

CITY OF

Belleville

NEWSLETTER



CREATIVITY IN BLOOM

Belleville's art scene is
always in-season

HIGHER ED GROWS ON

Developments at the
Southwestern Illinois
Justice and Workforce
Campus

FROM BLIGHT TO BEAUTIFUL

The City Infill Project hits
the ground running in 2024



myBelleville is designed to provide our residents, businesses, and visitors the ability to report concerns to City staff, 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, using a mobile app, web portal, phone, or text. myBelleville can be used to **report a concern** by pinpointing a location using GPS, attaching a photo with your comments, and receiving status updates and resolution notifications. City staff monitor concerns during business hours (M-F; 8am – 5pm).

We are here to serve you!



IMPORTANT NOTE:

Concerns are addressed during business hours, NOT on a 24/7 basis.

If you have an emergency, please call 9-1-1.

To report lost or stolen property please contact the Belleville Police Department at 618 234-1212.

All information submitted to the City of Belleville is considered a public record and subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

CONTENTS



8 HIGHER ED GROWS ON



19

CREATIVITY IN BLOOM

Arts, music, and theatre continue to grow and thrive in the City as we near Art on the Square.



20

FROM BLIGHT TO BEAUTIFUL

Vacant lots provide opportunity and a future home-sweet-home via the Infill Program.

THIS MONTH IN YOUR GREAT. BIG. SMALL TOWN.

05 FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

11 OUT OF THE C.A.V.E. & INTO THE WORKFORCE

The latest from Belleville School District 201's C.A.V.E.

16 BELLEVUE PARK NOW & THEN

A feature on the new playground and a look into the past highlighting the many eras of the park

7 MEMORIAL DAY

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALL WHO GAVE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR OUR FREEDOMS

18 TOUR DE BELLEVILLE: THE FINAL TOUR

Belleville's favorite bike ride rides once more.

22 HOW WE WORK

How are my property taxes calculated?

25 DIRECTORY

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

12 FIRE DEPARTMENT

13 POLICE DEPARTMENT

14 ENGINEERING

23 PARKS & RECREATION

RECENT HAPPENINGS



SOLAR ECLIPSE

The total solar eclipse on April 8th brought much excitement to our community. Pictured are students from Westhaven Elementary School in Belleville Public School District 118 as they viewed the eclipse along with their class.



MAIN STREET KID'S DAY

The 2nd annual Main Street Kid's Day, hosted by Belleville Main Street, was a day to learn, have fun & grow along with Downtown.



TOUCH-A-TRUCK

The Belleville Police Department hosted what aims to be the first annual Touch A Truck event in support of Autism Awareness Month. From motorcycles to sanitation trucks, and Ainaad Shriner's mini vehicles to two helicopters, there was much to explore.



CITIES IN HARMONY

Students and their families came together for Cities in Harmony, hosted by area school districts joining to build a more inclusive community and celebrate their diversity. BELONGING begins with M.E. (Metro East).



C3 FITNESS RIBBON CUTTING

Mayor Patty Gregory issued a warm welcome from the City of Belleville to C3 Fitness at their ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by the Greater Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce. C3 Fitness is open for business at 335 West Main Street (Rear).



EL GUAPO MEXICAN GROCERY

Located at 6500 West Main Street, El Guapo Mexican Grocery Store opened for business in last week of March. From baked goods and frozen treats to fresh produce, El Guapo's shelves are stocked and ready for a warm welcome from our community.



ARBOR DAY

Every year, [Belleville Parks and Recreation](#) staff meet with the 4th grade class of Franklin School to give a tree planting presentation and Arbor Day gift. Once again, this year Craig Maue, Asst. Director to Public Works, explained the importance of tree planting and maintenance.



EARTH DAY

Mayor Patty Gregory visited the Earth Day event at Southwestern Illinois College hosted by Ameren of Southern Illinois.



KEEP BELLEVILLE BEAUTIFUL

Helpful hands from all across our beautiful city came together for the city-wide litter pickup: Keep Belleville Beautiful. Thank you to the many volunteers who donated their time and energy!



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Dear friends,

I am never quite so happy as when I am ankle deep in mulch, covered with dirt, trimming hydrangeas, and planting new flowers in my garden. There is something magical about that process: nurturing the glorious blooms of summer by the hard work you put in every spring.

And when my garden is in full bloom, I love to take a moment to just relax and breathe it all in. But those moments of respite are brief because there is always something to be done to maintain that lovely landscape. Being your mayor is not unlike being a master gardener. The act of nurturing our new businesses and neighborhoods requires the same type of vision, determination, and persistence.

Plant an idea for a business or a project or a city service and see how that will benefit our citizens. Water it regularly with hard work and city support and watch those ideas, those aspirations, those dreams grow into brick-and-mortar mom and pop businesses or historic homes reclaimed from the ashes.

Hal Borland once wrote that *"April is a promise that May is bound to keep."* And when I took office on May 1, 2021, I was determined to keep the promises I made before becoming your mayor.

A few of the promises I have endeavored to keep include the purchase of the old Lindenwood campus and reimagining its use with other local leaders as one of the premier police training sites in the state.



Another promise that continues to evolve is our in-fill project with local contractors and developers who are reclaiming our neighborhoods home by home.

