

CITY OF

Belleville

NEWSLETTER



HOLIDAY CHEER

Twinkle-lit tours, gingerbread-filled shop windows, and all the holiday events this season

MEET SANTA'S WRANGLERS

Ever wonder who helps us welcome Santa to Belleville each year?

EXPLORE BELLEVILLE

Find everything you are looking for, right here in our Beautiful City.



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.

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THIS WINTER IN YOUR GREAT. BIG. SMALL TOWN.

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EXPLORE BELLEVILLE

Where to go & what to do
in our Beautiful City.



HOLIDAY CHEER

Your holiday season to-do
list.

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FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Dear friends & Neighbors,

What a wonderful time of year this is! Downtown Belleville will soon transform into a winter wonderland. We are all looking forward to the Santa Parade, the 12th Annual Christkindlmarkt, trolley rides, Santa on the Square, the Way of Lights at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows, and all the magic of the season.



I want to take a moment to thank our city staff and our fantastic organizations for one of the best fall seasons on record! Kudos to the Oktoberfest Committee for organizing their 44th Annual Oktoberfest, Metro East Pride of Southwestern Illinois for their 17th Annual Pride Fest, and The Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce for their 41st Annual Chili Cook-off. These committees and volunteers really know how to showcase Belleville! Our Downtown Trick-or-Treat event was an overwhelming success! Families turned out in large numbers for all the fun. We extend our appreciation to our generous sponsors, participating businesses, volunteers, and city staff for organizing an exceptional event for Belleville's kids.

We warmly welcome Dusty Hosna, our new Planning & Zoning Administrator. He has extensive knowledge and experience in Zoning & Planning and hit the ground running. Dusty will focus on zoning cases, updating the Zoning Code, and will be involved in Planning.

The City Council approved a Mow-to-Own Program. I want to thank our Elected Officials for their willingness to work with the Administration to see this program come to fruition. This program provides an opportunity for property owners to acquire adjacent City-owned property that is unnecessary for City use by demonstrating a willingness to maintain such property on terms/conditions approved by the City, while reducing the City's expense and liability associated with such properties. The City will designate such properties that are eligible under the Mow-to-Own Program. If you have an interest in this program, please contact City Clerk Shelly Schaefer at sschaefer@belleville.net.

We are working on gathering information to build a network of compassionate volunteers, churches, and civic organizations to create a program called Neighbors Helping Neighbors. This volunteer initiative is intended to give a helping hand to those in need, whether it is cutting grass, trimming bushes, or tackling other small tasks, promoting connection and care throughout Belleville. Minton Outdoor Services completed our first Neighbors Helping Neighbors project on Roland Avenue.

Please join us for the 27th Annual Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11th at 11:00 am on the SE Quadrant of the Honorary Veterans Memorial Square as we recognize all Veterans who have served this great country.

As your Mayor, I am dedicated to serving our City. Please feel free to contact me by phone or email.

Jenny

RECENT HAPPENINGS



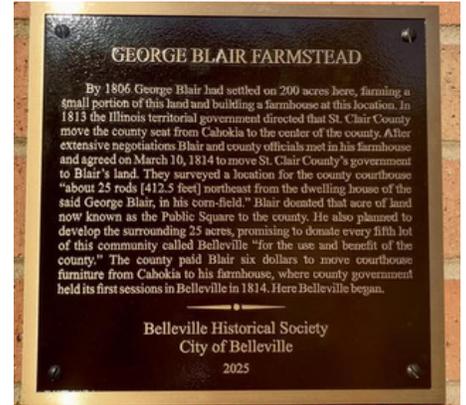
LABOR DAY PARADE

Labor Day pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers. The City of Belleville has nine Unions, and Belleville is home to many more. We thank our city workers for their hard work and dedication to our community!



9/11 CEREMONY

We appreciate all who attended, in person or virtually, the 14th Annual Moment of Remembrance Ceremony.



GEORGE BLAIR FARMSTEAD

The Belleville Historical Society and the City of Belleville had a new plaque installed by Joe Voss with Voss Pattern Works on the east wall of the Belleville City Hall annex on South Illinois Street.



OKTOBERFEST

The 44th Annual Belleville Oktoberfest celebrated our City's German heritage September 19th-21st in Honorary Veterans Memorial Public Square.



SISTER CITIES

Congratulations to Doris Roach of Belleville Sister Cities, Inc. on being honored with the prestigious Kulturadel Award by Mayor Michael Dreier of our Sister City, Paderborn, Germany in September.



METRO EAST PRIDE FEST

Saturday, October 4th the 17th annual Metro East Pride Fest celebrated love in Honorary Veterans Memorial Square.



MAIN STREET MARATHON

More than 800 runners from all over the country took to Main Street for the annual Belleville Main Street Marathon and Half Marathon, Saturday, September 27th.



CHILI COOK-OFF

The 41st annual Belleville Chili Cook-Off, hosted by the Greater Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce was a huge success. Proceeds from chili booths and People's Choice Awards are donated to area non-profits each year.



DOWNTOWN TRICK-OR-TREAT

Families turned out in huge numbers for all the fun of the Downtown Trick-or-Treat! We extend our appreciation to our generous sponsors, participating businesses, volunteers, and city staff for organizing an exceptional event for Belleville's kids.



