

Celebrating Over 200 Years of History, Tradition and Progress

COMMUNITY OF CHARACTER WORDS OF THE MONTH

- October**
Responsibility
- November**
Peace
- December**
Empathy

DOWNTOWN EVENTS

- Old Town Farmer's Market**
Saturdays through Nov. 2
7:30 a.m. - noon
- Remote Chili Cook-Off**
Oct. 9-11
- Chili Chase Virtual 5K**
Oct. 10
- Belleville Fire Dept. Chili Sale**
Oct. 24
- Virtual Veterans Day Ceremony**
Nov. 11, 11 a.m.
- Gingerbread Contest Displays**
Nov. 18-Jan 1
- Virtual Christkindmarkt**
TBD
- Gingerbread Virtual Endurance Challenge**
December

belleville.net/725/Holidays-2020

CITY OFFICES CLOSED

- Nov. 11, 26 & 27
- Dec. 24 from Noon-Dec. 25
- Dec. 31 from Noon - Jan. 1

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

As we come to the close of the year, it's incredible to think the end of 2020 is upon us. It's been an unprecedented year, to say the least. The challenges of COVID-19 are not over. The City of Belleville continues to monitor the health and wellness of our residents and region along with the ongoing financial and staffing challenges we face. Our concern over businesses has not gone away and we appreciate those who have gone the extra mile to protect their employees and residents of our city. Thank you!



Mark W. Eckert, Mayor

We are all saddened that most of our fall and holiday activities are cancelled. I know our organizations and city staff have labored over these decisions. Many are actively working to create alternative events, like the Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce's Remote Chili Cook-Off. See page 7 for those details.

As you have probably heard, Downtown Trick-or-Treat has been cancelled; it's simply not safe to congregate in large crowds. However, the Parks & Rec Department has created an alternative to this – Boo Buckets, delivered directly to your home. See page 4 for details. Our Veterans Day Ceremony will be held Nov. 11, but those details are still being finalized. It will be a virtual event. Stay tuned as we announce those details. We saw a successful virtual Sept. 11 Moment of Remembrance Ceremony and want to extend our gratitude to that committee for hosting such a great event.

It is with great sadness that the Christkindmarkt was cancelled this year, but we are excited to learn

they'll host a virtual market. Details will be released soon. We also heard from Santa and because he wants to ensure everyone's health and safety for the holiday season, we aren't able to host the Santa Parade or Santa on the Square. While Santa won't be able to meet with children before Christmas, you can drop off letters to Santa downtown in a

special North Pole mailbox. Santa will read some of those letters live on Facebook. He's also told us that he's planning some Santa Sightings where he'll stroll through our Belleville neighborhoods to say 'hi' from afar. Please be sure to visit www.belleville.net/725/Holidays-2020 to stay up-to-date as the details of the holiday season are finalized.

We'll decorate downtown as we do each year and ask that our residents add a few decorations to the neighborhoods to help lift our spirits during these difficult times. We'll offer the Virtual Gingerbread Endurance Challenge in place of the Gingerbread 5K and the annual Gingerbread Contest, which looks a little different this year. It's the 51st year for the Way of Lights at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows. Continue to support them and make this long-standing tradition stronger than ever!

Please remember our Belleville businesses. Shop local first. It's more important this year than ever as many of them are seriously struggling. Nov. 28 is Shop Small Saturday. Make this one count! Please be safe and continue to practice social distancing and mask wearing. I wish you a happy holiday season and a blessed and safe New Year.

YARD WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Yard waste will be collected weekly through Fri., Dec. 18, 2020, weather permitting. It will not be collected again until the week of January 11-15, 2021.

During the months of January and February, yard waste is only collected during the 2nd full week of each month (a full week is considered to be Monday – Friday).

