



A Letter from Mayor Patty Gregory

There is no time more special for many of us than this festive season. I remember making Russian tea cakes, a type of smooth, nutty cookie rolled in powdered sugar, with my mother, Helen. Another special memory is watching the movie, "A Christmas Story," with my elderly parents late on Christmas night every year, the very last time it was shown before the next holiday season.



Bright lights, the smell of cookies baking, shimmering stars on a brisk December night, the sound of laughter and music, a dusting of snow: all of these evoke memories of holidays past. They serve as markers of time well spent with families and friends, and they are more precious than any gift.

I invite you to create those memories with your loved ones right here in our Great. Big. Small Town. Ride the trolley, visit Christkindlmarkt, make a wish list for Santa and see him downtown. Maybe take in a movie, a play, or a concert. Shop our wonderful selection of mom and pop stores throughout the city of Belleville for just the perfect gift for a special someone. Visit our numerous restaurants on Main Street and on the East & West ends. Drive through the Way of Lights or just one of our many neighborhoods taking in the array of decorations.

But as wonderful as these experiences may be, not all our neighbors and friends share them. Economic insecurity, family illness, addiction, and loneliness make these times especially difficult. I had the privilege to visit a shelter operated by The St. Vincent DePaul Society last week and the holiday spirit is clearly there. Serving hundreds of meals a day, providing shelter and basic necessities, providing hope in the midst of their clients' darkest hours, all of this personify what this holiday should be.

I also hope, as you bustle about with all your holiday preparations and shopping that you will take a minute to invite a neighbor to dinner, to shovel a senior citizens' driveway or sidewalk, to toss coins into a red kettle..or better yet...to volunteer to be a bell ringer yourself! I hope that your children and your grandchildren's best memories will not be about what they get...but about what they give.

The happiest of holidays to all of you...and in the immortal words of Tiny Tim: "God bless us, every one."



Belleville
Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan

Community Survey on Walking, Bicycling & Accessibility

Mayor's Invitation ...

Belleville is a beautiful community to explore by walking and biking. And to make our Great.Big.Small.Town even better and more accessible, we need your help! I would like to invite you to participate in the Community Survey on Walking, Bicycling, and Accessibility. Your feedback is essential for us to design a Master Plan that successfully meets the needs of all our residents. So, thanks in advance for helping us out and I hope to see all of you walking and biking in Belleville!

- Mayor Patty Gregory

Three ways to take the survey

- Scan the QR Code
- Web Browser
www.surveymonkey.com/?l=BellevilleBikeWalkSurvey
- Paper Copy
Pick Up At
City Hall Main Lobby
Server Dept. Payment Window
114 South Illinois Street

Project Partners:

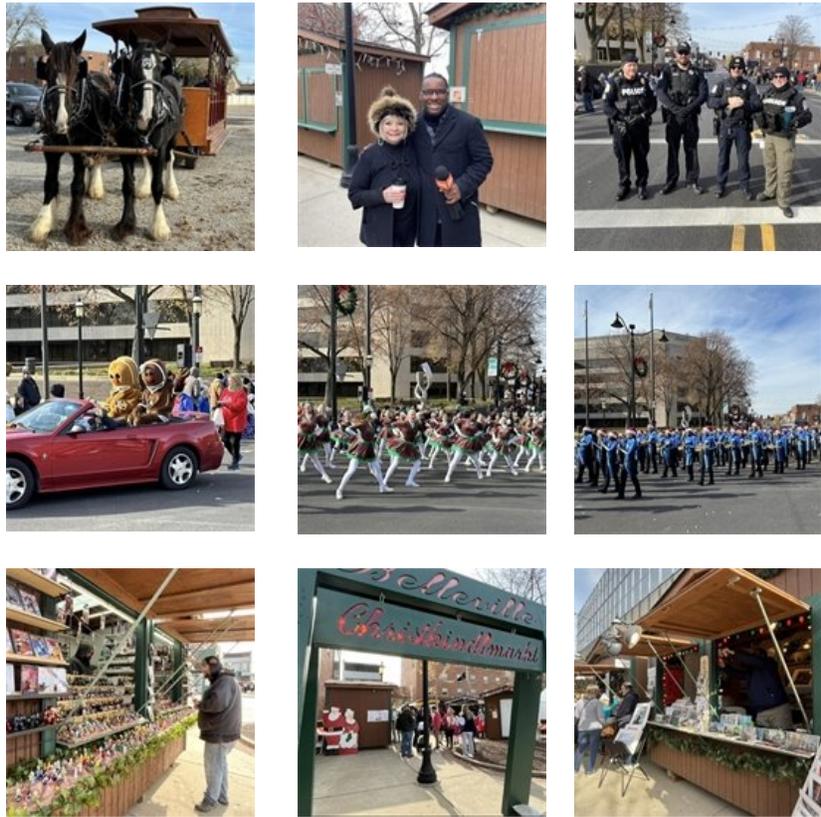



[Belleville Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan: Community Survey on Walking, Bicycling and Accessibility](#)



Recent Events

On November 24th, the Optimist Club of Belleville hosted the annual Santa Parade on our historic Main Street. The 10th annual Christkindlmarkt opened the same day. Head down to explore vendor shops and buy last minute gifts for your loved ones!



Shop the 10th Annual Belleville Christkindmarkt

*An Open-Air German Christmas Market on
Belleville's Public Square at IL-159 & Main Street*

Featuring unique European and handcrafted items,
delicious food, and beverages

Nov. 24-26, Nov. 30-Dec. 3,
Dec. 7-10, and Dec. 14-23

11:00a - 8:00p, Sun 11:00a - 6:00p

*Rainbow Ranch Petting Zoo Entertainment by various Dance and
Dec. 2-3 & Dec. 16-17, 1:00 - 3:00p Vocal Groups on selected dates*

Calling All Kids to Find Gustav the Belleville Christmas Elf
for a chance to win a prize!

*For additional Christkindmarkt events & information, including changes due to weather,
visit www.bellevillechristkindmarkt.com and [Belleville Illinois Christkindmarkt](#)

ADDITIONAL EVENTS IN DOWNTOWN BELLEVILLE

<p>Gingerbread Creation Displays <i>(in downtown merchant windows)</i> Nov. 22 - Jan. 2</p> <p>Santa Parade Friday, Nov. 24, 10:00a</p> <p>Santa on the Square Nov. 24 - Dec. 24</p>	<p>FREE Horse-Drawn Trolley Rides Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays Nov. 24 - Dec. 23 Fri 5:00 - 8:30p, Sat & Sun 12:00 - 6:00p</p> <p>Gingerbread 5K & Kids' Dash Saturday, Dec. 2, 8:00-10:00a</p>
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For additional information on these events, visit www.belleville.net/holidays and [welcometobellevilleil](#)

www.bellevillechristkindmarkt.com
[Belleville Illinois Christkindmarkt](#)

[bellevillechristkindmarkt](#)
[welcometobellevilleil](#)
618-233-6769 • 800-677-9255

<https://www.belleville.net/Admin/CivicSend/ViewMessage/Print/218107>

3/12



New solar panel installation at Belleville's Public Library main branch.

Solar Array Installation at Belleville's Public Library

The new system went live on November 7th at the Public Library's Main Branch, located at 121 E Washington St. Check out the kiosk in the library to see the daily energy production of the system.

The system was funded through the Illinois Solar for All program and the library incurred no upfront or installation cost for the project. The solar panel array is estimated to provide at least a 60% savings in the library's energy costs and is estimated to produce 71,459 kWh during the first year of production which is equivalent to 50.6 metric tons of CO₂ offset annually.



Early plans for the Belleville Public Library's new Solar Array Installation.



SEASONAL SOLICITOR INTERACTIONS

Prevent solicitation at your front door by posting a "NO SOLICITING" sign.

If someone knocks on a resident's door; they must be wearing an authorized ID Badge. If they do not have one, contact the Police Non-Emergency Line at:

(618) 234-1212

A list of current approved solicitors can be found at www.Belleville.net by typing "Approved Solicitors" in the search bar.