*27th Annual
Veterans Day
Ceremony* ★

NOVEMBER 11, 2025
11:00 AM

SE Quadrant of the Honorary Veterans
Memorial Square, Belleville, Illinois

★ ★
Parking available in the lot behind City Hall, lot behind
23 Public Square, and in the County Parking Garage

Emcee

Joseph Ellison

Assistant Fire Chief, Belleville Fire Dept

Guest Speaker

Eugene Blackwell

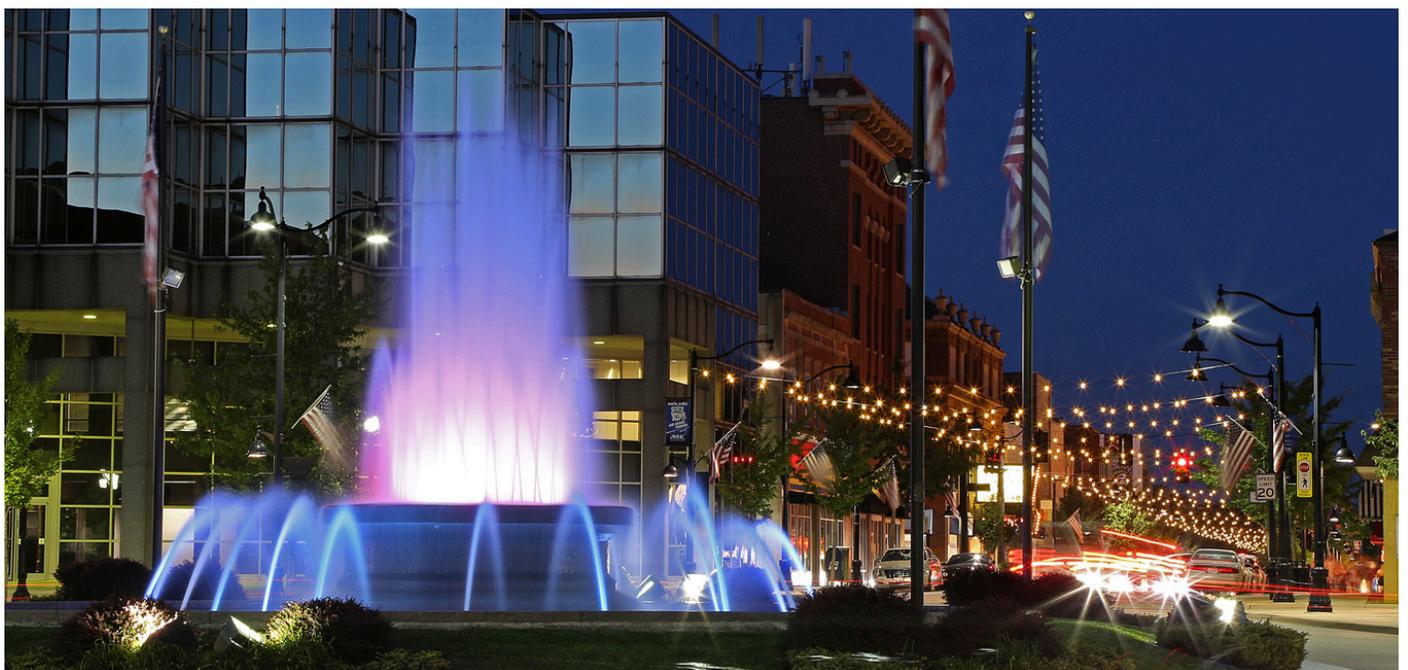
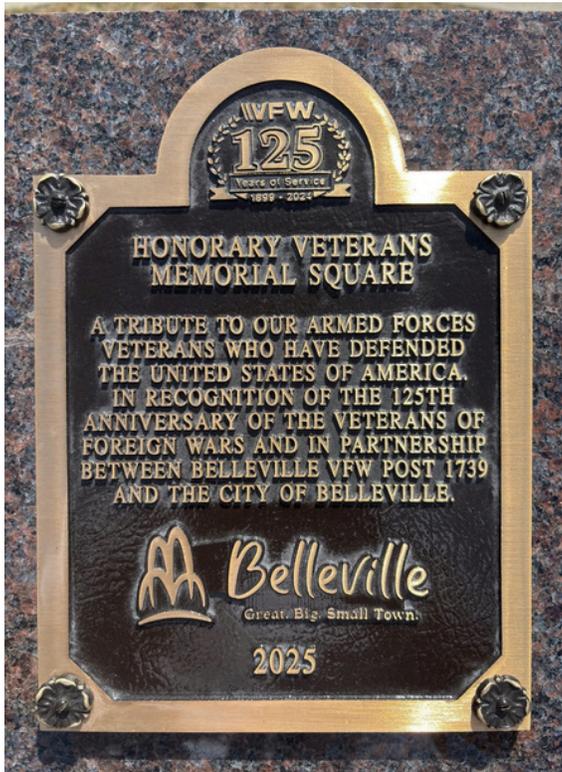
VFW State Commander



Belleville
Great. Big. Small Town.™

HONORARY VETERANS MEMORIAL SQUARE

September 29th, the Belleville VFW Post 1739 and the City of Belleville officially dedicated **Honorary Veterans Memorial Square** as a tribute to our Armed Forces in recognition of the 125th Anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.



THE
GREAT. BIG.
GIVE

DONATE NOW THROUGH NOVEMBER 14TH, 2025

**JOIN US + CONTRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF
BELLEVILLE FOOD AND SUPPLY DRIVE FOR THE
COMMUNITY INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY**



WWW.EXPLOREBELLEVILLE.NET

Join the City of Belleville as we invite **Neighbors to help Neighbors** through **The Great Big GIVE**, a food & supply drive for the Community Interfaith Food Pantry.

Please drop off your donations prior to November 14th at the location noted below.



Items needed:

- Canned items such as vegetables, beans, soups, pasta sauce, tuna, stew, chili
- Box meals such as hamburger or tuna helpers, mac 'n cheese, stuffing, pasta or rice sides
- Breakfast items. Pancake mixes and syrup. Cereals, including healthy options such as honey O's or whole grains with low sugar.
- Peanut butter, jellies, ketchup, mayo, mustard, cooking oil.
- Staples such as flour, rice, sugar, coffee, tea, hot chocolate mix, corn muffin mix, salt and pepper, cake mixes, frosting.
- Personal hygiene items such as shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, feminine hygiene products, combs, razors.