Expanding our police force and fire departments has been a key priority of mine to ensure that our citizens are safe and well protected, as well as working with our local military and veteran organizations to help keep our partner, Scott Air Force Base, a vibrant force in our community.

Another initiative has involved collaborating with our many civic and nonprofit organizations to build and maintain our events, parades, and arts activities. One of our key strategies in this area was opening up a city building downtown to all our nonprofits to use during their key organizational periods each year.

Working on infrastructure, repairing streets, and enhancing city services may not be a glamorous part of the job, but keeping them top notch provides yet another inestimable benefit for our citizens.

And the list goes on and on.

Because just as a garden needs to be nurtured, so does our city. As former first lady, Lady Bird Johnson once wrote, *"Where flowers bloom, so does hope."*

So thank you... more thanks than I can ever truly express... for giving me the opportunity to be mayor of our Great. Big. Small Town.

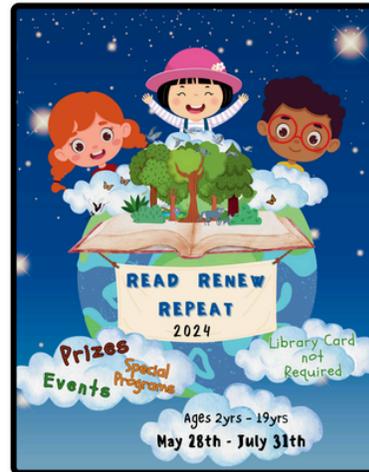
Mayor Patty Gregory

REMINDERS & MISC UPDATES

Leaders Save Lives
Make your mark.
HUMANkind

Blood Drive
City of Belleville
Atrium
101 S Illinois St
Belleville, IL 62220
Wednesday, May 29, 2024
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

 American Red Cross



READ RENEW REPEAT
2024

Prizes
Special Programs
Events

Library Card not Required

Ages 2yrs - 19yrs
May 28th - July 31th

Summer Reading Program

at the
Belleville Public Library



**DIRECT DEBIT OPTION
TO PAY YOUR SEWER BILL**

Avoid late penalties. Make bill pay easy and convenient by signing up for Direct Debit at

www.belleville.net

or by emailing
sewerbilling@belleville.net

for the form.



MEMORIAL DAY

In observation of Memorial Day, Monday May 27, 2024, All City offices will be closed. We will return to our normal schedule Tuesday May 28, 2024.

PLEASE NOTE:
TRASH WILL BE A DAY LATE

We hope you have a safe and wonderful holiday!!

**BELLEVILLE YARD WASTE
COLLECTION DATES**

WEATHER PERMITTING

March - December 2024
MARCH 4 - DECEMBER 13

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

January 2024 January 8-12 (2 nd full week, only)	February 2024 February 12-16 (2 nd full week, only)
--	---

Yard Waste is collected in two-ply Kraft paper bags or in a 32-gallon container clearly marked YARD WASTE. Cans should have a detachable lid and no wheels. Cans and bags should weigh no more than 60 lbs. when filled. Plastic bags are **not** accepted.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO
ALL WHO GAVE THE ULTIMATE
SACRIFICE FOR OUR FREEDOMS

MEMORIAL DAY

For more than 150 years, our nation has observed Memorial Day as a day of remembrance for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. Originally called Declaration Day in 1868, Memorial Day began to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers.



All photography completed by City of Belleville Staff unless otherwise noted.

VETERANS MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN

Each year, the City of Belleville Maintenance Department and Public Works Department complete a "checkup" on the Veteran's Memorial Fountain, treasured by residents and visitors alike: from valve checkups, to cleaning & repainting the outer rim and verifying the color-changing lights are all in working order. We thank them for working diligently each year.

"Fountain Facts"

The Veterans Memorial Fountain is filled each season, at nearly 4.5 feet in depth and taking nearly 3.5 hours to fill.

The Fountain is often turned off for a duration due to high winds in order to provide safety to the drivers circling it.

In the summer of 2023, Illinois American Water replaced 75 year-old water mains that ran directly under the Fountain—the original line was installed in 1949 with additions in 1955.

The historic Veterans Memorial Fountain in Belleville's Public Square at State Route 159 and Main Street was originally built in 1937 by local Veterans of Foreign Wars as a tribute to American servicemen and women.

In 1985, a massive restoration project began due to extreme deterioration of the original fountain. The original fountain base from 1937 was relocated to Melvin Price Memorial Park, 1500 Caseyville Ave., in Swansea, IL, where it still stands today.

[Learn More & Explore the Memorial](#)

MAY NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

National Military Appreciation Month, also known as Military Appreciation Month, is a month-long observance in the United States, dedicated to people who are currently serving in the United States military.

The City of Belleville is proud to be home to so many military families and to welcome them into our community, whether they are here for only a short time, or they choose Belleville as their permanent home after their service.

The annual **Belleville Memorial Day Parade** Begins at 10:00AM in Downtown Belleville. [View route and additional parade details.](#)

The **Memorial Day Ceremony**, immediately following the Parade, will take place at Walnut Hill Cemetery, and will receive support and execution from Belleville VFW Post 1739.

HIGHER ED GROWS ON

SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS JUSTICE & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CAMPUS A.K.A. "THE CAMPUS"

Originally a high school, then a college, the **Southwestern Illinois Justice & Workforce Development Campus** may be a mouthful, but there's a reason for it.