AUTHORIZED BADGES
 2023 2024

CITY OF BELLEVILLE PERMIT SOLICITOR
 PHOTO
 NAME
 VALID THRU
 APRIL 30, 2023

CITY OF BELLEVILLE PEDDLER SOLICITOR PERMIT
 PHOTO
 NAME
 Valid Thru
 04/30/2024

Economic Development, Planning and Zoning Department News

The Economic Development, Planning and Zoning Department strives to provide excellent service to businesses and residents alike, in an effort to promote the City's continued growth and development. Many projects are in the works, so we thought we would share a few with you, our public.



July, 2023

Aldi Update

Belleville welcomes our new Aldi store, located at 1805 Carlyle Avenue.

The store is nearing construction completion and expected to open in early 2024.



December, 2023

What is TIF?

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is one of many tools our city may use to assist in development. To learn more about TIFs in the State of Illinois, watch "TIF Districts in Illinois" on our department's webpage to find information, such as: How many TIFs are there? Where are the State TIFs located? How do TIFs work? Why are TIFs vital?

Economic Development Strategic Plan Update

The final draft of the Economic Development Strategic Plan has been received from the consultants. Input from the public was taken and utilized by the consultants through one-to-one interviews, surveys, and round-table discussions. We intend to share the finalized plan with the public soon.

Any questions? Please contact our department for more information by email: edpz@belleville.net or by calling us directly, (618) 233-6518, ext. 1250.



Belleville Fire Department's new ladder truck 29. Photo credit: Connor Hamilton, 2023.

Fire Department News

Belleville firefighters have had a busy Fall, conducting training on search, Hazardous Materials, Technical Rescue, and Firefighter Emergency

procedures. Over the last few months, the Fire Department has had several promotions, a retirement and a couple of new hires.

Assistant Chief Larry Ruser, Jr retired in October after a 38-year career with the Belleville Fire Department. Larry followed his father Larry Ruser, Sr. joining the BFD in 1985. Collectively the Ruser's protected Belleville for an incredible **60 years!**

The Department added two new members this Fall. Probationary Firefighter Levi Martinez was brought on in August and completed his Fire Academy in October. In November, Probationary Firefighter Austin Sauget joined the BFD too. He will be attending Fire Academy in the Spring.

Captain Jason Rumpf, Captain Josh Kates and Captain Jason Unverzagt were all promoted to the rank of Battalion Chief. Engineer Ryan Mahoney and Engineer Matt Preston were both promoted to Captain. Firefighter Doug Kraemer and Firefighter Brian Reaka were promoted to Engineer.

Firefighter Paul Brough won his bout in the annual Guns-n-Hose Boxing Match at the Scott Trade Center on November 22nd. The Guns-n-Hoses event raises money to aid the families of fallen first responders throughout the Metro Area.



Public Works Department News

Don Gain has retired from his career with the Sanitation Department after 25 years of dedication. We greatly appreciate his service and wish him well in his future endeavors.



New Year's Day	Monday, January 1 st , 2024
Independence Day	Thursday, July 4 th
Labor Day	Monday, September 2 nd
Veterans Day	Monday, November 11 th
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 21 st
Christmas Day	Wednesday, December 25 th
New Year's Day	Wednesday, January 1 st , 2025



Parks & Recreation

Take a peek at the Belleville Parks & Recreation Seasonal Activity Guide for more activities, programs, & special events being offered at this time.