- Jan. 2021 - Yard Waste will be collected Jan. 11-15

- Feb. 2021 - Yard Waste will be collected Feb. 8-12
- March – Dec. 2021 - Weekly collection will resume during the 1st full week of March and will continue through the 2nd full week of December, specifically March 1, 2021 until Dec. 17, 2021, weather permitting. After Dec. 17, 2021, there will be no yard waste collection until the 2nd full week of Jan. 2022.

For more information about sanitation services, see page 5 or visit www.belleville.net/358/Sanitation.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Switchboard
233-6810

Cemetery
257-3330

City Clerk
233-6810

Community Development
233-6518 x2280

Economic Development, Planning & Zoning
233-6518 x1250

Engineering
233-6518 x4272

Finance
233-6518 x1235

Fire
234-2236 non-emergency

General & Community Assistance
212-4379

Health, Housing & Building
233-6817

Human Resources
233-6518 x2280

Information Technology
233-6518 x1730

Library Downtown West Branch
234-0441
233-4366

Maintenance of City Buildings
277-4965

Mayor
233-6518 x1239

Parks & Recreation
233-1416
Nichols Community Center
277-9785

Police
234-1212
non-emergency

Public Relations
233-6518 x 1237

Sanitation
233-6518 x4217

Street
239-3454

Treasurer
233-6518 x1214

Wastewater or Sewer
233-7146

AN UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

LIBRARY EXPANDS ONLINE OFFERINGS TO ASSIST RESIDENTS DURING PANDEMIC

March 20, 2020 is a date that will be etched in my memory for the rest of my life. That is the date the decision was made to temporarily close the doors of the Belleville Public Library to the public. When we left for home that night, we had no idea when we would be able to allow patrons to return to the library. Seven months later, we are still wrestling with that question.

With an uncertain future around in-person service, we went to work doing what libraries do best—we adapted, evolved, and began to develop creative ways to continue to serve our community. **The mission of the Belleville Public Library is “to unite our community through the attainment of knowledge, the expression of creativity, and access to technology.”** Covid-19 has magnified the inequalities in our community and the library will step up to help meet those needs to bridge those gaps.

One of the first new services we began to offer was **Curbside Pickup** of books. While we still feel it is not safe for patrons to physically return to the library, that does not mean the library cannot come to you. You can place requests for books, movies, or audio material and when it arrives, we will schedule a time for you to come to the library, and we will bring the materials out to you. Belleville Public Library is also joining libraries across the country in eliminating late fees. We made the decision last year to do away with late fees for children’s material. When Covid-19 hit, we waived all late fees for everyone and the next logical step was to do away with late fees altogether, and **as of September 10, 2020 Belleville Public Library is a Fine Free Library.**

We have also made accommodations for those who do not have a library card but wish to obtain one. You can visit the library’s website and apply for a library card electronically. We will verify your information electronically and mail your new library card.

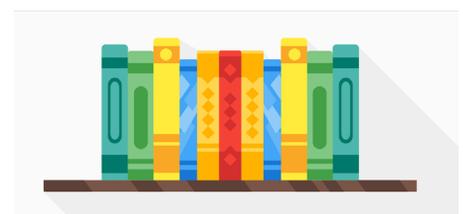
One of the biggest problems that Covid-19 has magnified is the **digital divide**. The lack of access to the internet is a problem that this crisis has forced the community to deal with in new and unique ways. About 27 percent of Belleville area households do not have reliable internet at home. In normal times, many of these individuals were able to connect to

the internet at school, work, or the library. Covid-19 shut many of those options down for those who needed them the most. That means nearly 500 households were instantly cut off from reliable internet. Belleville Public Library recognized the need, and we immediately went to work to address the need while adhering to the necessary restrictions imposed by Covid-19. We extended the range of our **Wi-Fi** routers so that individuals could park on the lots adjacent to the library and connect to the internet. We are working directly with one of the local school districts to help provide hotspots to their students who do not have internet access. We are collaborating with other area public libraries to provide a mobile internet option that can be deployed in the community to areas with low internet access.