Always Welcome

When in doubt, cash lets the Community Interfaith Food Pantry purchase bulk items needed at the moment. Visit FEEDBELLEVILLE.ORG to make a financial contribution to the Community Interfaith Food Pantry. (*Financial donations must be made directly to the CIFP*)

Drop-Off Location

Please drop off unopened donation items to the Belleville Public Library, Main Branch, during operating hours as listed below.

Monday - Thursday 9:00AM - 8:00PM

Friday - Saturday 9:00AM - 5:00PM

The library is closed on Sundays.

Belleville Public Library - Main Branch

121 E. Washington
Belleville, IL 62220

HOLIDAY

TIS' THE
SEASON FOR
TWINKLE
LIGHTS TO
LEAD THE
WAY

**YOUR HOLIDAY
BUCKET LIST**

Cheer



November 28
Optimist Club of Belleville
Santa Parade
Downtown Belleville

Welcome Santa to town in one of Belleville's favorite annual parades! The fun begins at 10AM.

[More Info](#)

November 21- December 31
56th Annual Way of Lights Christmas Display
National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows

Visit the largest spiritual, spectacular 1.5 mile light display telling the Christmas story. Enjoy choir performances, Christmas tree room and wreath display, Lego Block Display, arctic wing, the Shrine exhibit, camel rides, petting zoo, and gift shop. Fontanini visits Dec. 1, 2-4. [More Info](#)

November 22
Cut-Your-Own Christmas Trees Opens
Eckert's Belleville Farm

Spend a crisp winter day exploring 40 acres of evergreens to find your perfect Christmas tree. We provide the saw—you do the cutting! Our full-service farm offers free shaking and baling, plus a selection of pre-cut trees. [More Info](#)

November 23
Gingerbread Creation Preview
Nichols Community Center

Preview the spectacular gingerbread creations all in one location at the Nichols Community Center before they are put on display in Downtown merchant windows for the season.

HOLIDAY CHEER

November 22-December 21 **Breakfast With Santa at the Farm**

Eckert's Country Restaurant

Join us for a meal with Santa on the Farm! Ticket includes meal, multiple holiday activities for the children and a photo with the jolly one, himself. Breakfast for dinner option available, as well!

[More info & Tickets](#)

November 28-December 23 **Annual Belleville Christkindlmarkt**

Honorary Veterans Memorial Square

Shop the 12th Annual Belleville Christkindlmarkt, an open-air German Christmas Market on Belleville's Public Square, featuring unique vendors, food, and beverages, along with live entertainment and special attractions on specific dates.

Visit the Belleville Christkindlmarkt website for event details, including dates and hours, a list of vendors, entertainment and attraction dates, and more!

[More Info](#)

November 28-December 24 **Santa's House on the Square**

Honorary Veterans Memorial Square

Visit Santa at his house on Belleville's Honorary Veterans Memorial Square and make memories that last a lifetime.

[View Website for Hours & Schedule](#)

November 28-December 13 **Third Annual Ainad Shriners FEZtival of Trees**

23 Public Square

Patrons at the FEZtival of Trees purchase raffle tickets and place such in respective tree ticket boxes for a chance to win those trees and the gifts accompanying the trees. At the conclusion of the FEZtival of Trees the winner of each tree will be selected from all raffle tickets submitted for each tree.

[View Dates & Hours](#)



HOLIDAY CHEER

November 28, 6PM

Lighting of the Fountain

Honorary Veterans Memorial Square

Enjoy the lighting of the Veterans Memorial Fountain in Belleville's Public Square as Belleville's Mayor Jenny Gain Meyer, residents and visitors carol for the holidays.

November 28-December 21

FREE Horse-Drawn Trolley Rides

Downtown Belleville

Take a free ride through downtown aboard a 26-passenger horse-drawn trolley and visit Belleville's Honorary Veterans Memorial Square, Christkindlmarkt, and the downtown shopping & dining district.

[More Info](#)

December 6

Movie Night With Santa at the Drive-In

Skyview Drive-In

Attendees will get to see Santa as he drives through the lot to hand out candy to children before the movie begins. There will also be a limited number of spots to purchase a professional photo with Santa.

Call 618-233-2015 for info regarding ticket sales

December 6

Mid-Century Holiday Party

Blazier House Museum

Get ready to jingle, mingle, and sway the night away in your best retro ensemble at our Midcentury Holiday soirée, an evening where vintage glamour meets festive cheer inside our beautifully restored architectural gem.

[Event & Ticket Information](#)

BELLE-CLAIR FAIRGROUNDS PARK HOLIDAY EVENTS

HOLIDAY FLEA MARKETS

NOVEMBER 15 & 16

DECEMBER 20 & 21

A SHINY BRITE FOREVER

VINTAGE CHRISTMAS MARKET

DECEMBER 12-14

FOR EVENT DETAILS

VISIT BELLECLAIR.ORG

**SHOP SMALL
SHOP LOCAL**



*Small Business
Saturday*

NOVEMBER 29TH

December 6, 20 & January 3
Holiday Movie Festival
Lincoln Theatre

Grab tickets to the Optimist Club of Belleville's Holiday Music Festival at the Lincoln Theatre. Your ticket includes 3 movies, free popcorn and pre-movie entertainment. Ticket purchases contribute to the Belleville Optimist Club's "Fill the Gap" program. Don't miss Jack Frost, Polar Express and Gremlins on the big screen this season!

[More Info & Tickets](#)

December 7
Santa Claus Fun Crafts & Photos
The Edge

Meet Santa with a smile for a photo while making fun holiday make-and-take crafts & enjoy refreshments.