With the exodus of Lindenwood University from their Belleville location in 2019, the campus at 2300 West Main Street has experienced many exciting changes, all brought to fruition to enhance the viability of this location for our community.

Thanks to Mayor Gregory's vision, and the vision of many community business leaders, educators, and citizens, the campus now houses numerous entities which in-turn reinvigorates the once-vacant property with an influx of students and staff.

CITY DEPARTMENTS ON CAMPUS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & ZONING

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

HEALTH, HOUSING & BUILDING

SOME RECREATION FACILITIES ARE UTILIZED BY THE BELLEVILLE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

RECENT **PROGRESS/EARLY** **2024:**
Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville (SIUE) continued to improve Old Main Hall for their classrooms and programs. Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) began the renovation of Lynx Lodge as well.

CAMPUS HISTORY

This historically significant campus, which was originally home to Belleville Township High School from 1915 - 2003. Is filled with beautiful buildings, several of which were designed in the 1920's by William Ittner, a world-renowned architect and designer from St. Louis, Missouri. Ittner has been described as the most influential man in school architecture, having created over 430 school facilities nationwide.



1915-2003

BELLEVILLE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL



2003-2019

LINDENWOOD



2019-2022

VACANT



2022-PRESENT

SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS JUSTICE & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CAMPUS



CAMPUS ENTITIES



Illinois State Police Metro-East Forensic Science Laboratory

The Illinois State Police, Division of Forensic Services will be utilizing portions of the Southwestern Illinois Justice & Workforce Development Campus in order to support its training mission, to include hosting external and internal in-service training opportunities as well as initial training for Forensic Scientists.

Information on the Forensic Scientist Trainee program can be found at [Illinois State Police website](#).



Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC)

Third-year students from the Southern Illinois University School of Law live and take classes on the Southwestern Illinois Justice and Workforce Development Campus while working at various state and federal offices.

In the semester-long Metro East Criminal Justice Experiential Learning Program, students gain immersive experiences in the justice system, and the community benefits from the legal services the students provide under the supervision of practicing attorneys. In accordance with Supreme Court Rule 711, students will make court appearances, counsel clients, negotiate settlements, and prepare documents.

The program provides a unique opportunity for SIU Law to collaborate with other campus tenants, including the Illinois State Police Forensic Institute, the Southern Illinois Law Enforcement Commission, a police training academy offered by Southwestern Illinois College, and other nonprofit organizations. SIU Law also plans to host admissions events for prospective students and engage with alumni and attorneys in the region.



Southern Illinois Law Enforcement Commission (SILEC)

SILEC is a not-for-profit agency that acts under the authority of the Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Board. It provides static and mobilized law enforcement training to municipal and county law enforcement agencies primarily in the counties of Madison, Bond, Clinton, St. Clair, Monroe, Washington, and Randolph in Illinois.

SILEC organizes and delivers in-service training to approximately 90 Law Enforcement agencies who collectively employ 1800 Law Enforcement Officers, 200 county Correctional officers, approximately one-hundred 911 operators, police dispatch centers, county probation officers, Illinois Parole Officers, and Judicial Court Officers. The training is mobilized to numerous geographic areas within Southwestern Illinois to make it more convenient for area law enforcement agencies to access their mandated in-service training.



Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC)



The Southwestern Illinois Police Academy (SWIPA) utilizes a combination of academia and practitioners to deliver a well-rounded, law enforcement based foundation of education. The end result of the training program is a state certified individual capable of performing at the entry level requirements of any local or county law enforcement agency in the state of Illinois.

The basic training course includes all aspects of entry level law enforcement training to include strengthening good foundations of ethics, examining legal issues, citizen interaction, community oriented policing, investigative skills, state of the art firearms training and defensive tactics. The academy offers basic trytraining for full-time and part-time police officers.

Since its inception in 1971, the Southwestern Illinois Police Academy graduates have been among the highest scoring state certification test score averages in the state.

The SWIC Police Academy is one of seven certified police academies in the State of Illinois and is certified by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board. The five year passage rate for the State BLE Certification Exam is 100%.

Southwestern Illinois Justice & Workforce Development Campus

2300 W Main St.
Belleville, IL 62226



- | | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|---|
| 1 | Old Main Hall | 13 | Dorm #1 Fred J. Kern Residence Hall |
| 2 | Auditorium | 14 | Southern Illinois University School of Law Experiential Learning |
| 3 | Welcome Center | 15 | City of Belleville
Housing Department
Economic Development, Planning & Zoning Department
Engineering Department |
| 4 | U.S. Senator Alan J. Dixon Justice Center | 16 | 1 st Floor: Major General William L. Enyart Veterans Success Center
2 nd Floor: Illinois State Police Forensic Institute |
| 5 | Building L | 17 | Sand Volleyball Courts |
| 6 | Belleville Arena | 18 | Illinois State Police Metro - East Forensic Science Laboratory |
| 7 | Fitness and Training Center | | |
| 8 | Tennis Complex | | |
| 9 | Soccer Field | | |
| 10 | SIJWDC Football Stadium | | |
| 11 | Lynx Lodge | | |
| 12 | Dorm #2 Residence Hall | | |



Out of **The C.A.V.E.** and Into the Workforce

Edging on two years of Excellence in education, Belleville District 201's C.A.V.E. continues to launch students into success.