The library has also taken a long hard look at the electronic resources we offer. In years past, our focus has been on entertainment oriented resources like e-books and streaming video. Covid-19 has prompted us to give equal attention to our educational and informational resources as well. **Genealogy** is something that many people in Belleville are heavily involved in. Working with our vendors, we have been able to expand access to our ancestry database. We also have the **historic archive of the Belleville News Democrat 1901-1956** that is searchable from our website. If you’re nostalgic about your high school years, we have **digitized the yearbooks of Belleville East, Belleville West and Althoff.**

If you’re a hobbyist or into crafting, **Creativebug** has hundreds of projects with detailed video instruction. If you need to brush up on Word or Excel, **Niche Academy** has online tutorials on a host of computer programs and library databases.

We have also added several resources to specifically respond to Covid-19 and its impact on education. **Drivingtest.org** lets you practice and prepare for obtaining a driver’s license.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

It has study guides and practice tests not just for a standard driver's license but also for a motorcycle license and the CDL.

If you are you a budding author who finally found time to finish your literary masterpiece, **Inkie** is a free resource that not only allows you the ability to upload your self-published work to a statewide database, but you can also have your work entered into an annual contests to discover Illinois' next "Soon to be Famous" author.

If you or your child are having trouble with remote learning and your teacher is not available to assist, **HelpNow** is our newest recourse. HelpNow is a product of Brainfuse and it offers LIVE online tutoring to students of all ages and grade levels. **JobNow** offers Live career coaching, resume writing assistance and interview assistance. Finally, **VetNow**, has college level tutoring, resume writing and career coaching specifically focused on the military.

The staff of the Belleville Public Library has been busy in the building as well. When we do eventually open the doors of the library again, you will find the library will look and function very differently. In addition to the many changes we are making to address social distancing, we are also re-imagining what your library experience will be. We are institut-

ONLINE RESOURCES

Belleville Public Library

EDUCATION

- DrivingTest.org
- TumbleBooks Math
- Niche Academy
- Brainfuse Help Now
- Brainfuse Vet Now
- Brainfuse Job Now

RECREATION

- Cloud Library
- Audio Book Cloud
- Hoopla
- Tumble Books
- Teen Book Cloud
- Niche Academy
- Romance Book Cloud
- RB Digital
- Inkie

RESEARCH

- BND 2000-present
- BND Historical
- Archive 1901-1956
- Yearbook Project

www.belleville.net/560/Online-Resources

ing a number of self service and self directed functions. The staff will still be available to assist you, but you will also have more options than ever to be able to assist yourself. While it is uncertain when the library will be open for in-person service again, we continue to provide services to the community in new and innovative ways. Please visit our website and Facebook often because we are constantly re-inventing ourselves to provide services to our community.

Need a sewer billing adjustment?



You can now request that online!

Leak Adjustment Request Form
Pool Fill Adjustment Form
Deduct Meter/Water Adjustment Form



BELLEVILLE.NET/562/SEWER-TRASH-BILLING

GET SOCIAL! FOLLOW US!

THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE'S POLICE DEPARTMENT & PUBLIC LIBRARY HAVE NEW FACEBOOK PAGES! "LIKE" THEM!



WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/BELLEVILLEILPOLICE
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/BELLEVILLELIBRARY

MODIFIED GINGERBREAD CONTEST STILL SCHEDULED

To All Gingerbread Contest Participants:

As you all know, 2020 has seen unprecedented circumstances. As a result, many events have been cancelled or postponed. The Belleville Gingerbread Contest is no different. The Gingerbread Committee has debated at length about this year's contest. The one thing we DO NOT want to do is cancel it! However, for the safety of all participants and the good will of contest sponsors, the contest must be modified for this year.

It is our hope that having Gingerbread creations in the windows of downtown Belleville will bring joy, holiday spirit, and just a little bit of "normal" to this crazy year.