Call 618-236-2101 for details

December 7
Christmas Wonders
St. Peter's Catholic Cathedral

Experience the magic of the holiday season with "Christmas Wonders," a captivating concert by the Belleville Philharmonic Chorale, conducted by Richard Thompson. This enchanting event will take place at the magnificent Cathedral of St. Peter in Belleville, providing the perfect backdrop for an evening of sacred and festive choral works.

[More Info](#)

December 7
Christmas Concert
St. Paul United Church of Christ

Come and enjoy Christmas songs performed by the Metro East Community Chorale. Enjoy familiar Christmas songs in a variety of arrangements by over fifty singers and an orchestra.

[More Info](#)



HOLIDAY CHEER

December 6
Gingerbread Run 5K
Belleville Parks & Recreation

Join Belleville Parks & Recreation for our 18th Annual Gingerbread 5K Walk/Run through the streets of beautiful downtown Belleville! New this year: the Ginger Loop! A kid's 1-mile fun run. Sign up early for deals on registration and to guarantee your long-sleeve t-shirt size for the event!

[More Info & Registration](#)

November 28 - January 2
36th Annual Gingerbread Walk Display
Downtown Belleville

Stroll Belleville's Downtown Main Street to view award-winning gingerbread creations displayed in merchant windows; first 4 blocks East Main & 3 blocks West Main Streets from the Public Square.

[More Info](#)



HOLIDAY CHEER

December 12-13
Downtown Cookie Stroll
Downtown Belleville

Stroll along Downtown Belleville's Main Street with family and friends while collecting cookies along the way. A fun annual event to celebrate the season, tickets go on-sale online only November 3rd.

[View Website for tickets](#)

December 14
Holiday Pops Christmas Spectacular
Lincoln Theatre

Get ready to experience the magic of the season at the Holiday Pops Concert! Join the Belleville Philharmonic as they present a festive concert conducted by the talented Joseph Choi. This delightful event will feature a mix of traditional and pop Christmas hits that are sure to get you in the holiday spirit.

[More Info](#)

December 13
The Old Belleville Historical Luminary Walk
Old Belleville Historic District

Experience candlelit streets, holiday tours, carolers, St. Nicholas, and festive treats in Old Belleville's Historic District. Some stops even offer free cookies and drinks!

[More Info](#)

December 14
30th Anniversary Candlelight House Tour

On December 14th, join us for the 30th edition of our beloved holiday tradition at the Candlelight House Tour. Lovely and historic homes dressed in their holiday best are yours to explore! The tour takes place from 1:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. The tour begins at the Belleville Philharmonic Hall at 116 N. Jackson Street in Belleville. There, guests will exchange their tickets for the tour program

[More Info & Tickets](#)



December 14
The Glory of Christmas Concert
St. Matthew Church

Each year during the Christmas season, the Sanctuary Choir, Orchestra, and Drama Ministry combine to present the story of Christ's birth, what he meant to the world then, and what he continues to mean for us today. We will take you back to early America to see how the gift of Jesus changed and molded the meaning of Christmas for a family looking for answers.

[More Info](#)

January 1
Way of Lights 5K Run
Shrine of Our Lady of Snows

Join us for our annual Way of Lights 5k Competitive Run and 1.5-mile Fun Walk to start your year off right! The only time of the year to run or walk through our beautiful light display.

[Registration Info](#)

BELLEVILLE PARKS & RECREATION'S

REGISTRATION OPEN!

Gingerbread Run 5k

Lace up your running shoes and get ready for a frosty, festive morning winding through the streets of beautiful Downtown Belleville. Whether you're a speedy gingerbread cookie or a leisurely candy cane stroller, this event is for everyone!

**SATURDAY.
DEC. 6TH**

**RUN BEGINS
8:30AM**

**START/END AT
PARKS & REC!**

510 W Main St. Belleville IL



\$25



EARLY BIRD: (through Nov. 5)



\$30

REGULAR FEE: (Nov. 6 - Dec. 5)



\$35

RACE DAY FEE: (day of event, Dec. 6)

*GUARANTEE YOUR LONGSLEEVE T-SHIRT SIZE BY REGISTERING BEFORE 11/6

*CREWNECK SWEATSHIRTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE SEPARATELY!

INTRODUCING

Ginger Loop Fun Run!

Kid's 1-mile fun run! \$20 per runner. (Day-Of Fee: \$25 per runner.) Will begin at the *Start Line* promptly at 8:00am! For ages 3-12.



Register now before spots crumble away!

WWW.GINGERBREADRUN.COM



36th Annual Gingerbread Contest Belleville, Illinois

Over \$4000 in prizes awarded ~ Including \$1000* to Best in Show!

Categories and Prizes (1st / 2nd / 3rd)

Masters (\$600* / 300 / 200)
 First Time Entrant (\$300 / 200 / 100)
 Holidays (\$300 / 200 / 100)
 Family Group (\$300 / 200 / 100)

Children's Categories ~ \$100 Best in Show

K - 5th (\$75 / 50 / 25)
 6th - 12th (\$75 / 50 / 25)
 Group (\$75 / 50 / 25)

Special Awards

MAYOR'S CHOICE - by Mayor Jenny Gain Meyer
 CONRAD AUFFENBURG AWARD for Family and Friends
 SWIC PICK - by Culinary Arts & Food Mgmt. Dept.
 HALLMARK AWARD - by St. Clair Co. Historical Society
 LEGEND AWARD - by Belleville Illinois Tourism
 Special Awards include \$50 Downtown Dollars
 Awards and Prizes are announced at Preview Party

Nichols Community Center ~ 515 East D Street in Belleville

November 22nd ~ project turn in and judging, 8am - Noon November 23rd ~ Preview Party and Awards, 1:00pm

*Prize money is subject to income tax for amounts \$600 and above

RULES

1. Creation must be 50% VISIBLE gingerbread. Judges may verify.
 2. Everything visible MUST BE EDIBLE. Remove wrappers.
 3. The BASE should be sturdy and not exceed 24" x 24" . We encourage you to decorate the base, but the base itself does not need to be edible.
 4. Supports may be inedible objects but you must cover them with something edible, ie: icing, candy, pasta...
 5. Onsite construction is not permitted. Minor repair will be ok
 6. Creations will be displayed downtown through the holiday season. Creations must be picked up by Friday, Jan. 3rd
 7. Entrants agree that their name, photograph, and photo of entry may be used for publicity without compensation.
 8. Applicable taxes for prize money are the responsibility of the winners. The contest is void where prohibited by law.
- The Belleville Parks and Recreation Department, Gingerbread Committee, or any sponsoring agency or their agents are not responsible for theft, damage, acts of nature, or destruction of entries.