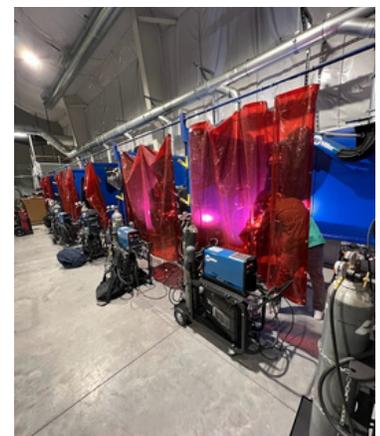
The CAVE campus at Belleville Township High School District 201 is wrapping up its second year serving students with the most advanced career and technical training in the region. In this second year, District 201 has strengthened and grown existing partnerships with the likes of Gulfstream, MAC Medical, and TerraSource, while adding new relationships with Boeing, Belleville School District #118, and others.

In an effort to provide new opportunities for its students and remain on the forefront of innovative skill-based training, District 201 is expanding CAVE programming to include aviation, healthcare, and coding and Cisco certification in the Fall of 2024 with future plans for robotics and automated manufacturing. These new programs will require additional lab space at the CAVE campus and construction has already begun on a new 15,000 square foot building that will house these and future programs.

The CAVE continues to receive notoriety in both education and industry circles for its mission to serve students, local employers, and the broader community. Recently, The CAVE was recognized by The Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce for success in the area of business innovation and by Illinois WIOA for community partnerships.

District 201 is proud of the success of the CAVE. The District will continue to work towards expanding technical education programming, developing partnerships in industry, and providing Belleville students with access to life changing opportunities.

EXPLORE THE C.A.V.E.



BELLEVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS



The Belleville Fire Department wants to congratulate our three newest Probationary Firefighters: Austin Sauget, Julian Blount, & Sean Hall on their graduation from Fire Academy April 12th, 2024. (Pictured at right)



The Department attended the 2-day Rescue Task Force - Assault Type Emergency Training.



The Fire Department joined the many City Departments and community organizations participating in the Inaugural Touch A Truck event hosted by the Belleville Police Department, Saturday April 20th.



Rescues come in all sizes: 14 ducklings were returned to safety from where they were trapped in a storm drain near Belleville Crossing.



BELLEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Last month, six (6) police officers graduated from the Southwestern Illinois Police Academy (SWIPA) on April 26th, 2024. After graduation, these officers will begin a three (3) month field training program before they assume solo patrol.

The Belleville Police Department is also hiring two (2) additional officers who began the Southwestern Illinois Police Academy April 22nd, 2024.

The Southwestern Illinois Police Academy is located at the Southwestern Illinois Justice & Workforce Development Campus, 2300 West Main Street, Belleville, IL.

The Belleville Police Department hosted what is to become the 1st Annual Touch A Truck event on Saturday, April 20th in support of Autism Awareness Month.



Pictured, from top:

#1,2,4 - Touch A Truck event Saturday, April 20th

#3 - Police officers sworn in on April 16: Travion Vickers and John Terry joined by Col. Matthew Eiskant (Chief of Police, City of Belleville), Mayor Patty Gregory, and Lt. Col. Mark Heffernen (Asst. Chief of Police, City of Belleville)



PRIVATE VIDEO SURVEILLANCE CAMERA PROGRAM

The Belleville Police Department is upgrading and enhancing its Camera Registration Program and seeking assistance from residents to help us solve crimes. Belleville citizens can now easily and voluntarily register their surveillance cameras and locations by scanning the QR code or clicking the link below.

The registration process is simple and not intended to provide us with access to your camera or live stream. It only lets us know who in the area has cameras and enables you to quickly provide us with relevant, valuable footage if needed.

[Learn More](#)



[Belleville Police Department](#)

[Online Reporting](#)



ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT PROJECT UPDATES

THE PAST FEW MONTHS HAVE BEEN VERY BUSY FOR THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT. SEVERAL MAJOR PROJECTS STARTED.



North Charles St. Storm Water Piping Installation



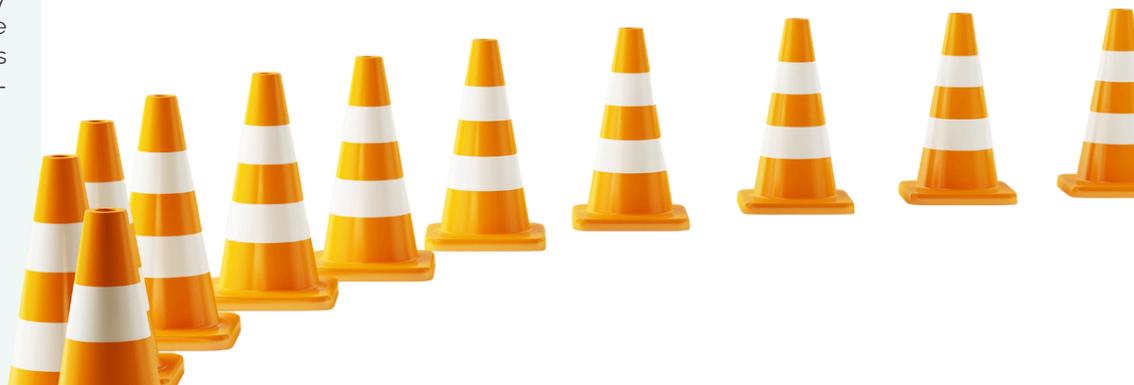
Raab Avenue New Curb and Gutter

NORTH CHARLES STREET

Reconstruction of North Charles Street from Sherman to Dewey and Dewey from North Church to North Charles began. This project includes storm water piping improvements, curb and gutter and street paving. Illinois American Water Company is also replacing the water main in the street during the project. This project is expected to be completed in early-Summer.