We would like to thank all of the sponsors of the Gingerbread Contest. It is through their generous support that we are able to host this event and offer such great monetary prizes. We recognize that many of the contest sponsors themselves are dealing with decreased revenues and temporary business models. It is with this in mind, that the Gingerbread Committee is returning all monies collected thus far to the sponsors and asking them to reserve it for the 2021 Contest. The Gingerbread Committee itself will offer the prizes outlined below.

The 2020 Gingerbread Contest will have two categories: Adult (16 years and older) and Children (15 years and younger). EVERY Adult entry will receive 25 Downtown Dollars to be used at participating businesses. EVERY Child will entry will receive 25 Downtown Dollars to be used at participating Belleville businesses.

Once the Creations are placed in windows, there will be an option for viewers to vote for their favorite in each category. Prizes, awarded by popular vote, are as follows:

Adult, 1st prize \$300; 2nd prize \$200; 3rd prize \$100 (cash prizes).

Child, 1st prize \$100; 2nd prize \$75; 3rd prize \$50 (cash prizes).

Gingerbread Creations are to be turned in to Toot's Cake Decorating & Candy, 314 E. Main St., Belleville, IL 62220, November 14th between 8am – 2pm. The Creations will be placed in windows by November 18th and voting will go through December 12th.

GET YOUR BOO BUCKETS

Belleville Parks & Recreation will deliver a bucket of candy and gifts to your front door!

Visit the *Current Activities* page at www.belleville.net or call (618) 233-1416 to register by Oct. 9th

Only \$7.00

Bucket's will be delivered starting on October 23rd. Participants must give a Belleville address for delivery.

Belleville
I.L.L.I.N.O.I.S
Parks & Recreation

We hope to see your imaginations come to life in the form of GINGERBREAD. There are no stringent rules this year, no judging panel...this IS the year to let your imagination and your creativity run wild! We do, however, hope that all participants maintain the integrity of the contest.

Have questions? Call Ann at Toots
618-277-7373.

To enter this year's contest:
Please email the following information to
hessel.teresa@gmail.com:

Name of entrant and contact information;
Category: Adult or Child;
Name of creation (if known)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The City of Belleville is a premier employer with exceptional employees who take pride in their work! Are you interested in opportunities to be a part of our dynamic team? Check out current job openings at www.belleville.net/Jobs. Like us on Facebook at Welcome to Belleville, IL to receive news feeds regarding job openings.

GINGERBREAD VIRTUAL ENDURANCE CHALLENGE

WEBSITE: BELLEVILLE.NET / FACEBOOK: @BELLEVILLEPARKS / PHONE #: (618) 233-1416

The BPRD staff welcomes persons with disabilities in all our facilities, parks, and programs. Please contact the director to arrange for reasonable modifications to participate and make the experience safe and enjoyable.

Since COVID-19 has been causing the cancellation of large events for the year, including the Gingerbread Run/Walk 5K, the Belleville Parks and Recreation Department will host its first ever Gingerbread Virtual Endurance Challenge throughout the month of December. Participants will be able to choose distances from the traditional Gingerbread 5K route to the Ultimate Challenge of 440 miles. Routes will be based on fun Gingerbread related themes. Distance travelled by walking, running, hiking, biking, rowing, or any other means of exercise can be logged daily, and it will track on your chosen map. Depending on the distance chosen, various giveaways and gear will be



part of your entry along with a unique medal. Look for further information to come through social media outlets or www.belleville.net.

NEW BUSINESSES

June:

Sayk T-Shirt Shop
309 N. Illinois, St.

Vision Point Grooming & Styling
6600 W. Main St., Ste. 1

July:

The V on Main
5003 W. Main St.

Uncle Nick's Deli
1140 S. Illinois St.

Amira's Compassionate Healthcare
6600 W. Main St., Ste. 5

Spa-aah Tacular Spa Parties
7316 W. Main St.

Cafe Beauty S
1405 W. Main St.

Luxe Beauty Bar
6400 W. Main St.

K's Looks
4325 W. Main St.

The Mane Attraction
14 E. Main St.

Anytime Heating & Cooling
6400 W. Main St.