For more information: Go to our Facebook page, email bellevillegbcontest@gmail.com or call Ann Davis at 618-910-1195

TO ENTER: email your NAME, CONTACT INFORMATION, NAME OF CREATION, AND CATEGORY YOU WISH TO ENTER

to bellevillegbcontest@gmail.com **please submit entry by November 20th

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR 2025 SPONSORS!





Shop the 12th Annual Belleville Christkindlmarkt



*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. 28-30, Dec. 4-7,
Dec. 11-14 & Dec. 18-23**

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



**Live Animals and Live Entertainment by
various dance and musical groups on
selected dates**

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



ADDITIONAL EVENTS IN DOWNTOWN BELLEVILLE

Santa Parade
Nov. 28

FREE Horse-Drawn Trolley Rides
Fri, Sat, & Sun Nov. 28 - Dec. 21

Santa on the Square
Nov. 28 - Dec. 24

For additional information on these and other downtown events,
visit www.belleville.net/holidays or call 618-967-9459

*For additional Christkindlmarkt events & information, including changes due to weather,
visit www.bellevillechristkindlmarkt.com Belleville Illinois Christkindlmarkt

[belleville_christkindlmarkt](https://www.instagram.com/belleville_christkindlmarkt)





FREE Horse-Drawn Trolley Rides

Fri., November 28 – Sun., December 21, 2025

Passengers can board and disembark in the first block
of East Main Street at the Public Square
near the entrance to the Christkindlmarkt

Dates	Times
Friday, November 28	Noon – 4pm and 5 – 8pm
Saturday, November 29	Noon – 6pm
Sunday, November 30	Noon – 6pm
Friday, December 5	5 – 8pm
Saturday, December 6	Noon – 6pm
Sunday, December 7	Noon – 6pm
Friday, December 12	5 – 8pm
Saturday, December 13	Noon – 6pm
Sunday, December 14	Noon – 6pm
Thursday, December 18	5 – 8pm
Friday, December 19	5 – 8pm
Saturday, December 20	Noon – 6pm
Sunday, December 21	Noon – 6pm

*Trolley Rides provided by NobleShire Carriages, Inc.
Millstadt, IL*



Belleville Parks & Recreation Department

2025



Calls from the North Pole



The North Pole is busy time of year, but nothing makes Mr. & Mrs. Claus and the elves happier than to speak to a child! Belleville Parks & Recreation is hosting **CALLS FROM THE NORTH POLE!** A free program to add a little extra holiday cheer to the season.

Please fill out the attached form with as much info as possible for Santa to have a great talk with your child! Please keep in mind this is a phone call only, NOT a gift giving program. If your child would prefer to receive a letter in the mail from Santa or if they become too shy during the phone call, please let the office know and we will happily send one!

Please submit your forms no later than Friday, November 29, 2025. Please do not tell your child that Santa will call on a certain day or time, delays do occur.

This program would not be possible without support from the Belleville Optimist Club, Belleville Rugby Club, Little Knights Football, and the Belle Clair Rotary Club!

PLEASE RETURN THE FORM VIA:

EMAIL: parcsandrec@belleville.net

**IN PERSON OR MAIL TO: 510 W Main St.
Belleville, IL 62220**

FOR HELP CALL: 618-233-1416



**VOLUNTEERS
ALWAYS
NEEDED!**

Please email parcsandrec@belleville.net or call 618-233-1416 if you are interested in becoming a volunteer for our North Pole program and beyond!

Please use a separate page for each child and attach all sibling forms together when submitting. Please print neatly.

Please circle the date you would prefer your child to receive their call:

Tues Dec 2

OR

Wed Dec 3

Calls will be made from 6:00pm - 8:00pm in a first come, first served order.

CHILD'S NAME _____ PHONE: (____)_____

PRONUNCIATION OF NAME _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAMES _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____

PARENT EMAIL _____

GENDER OF CHILD _____ BIRTHDAY _____ GRADE _____

SIBLING NAMES & AGES _____

NAMES & TYPES OF PETS _____

FAVORITE THINGS/PASTIMES _____

FRIENDS _____ TEACHER _____

3 POSITIVE WORDS TO DESCRIBE CHILD _____

BEHAVIOR TO COMPLIMENT _____

ANYTHING SPEICAL YOU WOULD LIKE MENTIONED _____

WOULD YOU LIKE US TO ASK ABOUT WISHES FOR TOYS?*

YES

NO

*Again, please note this is NOT a gift giving program, just a phone call.



Ugly Sweater Pickleball Tournament



Friday

DECEMBER 12TH

New! Adult/Youth Tournament

Matches begin at 6:00pm

Perfect for parent/child duos!

Designed for youths aged 8-14yrs

Saturday

DECEMBER 13TH

Mixed Adult Tournament

3.0 Level matches begin at 8am

3.5 Level matches begin at 12pm

Join us at the **CAMPUS ARENA GYM** 2300 W Main St. Belleville, IL

\$30

PER TEAM



Scan me to
register!



618-233-1416
belleville.net/sports



**Long Sleeve
"Ugly"
Tournament
Shirts
Included!**

Registration deadline 12/3/2025 or
until program fills.