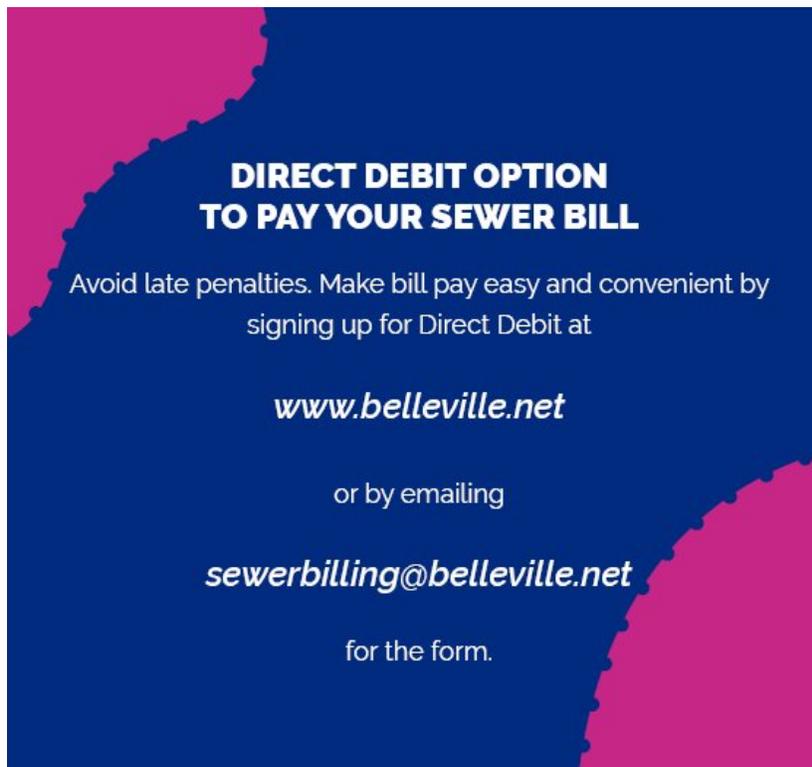


Belleville Main Street

Meet Us on Main Street in Downtown Belleville for the **Main Street Mingle: Holiday Edition** Thursday, December 21st from 4-8pm! Bring your families, friends and co-workers for a weeknight out on the town and enjoy extended holiday shopping hours at your favorite boutiques, happy hour specials, fresh eats, and live music throughout Main Street. Hop a free ride on the horse-drawn trolley during the Main Street Mingle and explore Downtown Belleville while you complete your Gustav sheets, enjoy the Gingerbread Walk, Christkindlmarkt, and more! This event is free to attend. For more information, please visit BellevilleMainStreet.net.



[Belleville AmeriCorps at Southwestern Illinois College](#) is now recruiting [new members](#) to fill numerous [paid positions](#) as classroom tutors and summer camp counselors for Belleville Public School Districts #118 and #175! [Click the image above to apply.](#)



Make paying your Sewer bill simple & easy, each and every month!

The City of Belleville Sewer Department would like to remind you, that you can access our Direct Debit to pay your sewer bill, thus avoiding late fees.

To set up direct debit for your bill, complete a Sewer & Trash ACH form. Fill out the form and return it to our Sewer department with a voided check. Our Sewer Department staff will set up your Direct debit from your account, and your bill will be automatically paid each and every month, direct from your checking account. It's that easy!



ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor Patty Gregory
618-233-6518, x 1239

City Clerk Jenny Meyer
618-233-6518, x 1227

City Treasurer Sarah Biermann
618-233-6518, x 1241

WARD 1
Bryan Whitaker
618-971-8409
Lillian Schneider
618-207-7335

WARD 2
Carmen Duco
618-233-1569
Jamie Eros
314-649-0256

WARD 3
Kent Randle
618-239-9227
Scott Ferguson
618-610-5639

WARD 4
Johnnie Anthony
618-825-0660
Raffi Ovian
618-444-5171

WARD 5
Shelley Schaefer
618-660-6295
Ed Dintelman
618-972-5569

WARD 6
Dr. Mary Stiehl
618-606-1277
Chris Rothweiler
618-416-5568

WARD 7
Phil Elmore
618-363-0016
Dennis Weygandt
618-580-3054

WARD 8
Nora Sullivan
618-972-9185
Kara Osthoff
618-578-2488

Call 618-233-6810 to talk to our operator.

DEPARTMENTS

Economic Dev., x 1250
Engineering, x 4272
Finance, x 1235
Human Resources, x 2280
Info. Tech (IT), x 1730
PR & Comm, x 1237
Sanitation, x 4217
Police (Non-Emergency)
618-234-1212
Fire (Non-Emergency)
618-234-2236
General & Community Asst.
618-212-4379

Health, Housing & Building
618-233-6817
Library (Main Branch)
618-234-0441
Library (West Branch)
618-233-4366
Parks & Recreation
618-233-1416
Nichols Center
618-277-9765
Public Works / Streets
618-239-3454
Sewer
618-233-7146