Flawless Foundations
123 Tower Plaza

B'Saditty Coutour
6500 W. Main St.

ilashedout
6400 W. Main St. Ste 1N

August:

Ascension Makeup Studio
1407 W. Main St.

Metro-East Assessment & Counseling Services
1 S. Church St., Ste. 204

Redding Creative
1 S. Church St., Ste. 402

Loft 83***
8 S. Church St.

VFW Post 1739
300 N. Charles St.

Lavish Luxe, LLC
405 N. Illinois St.

AIQuds Beauty Supply****
5720 N. Belt W., Ste. 26

*NEW OWNERSHIP

**RELOCATION

***EXPANSION

****NAME CHANGE

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



If you are planning a Neighborhood Watch meeting and would like City representation from the Police, Fire, or Health & Housing Department, please contact Peggy in the City's Human Resources Department/ Belleville Neighborhood Partnership Program at peggyh@belleville.net or 233-6518, x2280

YARD WASTE COLLECTION DATES

(Weather Permitting)

March-December 2020:

March 2-December 18

Weekly collection beginning 1st full week of March through 2nd full week of December (A full week = Monday-Friday)

January 2021:

January 11-15

(2nd full week, only)

February 2021:

February 8-12

(2nd full week, only)

TRASH SCHEDULE

The Sanitation Department does not operate on the following holidays:
New Years Day
M.L. King Day
Presidents Day
Memorial Day
4th of July
Labor Day
Veterans Day
Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Day

IF YOUR PICK-UP DAY FALLS ON OR AFTER A HOLIDAY, YOUR PICK-UP FOR THAT WEEK WILL BE DELAYED BY ONE (1) DAY.

LARGE ITEM PICK-UP

The City offers a large item pick up on a daily basis, by reservation, for a minimum fee of \$65 for one load, \$90 for two loads, and \$120 for 3 loads. To arrange for a pick up, call the Sanitation Department at 618-233-6816 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. All building materials must be cut and bundled in 4 foot lengths or less with twine, string, or rope.

The following items will not be picked up for a large item pick up: concrete, bricks, shingles, tires, appliances, electronics, paint or other hazardous wastes, batteries, yard waste, or Waste Management bags filled with items.

BELLEVILLE'S 2020 HOLIDAY SEASON

With so many unknowns related to the 2020 holiday season, the State of Illinois mandates, and public health issues, the City of Belleville is cautiously monitoring the ongoing pandemic to ensure that our residents and guests remain safe throughout this special time of year. Because of that, many of the organizations that help put on events throughout the city are planning to offer alternative activities for residents to enjoy. Unfortunately, some events have been cancelled, but many more will still be happening, just in a different format. The Christkindlmarkt will not happen in its usual format this year, but they are planning an online market. So, stay tuned for more information. While Santa will not be able to be in town before Christmas to meet with children one-on-one, Santa let us know he will be accepting letters and

KEEPING
your
safe

wants to hear from the children of Belleville. Children can drop their letters off downtown in a special mailbox just for Santa and tune into live 'Santacasts' to see if their letter will be read. The annual Gingerbread Contest is happening but will be modified. See page 4 for those details. Likewise, the Gingerbread 5K has morphed into the Gingerbread Virtual Endurance Challenge. See page 5 for those details. Be sure to visit www.belleville.net/725/Holidays-2020 to get the latest information about enjoying Belleville for the holidays.



PARKS & RECREATION

Live Christmas Tree Recycling

MON. DEC 21, 2020 - SUN. JAN. 31, 2021

- Laderman Park - 1105 Mascoutah Avenue
- Bellevue Park - 401 Bellevue Park Drive
- North End Park - 1204 North Douglas

No bags, ornaments, lights, artificial trees, or yard waste -
RECYCLABLE MATERIAL ONLY, PLEASE!



