking or cooking or be accounted for in the sanitary sewers as wastewater. Unfortunately as pipes age, they deteriorate and groundwater enters the system. That additional water is referred to as infiltration. Inflow is the result of direct illegal connections such as storm sewers or sump pumps being tied into the sanitary system. Because of this I&I in the system, we are forced to regularly treat several million additional gallons a day and sometimes tens of millions of gallons during rainy days. Smoke testing is the industry standard process to help find these sources.

The smoke testing process itself involves isolating manageable sections of the sewer system and then blowing smoke through that section of the system. If there are any defects in the main sewer pipes or private sewer laterals serving individual homes, or if there are illegal storm sewer cross connections, the smoke will rise to the surface and reveal these problems. The field staff from McClure will document those areas and utilize that data to help develop future construction projects to correct the problems. The smoke itself is made specifically for sewer testing and is non-toxic and non-staining. Residents will be notified approximately seven days before the sewer serving their home is planned to be tested. The flyer will provide instructions on how to prepare your plumbing system to reduce any chances for smoke entering the home.

More information concerning smoke testing can be found on the homepage of the City’s website, www.bettendorf.org.
General Information Numbers

City Hall  
563-344-4000  
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Monday-Friday

City Administrator  
Decker Ploehn  
563-344-4007  
dploehn@bettendorf.org

Police Department  
563-344-4015  
Emergency: 911

Fire Department  
563-344-4030  
Emergency: 911

Family Museum  
563-344-4106

Library  
563-344-4175

Human Resources  
563-344-4009

Economic Development  
563-344-4060

Garbage, Yard Waste & Recycling  
563-344-4088

Sewer and Garbage Fees  
563-344-4003

Community Development  
563-344-4100

Code Enforcement  
563-344-4064

Building Inspection  
563-344-4074

Parks Administration  
563-344-4113

Community Center  
563-344-4112

Splash Landing  
563-344-4124

Life Fitness Center  
563-344-4119

Palmer Hills Golf Course  
563-332-8296

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 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.
Return of Winterfest

A $1 or canned food donation for the River Bend Foodbank is all you need for admission. Cash donations are preferred as every dollar donated provides five meals for those in need.

Visitors will meet a reindeer, take a picture with Santa, and make festive crafts. They will also enjoy performances by the Family Museum Dance Company, the Quad City Symphony Youth Choir, and other local musical groups.

Winterfest is sponsored by U.S. Cellular Wireless Central. Reindeer sponsored by Northwest Bank & Trust Company.

For more information call 563-344-4106.

Celebrate with Tis the Season!

Tis the Season is Sunday, December 15, at the Waterfront Convention Center. Doors open at 1:00 p.m. and entertainment begins 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.

Noon Year’s Eve

Countdown to 12:00...NOON, that is! The Family Museum’s Noon Year’s Eve is a special New Year’s party for the younger population, which will be held on December 31, 9:00 a.m.-Noon.

There will be music, noisemakers, hats, and confetti. Event is included with paid admission.

Sponsored by Ascentra Credit Union

This winter there is “snow” better place to beat cabin fever than the Bettendorf Public Library.

The 4th Annual Winter Carnival, scheduled for Saturday, February 1 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., is a city-wide event with indoor and outdoor (weather permitting) activities at the Library, Family Museum, Life Fitness Center, Palmer Hills Golf Course, and Frozen Landing.

During the Winter Carnival, the Library will offer drop-in activities, crafts, and informational stations. There will also be a Little Hands site with unique activities for the younger patrons. For more information call 563-344-4175.

Cozy up with a book, movie, or audiobook and join the Library’s Winter Reading Program. The reading programs for children, teens, and adults begin on Monday, January 6 and wrap up on Saturday, February 15.

Starting January 6, register at www.bettendorflibrary.com or in person at the Library.

Winter Reading Programs and Winter Carnival are sponsored by the Friends of the Bettendorf Public Library.
Bettendorf 101: City Citizen Academy
The academy is a free seven week workshop that gives residents an in-depth look at how the City operates through discussions, demonstrations, and site visits. Classes are held on Thursdays from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. with the exception of bus tours.

For more information, visit www.bettendorf.org and click on the link located on the main page.
To sign up for the 2020 spring academy, email your name, address, phone number, and email address to lhaldeman@bettendorf.org or call 563-344-4033.

Visit Discover Bettendorf to view a calendar of events, to find places to stay, and great restaurants.
Looking for a special gift? Visit the City’s on-line store and purchase merchandise with the city logo.
Both Discover Bettendorf and the City’s on-line store can be found at www.bettendorf.org.

Skating Season is Almost Here!
Frozen Landing Family Ice Rink opens November 27, weather permitting.

The rink, which is located at Middle Road and 23rd Street, is open to all ages and ability levels. Admission is $1.00. Skate rentals are available for $2.00 for both children and adults. Light concessions will be available for purchase. **No hockey is allowed on the rink.**

Hours of operation are:
Mondays: 1:30-9:00 p.m. 
Tuesdays: 3:00-9:00 p.m.
Wednesdays: 1:30-9:00 p.m.
Thursdays: 3:00-9:00 p.m.
Fridays: 3:00-10:00 p.m.
Saturdays: 10:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
Sundays: Noon-6:00 p.m.
January 20 & February 17 (Holiday Hours) Noon-9:00 p.m.
**These hours may change depending on the weather.**

For information about schedules, call 563-549-0587 after November 27.

Cross Country Skiing at Palmer Hills
**Downhill sledding available on Hole 1.**
Palmer Hills Golf Course will offer groomed cross country skiing trails, weather permitting. Rental equipment 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 563-332-8296.

Are You Ready for Winter?
As winter approaches, staff prepares for snow/ice control. The following information will help residents understand their responsibilities during winter months.

The City’s 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 and recreational trails 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. During snow and ice control procedures by the City, it is common for plowed snow to be pushed and/or thrown back onto sidewalks, driveways, and aprons especially around corners. This unfortunate event results from the need to maintain certain speeds and plow angles to provide efficient and safe snow and ice control. While the City strives to minimize the effects of this thrown snow, it is inherent to snow and ice control activities. Removal of this additional accumulation of material on sidewalks, driveways, or aprons is the responsibility of the abutting property owner.

The City will repair any turf that is damaged from plowing operations. Damage due to deicing chemicals will not be repaired by the City.

The City will not repair damages to any landscaping (hardscaping, plants, irrigation systems, or accessories such as lighting) that is within the right of way.

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 (6’) wide is the city’s responsibility to clear. Any sidewalk six feet (6’) 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.

For questions concerning responsibilities during winter months, call Public Works at 563-344-4088.