Join Belleville Parks
and Recreation for ...

STORYTIME
with

SANTA

and the

GRINCH



THURSDAY

DECEMBER 18TH, 2025

hot cocoa & cookies!



photo ops!



Grinch keychain craft!



Cost: \$7 per child Ages 2 & Up

Time: 6:00pm-8:30pm

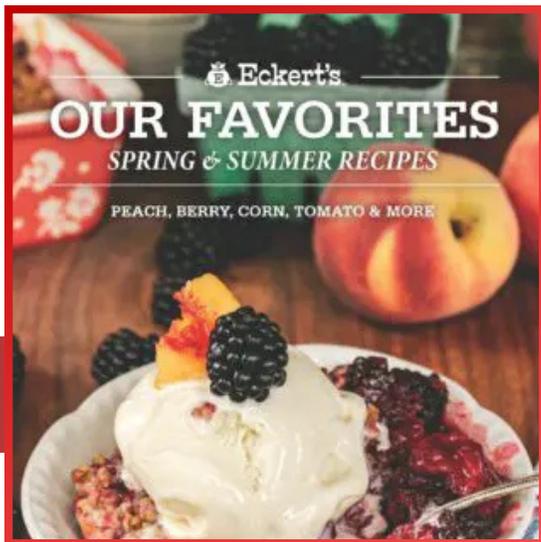
Nichols Community Center: 515 East D St, Belleville

Register at www.Belleville.net/CurrentActivities
or call 618.233.1416

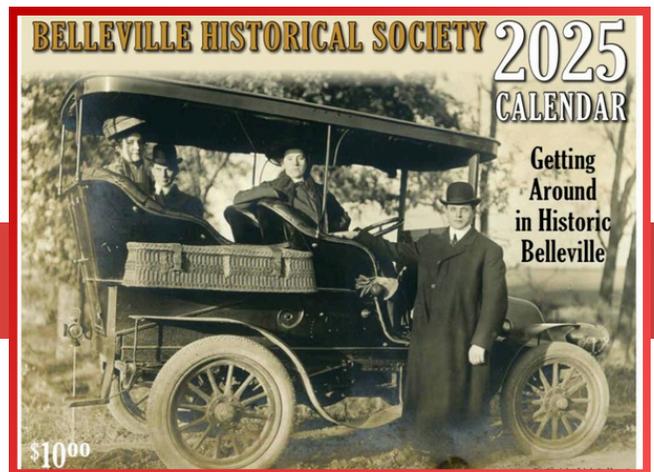
Registration deadline December 12, 2025 or until program is full.

HOMETOWN PRIDE GIFT GUIDE

CHOOSE LOCAL THIS HOLIDAY
SEASON (AND EVERY DAY!) +
DON'T MISS OUT ON THESE
HOMETOWN PRIDE GIFT IDEAS.



ECKERT'S COUNTRY STORE
951 S. GRENMOUNT ROAD
ECKERTS.COM



BELLEVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BELLEVILLEHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG



BLANQUART'S RUSTY GEM VINTAGE MARKET
26 E MAIN STREET



SAWDUST & GLITTER
16 S. ILLINOIS STREET
SAWDUSTNGLITTER.COM



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

BELLEVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB

Ever wondered who welcomes Santa to town each year? Meet The Optimist Club of Belleville. For more than 100 years, the Optimist Club has served children in our community through various programs, activities and events- the most recognizable being the annual Santa Parade and Santa House each December welcoming the jolly fellow to Downtown Belleville each year.

Their mission: The Optimist Club of Belleville is committed to supporting programs that enhance the health and wellness of children in our community.

Each year the Optimist Club serves hundreds of area youth through their activities and donations. The club donations and projects total over \$50,000 annually. Thousands of Optimist volunteer hours have gone into making their club's efforts successful.

You may have seen their work: Santa Parade, Santa House, Belleville Kid's Day, Support Junior Optimist and Octagon Clubs, Oratorical Scholarship Contest, Essay Scholarship Contest, and Sponsorship of the Belleville Parks & Recreation Baseball League (just to name a few!)



OPTIMIST CLUB

SANTA GETS MUCH NEEDED RENOVATIONS

As time takes its toll, by 1994 it looked as if Santa might lose his house as it fell into disrepair. That didn't happen because the Optimists were there and pledged to take over the renovation, painting, displaying and storage of Santa's House. This is what Optimists do best, working for the children of our community.

Since 1994, the Optimist Club of Belleville had performed dozens upon dozens of small renovations and upgrades to the Santa's House. A motorized lift was added to accommodate wheelchairs, new carpeting, new paint, doors and windows replaced, and exterior sections replaced as they became deteriorated by the elements are just to name a few.

Most recently, in 2009, Santa's House received new electrical upgrades to correct old deteriorating wiring, new interior lighting, new exterior coat of paint and fresh carpet cleaning.

All of the labor and materials used to renovate and upgrade the Santa's House are provided by Optimists and local supporting businesses who contribute materials and skilled labor to keep the house in tip top shape. Many thanks goes out to all those volunteers who are too numerous over the years to name. They help make the Santa's House the success it is today.

(source:BellevilleSantaHouse.com)



NEW HOLIDAY MOVIE FESTIVAL

This year, the Optimist Club of Belleville created a new event, a Holiday Movie Festival, spanning three days with three annual holiday movie favorites at the historic Lincoln Theatre. Proceeds from ticket sales will aid their "Fill the Gap" campaign which aims to offset educator expenses for educational tools in the classroom. Tickets are on-sale now.

OPTIMIST CLUB OF BELLEVILLE
HOLIDAY
MOVIE FESTIVAL!