*Happy
Holidays!*

FOR UPDATES ON
ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY
EVENTS IN BELLEVILLE, VISIT:

[WWW.BELLEVILLE.NET/725/
HOLIDAYS-2020](http://WWW.BELLEVILLE.NET/725/HOLIDAYS-2020)



19TH ANNUAL ANGEL OF HOPE MEMORIAL

The annual Angel of Hope Ceremony will be held December 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stone Lodge Facility located at Bellevue Park, 401 Bellevue Park Dr., Belleville, IL 62226. The Angel of Hope Monument was brought to Belleville to support parents who have lost a child of any age, for any reason. To honor children's memories, a memorial wall and walkway have been established. The Belleville

Angel of Hope is located to the east of the Bellevue Stone Lodge, facing the beautiful lake. Benches are spaced around the perimeter so that loved ones can rest and meditate in a serene setting. For more information, please contact the Belleville Parks & Recreation Department at 618-233-1416.



Belleville's Old Town Farmers' Market

Saturdays, May 2 - November 7
7:30 am - Noon

First block of S. Charles Street between E. Main
and E. Washington
SNAP/EBT accepted

For more information, call (618) 233-2015, or visit
bellevillemainstreet.net

Locally grown fresh produce, all natural meats,
plants & herbs, honey and crafts



**THE GREATER
Belleville
CHAMBER of COMMERCE**

**OCTOBER
9-11, 2020**

14 PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS

**SUPPORT LOCAL
RESTAURANTS AND
FIND YOUR NEW
FAVORITE CHILI**

Visit participating restaurants and ask for their "Chili Cook-off Chili".
Share your favorites with us online using #RemoteBvilleChili2020 for your
chance to win Downtown Dollars!

**Professional judges will decide the winner.
The winner will be announced on Facebook October 8!**

Find a full list of participating restaurants and a downloadable passport
online at www.bellevillechili.com.

NOW HIRING



**Serving.
Learning.
Earning.**

Ages 17-80+
Earn \$ for living
and \$ for school!

Southwestern Illinois College
2500 Carlyle Ave., Belleville
ISB Room 2011

618-235-2700, ext. 5711
swic.edu/ameriCorps






**Belleville's 22nd Annual
Veterans Day Ceremony**



**Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2020
11 a.m.**

Because this year looks quite different in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, plans will be determined for this event as the date nears. For updated information about the annual Veterans Day Ceremony, please visit www.belleville.net or follow the City of Belleville on social media.

www.belleville.net



618-233-6518

Shop Small Saturday
November 28, 2020

COME #SHOPSMALL WITH US

Shop Small & Support Local!
Dollars spent in Belleville stay in
Belleville to provide essential services.





CITY OF BELLEVILLE
 101 S. Illinois St.
 Belleville, IL 62220

Elected Officials

Effective May 1, 2020

MAYOR

Mark W. Eckert
 233-6518 x1239 (office)

TREASURER

Dean Hardt
 233-6518 x1214 (office)

CITY CLERK

Jennifer Gain Meyer
 233-6518 x1227 (office)

WARD 1

Ken Kinsella
 420-5080
 Joe Hazel
 954-9105

WARD 2

David Pusa
 406-5548
 Carmen Duco
 233-1569

WARD 3

Kent Randle
 239-9227
 Scott Ferguson
 610-5639

WARD 4

Johnnie Anthony
 825-0660
 Raffi Ovian
 444-5171

WARD 5

Ed Dintelman
 972-5569
 Michelle 'Shelly' Schaefer
 660-6295

WARD 6

Dr. Mary G. Stiehl
 606-1277
 Chris Rothweiler
 416-5568

WARD 7

Phil Elmore
 363-0016
 Dennis C. Weygandt
 580-3054

WARD 8

Roger Wigginton
 581-0429
 Roger Barfield
 791-3368

**PLEASE
 BAG YOUR LEAVES**

Raking leaves into the streets causes clogged catch basins and increases chances of flooding. Burning yard waste is not legal within the city limits of Belleville. Bag your yard waste, and we'll pick it up for you!



www.belleville.net/358/Sanitation