RAAB AVENUE

Just one block to the west of S 16th Street the Raab Ave reconstruction project has started. This project includes new sidewalk, curb and gutter and repaving between North 17th Street and North 19th Street. Raab Ave is expected to be opened to traffic in June.



SOUTH CHURCH

The reconstruction of six blocks of South Church Street from South Belt West to East Garfield St. is also underway. The value of this project is just under \$1,000,000 and is expected to be completed this summer.



Curb Gutter and Sidewalk Installation on South Church



Curb Ramp Installation on South Church



Retaining Wall Installation on South Church

LINCOLNSHIRE SUBDIVISION

Lincolnshire subdivision streets are receiving a facelift. The contract for this project is just over \$1,000,000. The subdivision's various streets will receive a combination of patching and or resurfacing. This contract also includes the resurfacing of South Douglas Avenue between Prairie Avenue and Mc Clintock Avenue. This work is expected to be completed this summer.



Curb and Gutter Replacement in Lincolnshire Subdivision



Pavement Patching in Lincolnshire Subdivision

SOUTH 16TH STREET

South 16th Street reconstruction from South Belt East through the 200 block of South 16th Street kicked off and will be completed by the end of May. This project includes new sidewalk, curb and gutter and repaving.



South 16th Street Curb Installation



South 16th St Sidewalk Installation



BELLEVUE PARK

BELLEVILLE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT HITS THE GROUND RUNNING WITH IMPROVEMENTS ON BELLEVILLE'S WEST END.

Progress is on-the-move at Bellevue Park, located behind Memorial Hospital in Belleville. The Belleville Parks and Recreation Department is nearing completion on nearly \$900,000 in upgrades to the facilities including installation of the new playground, resurfacing the existing tennis courts and conversion into pickleball courts, repainting the band shelter, restoring the pond bank, and finish grading and seeding to the walking trail.

Look forward to enjoying the freshly upgraded facilities soon, "We are hoping to have it completed sometime in May/June.," estimates Jason Poole, Director of Public Works.

NOW & THEN

Residents and visitors-alike fondly remember the infamous **"Rocket Slide"** at Bellevue Park. Built in June of 1972, the Belleville Parks Department installed the "Astro Dome" featuring replicas of the Saturn and Vanguard rockets in patriotic red, white and blue.

The Astro Dome playground was replaced in 1995 as replacement parts for the treasured rocket slide were no longer available.

VISIT THE BELLEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION PAGE FOR THE LATEST ON SUMMER CAMPS, ONGOING ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS, A COMPLETE LIST OF PARK FACILITIES, & MUCH MORE.

[Learn More](#)



PHOTO CREDITS

BELLEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

TOUR DE BELLEVILLE: THE FINAL TOUR

TOUR DE BELLEVILLE
 "THE SUNSET TOUR"
FRI., JULY 12, 2024

6 or 11 mile route Raffle Live Music Food Trucks

WWW.TOURDEBELLEVILLE.COM

Join us for the last ride!

- FOOD TRUCKS
- GAMES
- PRIZE RAFFLES
- R 5 BAND

\$25 per rider, ages 6 yrs & up.
 Ages 5 & under are free if being transported by an adult.
Day of Event Fee, \$35 per rider.

Ride begins and ends at "The Campus" 2300 W. Main St.
 Festivities from 6pm-10pm. Ride promptly begins at 8pm. Course closes at 11pm.

To become a sponsor of the event, contact parksandrec@belleville.net

2024 TOUR DE BELLEVILLE **EVENT INFORMATION**

REGISTRATION
 Registration is online at www.tourdebelleville.com or if you need assistance, visit our Parks & Rec Office, 510 West Main St., where we will help you navigate the online registration.

ROUTE
 Two options to choose from: 6 miles or 11 miles. You don't have to decide until you come to the "fork" in the road.

SHIRTS & GOODIES
 Each rider will receive a shirt & water bottle if registered by June 14, 2024. (Water bottles: While supplies last) Commemorative shirts available for additional purchase! Shirts & the sizes are not guaranteed after June 14, 2024.

PACKET PICK-UP DATES

JULY 8	8:00AM - 6:00PM	LATE NIGHT!
JULY 9	8:00AM - 4:30PM	
JULY 10	8:00AM - 6:00PM	LATE NIGHT!
JULY 11	8:00AM - 12:00PM	

(After 12pm, pick-up at registration tent from 6pm-8pm.)