PURCHASE 3-TICKET BUNDLE TO USE OR SHARE

ONLY \$24

Includes **FREE** popcorn and pre-movie entertainment (1/2 hour before show time)



Scan QR Code

Movie Lineup

December 6 : Jack Frost
December 20 : The Polar Express
January 3 : Gremlins

DOORS OPEN: 10:30 AM
PRESHOW: 10:35 AM
MOVIE STARTS: 11:00 AM

Partner with the Optimist Club in our "Fill the Gap" campaign. This program is designed to help offset educator expenses for instructional tools. Help enhance a child's learning experience with these additional supplies.

Gold Sponsors

JACK SCHMITT
Optimist INTERNATIONAL
Optimist Club of Belleville, Illinois
LINCOLN THEATRE
SCOTT CREDIT UNION
Community Foundation

Silver Sponsors

BJC HealthCare Memorial Hospital
EGYPTIAN WORKSPACE PARTNERS
Ehret
Mark Kern
75 Knipp

FOLLOW ALONG

facebook.com/Optimistclubbellevilleillinois



SANTA PARADE

November 28, 10:00AM

Welcome Santa to Belleville for the largest holiday parade in Southern Illinois with multiple parade units of floats, marching bands and dance groups. Begins at 3rd & West A Streets.

SANTA'S HOUSE

Nov 28- Dec 24, Daily

Visit Santa at his house on Belleville's Public Square. Free, photos optional. BellevilleSantaHouse.com for schedule

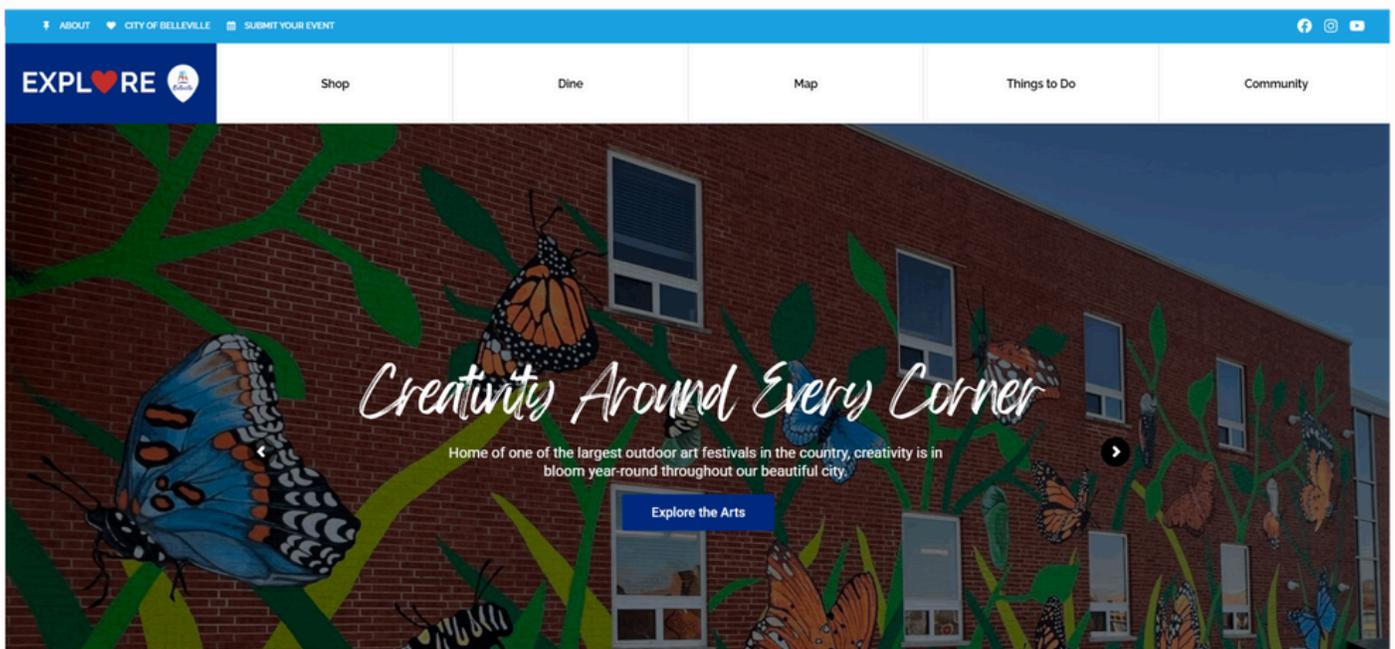
GET INVOLVED

The Belleville Optimist Club is accepting donations for it's various programs, welcomes volunteers and new members!

Email c.mayhew01@gmail.com to join the fun.

CHOOSING BELLEVILLE FIRST JUST GOT EASIER. EXPLORE BELLEVILLE

Our [Great. Big. Small Town.](#) is home to more than 1000 incredible businesses and events every day of the week, 365 days a year. The Explore Belleville project is here to make exploring your City as easy as the click of a button.



This Summer, the City of Belleville launched the multi-phase Explore Belleville Project. The main goal of the Explore Belleville Project is to increase connections throughout our community for residents and visitors while celebrating the community spirit that makes our City shine.

Boasting one of the longest continuous Main Streets in the United States and a rich history of volunteerism and community organizations, the City of Belleville kept it's tagline "Great. Big. Small Town." in mind in the development of the Explore Belleville Project.

"Our Downtown is a destination all on its own with such a variety of unique shops, places to grab a bite or coffee and live music almost every night of the week. This entrepreneurial ingenuity is spread throughout the city, and the City of Belleville is proud to amplify and showcase all our city has to offer residents and visitors alike," notes Courtney Adams, Belleville's Tourism Coordinator.