Starting July 8th, shirt packets can be picked up at the Parks & Recreation Office, 510 West Main St., (618)233-1416

SPONSORS
 Sponsor support is vital in keeping events like these going year after year! Please contact the Parks & Rec Office for more information, parksandrec@belleville.net or (618) 233-1416

RULES:

- Registration is required for participation. Only registered riders with the proper credentials will be allowed to participate. However, children 5 & under riding with an adult will be admitted free, but are still required to register.
- ALL riders must acknowledge the consent and release form at time of registration.
- The Tour de Belleville is a leisurely ride. It is NOT a race. There are no prizes, awards, places, or official times. RACERS will be removed from the course by the Belleville Police Department without refund.
- Riders must be present for Start Time. Late riders will not be allowed entry onto the course after the staff utility vehicle has entered the course.
- Once the last rider has entered the course, a staff vehicle will follow to designate the end of the ride after the final staff utility vehicle has passed. The Tour de Belleville no longer provides police vehicles, volunteers, support vehicles, or any other form of assistance along the route.
- Riders under 15 years old must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times.
- HELMETS required.
- Obey all traffic safety laws and rules including traffic signs, signals, and pavement markings, unless otherwise directed by police or volunteers directing traffic.
- Riders stay to the right when passing oncoming participants.
- NO pets, alcohol, training wheels, or headphones allowed.
- As always, the ride will take place come rain or shine! However, the Tour de Belleville reserves the right to cancel, postpone, and/or delay the start of the event due to severe weather and/or other conditions.
- NO refunds.

Register

This is the last year of the Tour de Belleville, appropriately themed "The Sunset Tour." This event has been a favorite among the thousands of area residents who have attended Belleville's family-friendly bike ride through our City streets and bike trails over the years. Tour de Belleville was created in 2006 and has had many fun and successful years! At the highest, we entertained over 2,000 riders and we've raised over \$260,000.00 in profits which have been put back in the community for safety and trail improvements.

Why is this the last ride of the Tour de Belleville? Due to lowered participation numbers, the cost of after-hours manpower, and the price increase of equipment needed to produce a safe & successful, quality event; Belleville Parks & Recreation has decided to retire the "Tour de Belleville" bicycle ride. To give the Tour a proper sign-off, the City has agreed to support one last nighttime ride for anyone who wishes to take the opportunity to join us in celebrating 19 years of a great event! Thank you to the many people and businesses who contributed their volunteer time and financial support to the "Tour de Belleville" through the years! Belleville Parks & Recreation will continue to work hard to bring you exciting new events in the future!

Tribute to Gary McCoy by Alderman Elmore on finding an artist to create a Tour de Belleville logo:

"We needed a whimsical, funny, Belleville Bike Rider and Gary gave us that and so much more. His Belleville guy is something people looked forward to seeing each year and what he'd be up to. Gary is a Belleville family man who created the Tour de Belleville Rider perfectly. Gary is one of our great Belleville residents and we appreciate his contributions to The Tour since day one!"

~Phil & Barb Elmore

Tribute to Gary McCoy by Belleville Parks & Recreation for the many years of artwork for the Tour de Belleville:

"We'd like to thank Gary McCoy for the many years that he's shared his artwork with Belleville Parks & Recreation and the Tour de Belleville participants! Gary is a nationally known, award-winning artist who has been showcased in the New York Times, USA Today, and Newsweek, to name just a few! He works with his brother on an internationally syndicated cartoon called, "The Flying McCoy's" and is the writer of his brother, Glenn McCoy's, comic strip called, "The Duplex." Every year, our upcoming riders would get such a thrill to see the new artwork released for that year's ride. These event shirts have now become a nostalgic collector's item, with each shirt representing the Tour de Belleville's theme, date, & location. We appreciate the hours of hard work and artistry Gary McCoy put into every "Tour" season!" In fact, along with the event shirt, a commemorative shirt has been designed for this final ride; it highlights the Tour de Belleville-Through the Years with which Mr. McCoy was the artist for seventeen of those years!

~ Belleville Parks & Recreation

We have many sports and social activities coming up in the next few months, so please continue to follow us on Facebook and Instagram, as well as our City webpage!

Keep an eye out for our upcoming list of bands for the FREE Summer Concert Series too!



CREATIVITY IN BLOOM

IN OUR GREAT. BIG. SMALL. TOWN

As we near the annual Art on the Square festivities in our city, we are keenly reminded of the creativity that has bloomed within our city to enjoy and explore year-round.

From classes to galleries, artist groups and musical organizations, our city thrives with the creatives that energize our city. Explore these and many more throughout Belleville.

- WILLIAM & FLORENCE SCHMIDT ART CENTER 1**
- GATEWAY EAST ARTISTS GUILD 2**
- BELLEVILLE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY 3**
- GREEN ROOT GALLERY 4**
- ARTISANS OFF MAIN 5**
- BELLEVILLE MURAL PROJECT 6**
- BELLEVILLE THEATRE COMPANY 7**

ART ON THE SQUARE

Art on the Square is a juried fine art show located at the Veterans Memorial Fountain in beautiful downtown Belleville, Illinois.

Since 2002 Art on the Square has been ranked #1 and #2 in the nation by Art Fair Source Book over 10 times. Art on the Square is held annually the weekend after Mother's Day.

MAY 17TH 4:00P.M. -9:00P.M.
 MAY 18TH 10:00A.M. -8:00P.M.
 MAY 19TH 11:00AM. -5:00P.M.



INFILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

FROM BLIGHT TO BEAUTIFUL

An empty lot becomes a fresh start
with new life in the Infill Program.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The City of Belleville Infill Development Program was created to provide a process for developers to partner with the City in order to provide opportunities for new development and redevelopment on vacant, bypassed, and underutilized land owned by the city where infrastructure already exists, that is competitive with conventional development and/or redevelopment. (Ord. 8288, Chapter 164) was passed December 17th, 2018.

In plain English, the City is partnering with prospective developers to turn vacant properties on the City-owned parcel list back onto the tax rolls and into homes for new/current Citizens.

Already in 2024, 9 properties are in transition from vacancy to Belleville residents calling them Home-Sweet-Home.

For the Dawson Family, the Infill Program put them right where they wanted to be: at home in Belleville.

"Tommy and I have been driving around the Highland Neighborhood hoping to find our family home there someday ever since we started dating," states Katelyn Dawson. "We love the neighborhood because it is full of charming, eclectic homes, tree lined streets and families who live, love and support Belleville like we do. We started our search this year so we could settle into our new home before our daughter starts kindergarten this fall, and when the infill option came up – it was a no brainer for us."

"This project gives us a chance to build a brand new home, customized to our family, but live on a brick street in our **favorite Belleville neighborhood** amongst homes that represent every period of architectural history since the early 1900's. The options C.A. Jones provided for floor plans and finish selections has allowed us to make aesthetic choices that preserve that neighborhood charm. We cannot wait to see our house come to life over the next few months and settle into our house in time to trick or treat with our new neighbors!"

Same Goal, Re-Energized.

Mayor Patty Gregory sought to re-energize the existing Infill program upon her arrival at City Hall, Clifford Cross, City of Belleville Director of Economic Development, Planning, & Zoning, sought to better set the City's Infill Development Program for success by reformatting the previous (RFP) Request for Proposal process to include a (RFQ) Request for Qualifications from Developers interested in development of the vacant properties.

"Interested Developers that become pre-qualified through this process are streamlined to take the next step in the Infill Program," states Cross. While it is an added step in the Program process for Developers, pre-qualification determines that the proposed Developer is poised to not only safely and successfully develop the lot(s), but that they are poised to do so as partners of the City by providing qualifying information at the start.

"The last thing we want is previously vacant properties halfway through development that are once again- left vacant and back on the City's maintenance list," mentions Cross. The end goal is to add all lots that meet the code requirements for development back onto the tax rolls.

The City is seeking development of single-family residential homes, designed to conform to/ compliment the character of the existing neighborhood.

Requests for Pre-Qualification applications have opened twice in the past three years: October 2021 and May 2022. Applications open again this month for prospective developers.

For more information regarding the Infill Program, please contact Clifford Cross, City of Belleville Director of Economic Development, Planning & Zoning (618) 233-6518, x1250.

LEARN MORE:

CLIFFORD CROSS

CITY OF BELLEVILLE DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & ZONING

CCROSS@BELLEVILLE.NET

PH: 618-233-6518, X1250



Feature and inset: The Dawson family stands in the once vacant lot that is soon to become their future home via the Infill Program

REQUEST FOR
QUALIFICATION
APPLICATIONS OPEN
AGAIN **THIS MONTH** FOR
PROSPECTIVE
DEVELOPERS.

Economic Development Department

Did you know?

HOW WE **WORK**
INFORMATION TO GROW ON

How are my property taxes calculated?

It's that time of year again. The daffodils are blooming. Hummingbirds are singing. The sun is shining. And many of you have questions about the upcoming arrival of your real estate tax bills.

City staff receive many queries about your real estate taxes, but your assessments, appeals and billing are all really a function of St. Clair County. Here is a brief rundown of tax FAQs from the St. Clair County website.

The value of my property went down, but my taxes stayed the same or went up. Why?

The amount of taxes you pay is made up of two components: the assessed value of your property and the tax rates set by your individual taxing authorities, such as school and fire districts. The Assessor is required by law to establish the fair market value of property as of January 1 of the reassessment year. Taxing authorities set their own rates according to their budgetary needs and voter approval. If property values in their district go down, then taxing authorities may choose to roll their rates to make up for the loss in value. St. Clair County only sets its own rate and has no control over other taxing authority's rates.

What is the difference between the assessed value, market value, and equalized value of a property?

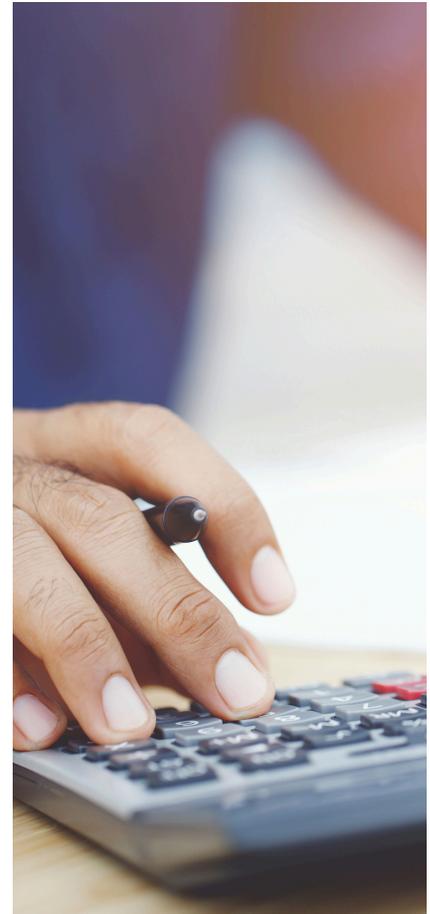
The market value or fair market value is the estimated full value of the parcel should that parcel sell in a normal, arms-length transaction. The assessed value is one-third of the fair market value, as estimated by the Assessor. The equalized assessed value is the assessed value, as determined by the Board of Review that has been adjusted as needed with a multiplier. The equalized assessed value forms the basis for property tax bills and the value from which all applicable homeowner exemptions are deducted.

How can I apply for the Senior Freeze Exemption?

Normally the Senior Freezes are mailed the first of the year for annual renewal. If you did not receive one, please call us at the customer service desk of the Board of Review Office at (618) 825-2489 or contact us and one will be mailed to you. A form can also be obtained at the Board of Review office, or one can download the form/instructions for the Senior Freeze Exemption.

I believe my tax bill is too high. How can I make sure it is correct?

First we recommend that you review your tax bill to ensure that you are receiving all the exemptions to which you are entitled. Also check your property's assessed value and if warranted, file an appeal with the St. Clair County Board of Review. We also recommend calling the specific taxing body if you have questions on the rate charged by your local governments.



For further questions or forms you might need, from the St. Clair County Assessors office, follow the link below to access their full FAQs page.

[County Assessor](#)

BELLEVILLE PARKS & RECREATION

PROGRAMS *SUMMER 2024* & ACTIVITIES

From summer camps to pickleball leagues and everything in-between, explore our Summer guide to Belleville's Parks and Recreation programming to make this a summer you'll never forget.



Belleville
Great. Big. Small Town.™



We Want to HEAR from YOU

Community Survey on Biking & Walking Connections



The City of Belleville is working to make it **safer** and **easier** for people to walk, bicycle, or roll to their destinations. Your feedback is essential for designing a Master Plan that connects all Belleville residents to the places they need to go.

Take the Survey Online!

Visit: bit.ly/BellevilleConnections

The Biking & Walking Connections survey will be available online through July 7, 2024.



BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS

Belleville
Great. Big. Small Town.™

**2024
Events
Calendar**

Belleville Tourism
216 East A St., Belleville, IL 62220
618.233.6769 • 800.677.9255
BELLEVILLE.NET

discover **DOWNSTATE**
ILLINOIS enjoy **illinois**

May

- 4 **SICW Wrestling**
Belle Clair Exposition Center, 618.233.0052
- 4 **Derby Day Salute Musical**
Belleville Philharmonic, 618.235.5600
- 4 **St. Clair County Law Day 5K Run/Walk**
Downtown Belleville, lawdayrun.com
- 4 **Free Fishing Derby**
Bellevue Park, Belleville Parks & Rec., 618.233.1416
- 4-5 **Mom's Day Out Vendor Fair**
Eckert's Farms, 618.233.0513
- 11 **Experience Live Music Row**
Copper Fire, Venue on Main
- 11,12,18,19,25,26,27 **Strawberry Festival**
Eckert's Farms, 618.233.0513
- 17 **Steve Augeri Live (Journey)**
Lincoln Theatre, 618.233.0123
- 17-19 **Art on the Square Fine Art Show**
Belleville Public Square, 800.677.9255
- 18-19 **Flea Market**
Belle Clair Exposition Center, 618.233.0052
- 27 **Memorial Day Parade/Ceremony/5K Run/Walk**
Belleville, 618.233.6810
- 31 **Main Street Senior Day**
Belleville Main Street, 618.233.2015

June

- 3,10,17,24 **Concerts At The Park**
Bellevue Park, Belleville Parks & Rec., 618.233.1416
- 6,13,20,27 **Concerts At The Square**
Public Square, Belleville Parks & Rec., 618.233.1416
- 7 **"Let's Paint" Community Mural**
Belleville Mural Project, 618.233.6769
- 7 **Ainad Shriners Circus Parade**
Belleville Main Street, 618.874.1870
- 8 **Ainad Shriners FEZtival of Food**
Belleville Public Square, 618.874.1870
- 15-16 **Flea Market**
Belle Clair Exposition Center, 618.233.0052
- 29 **Craft Beer Walk**
Belleville Main Street, 618.233.2015

on the **SQUARE**

*an
experience
in
fine art*

Friday, May 17th 4 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday, May 18th 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sunday, May 19th 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

in the Public Square, Downtown Belleville

artonthesquare.com

View the full 2024
Events Calendar
Brochure

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

FOLLOW YOUR CITY

City of Belleville
@WELCOMETOBELLEVILLEIL

Economic Development,
Planning & Zoning
@BELLEVILLEEDPZ

Fire Department
@BELLEVILLEFIRE

Human Resources
@HUMANRESOURCES618

Library
@BELLEVILLELIBRARY

Parks and Recreation
@BELLEVILLEPARKS

Police Department
@BELLEVILLEILPOLICE

ELECTED OFFICIALS



Mayor Patty Gregory
618-233-6518, x 1207

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

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

WARD 1
Bryan Whitaker
618-971-5409
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
Shelly 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





Belleville

Great. Big. Small Town.™