EXPLORE BELLEVILLE

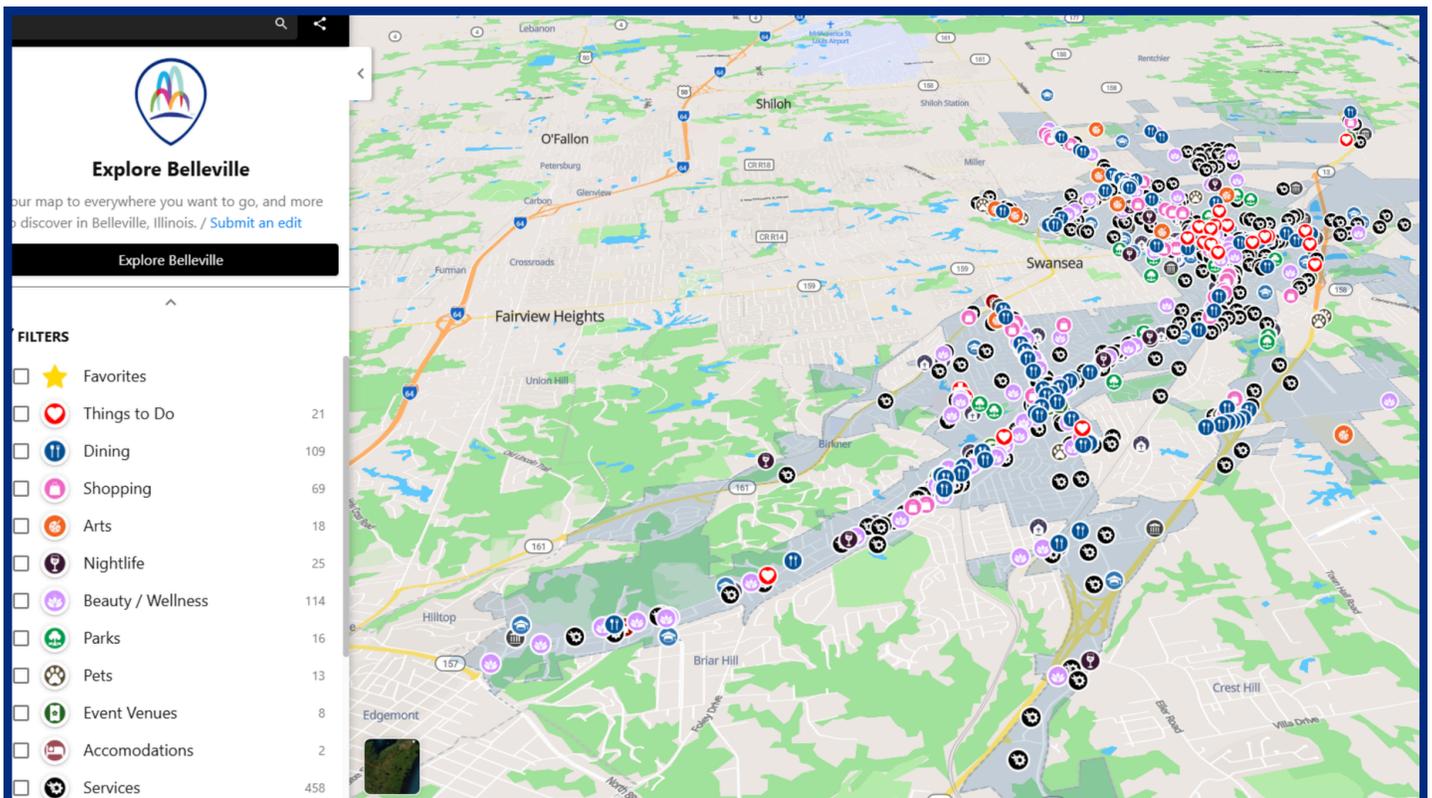
The Heart of Belleville isn't a place, it is the people of our Beautiful City.

Connecting residents and visitors throughout our **Great. Big. Small Town.** to our incredible local businesses and organizations that make our city shine only strengthens our community spirit.

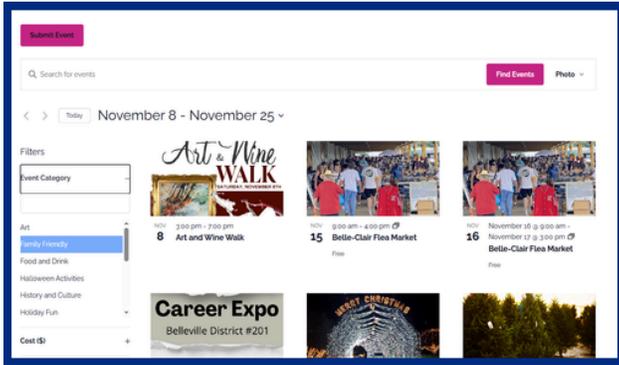
With the support and leadership of Mayor Jenny Gain Meyer, the proposed project was fast-tracked in July as development was able to be completed in-house at a low cost, keeping in mind choosing "Belleville First" with the festival and holiday seasons ahead.

Phase One of the project is complete with the launch of ExploreBelleville.net, the home of City of Belleville Tourism. The website is also accessible on the main screen of the MyBelleville App and on the homepage of the City of Belleville website, Belleville.net

Visitors to ExploreBelleville.net are invited to utilize the [Interactive City of Belleville map](#) with over 1,000 places to dine, shop, and entertain including the expansive City Parks and incredible small businesses that make the community shine. Businesses may [update their map listings](#) directly from the map itself to add images, descriptions and direct website links to better inform visitors.



EXPLORE BELLEVILLE



The Explore Belleville Community Calendar is a showcase of the many local events throughout the year in the City, in addition to the ever-popular annual parades and festivals. The City welcomes businesses and organizations to submit their public events happening within City limits to the Community Calendar to share with residents and visitors.



Think you've seen it all? Curated itineraries for special interests such as art, history, and the great outdoors are accessible on the Explore Belleville homepage to showcase these strong communities within the City. Additional itineraries will be added throughout the year.

Scannable Window decals for ExploreBelleville.net access in storefront and City building windows are currently being distributed, connecting residents and visitors to information on-the-go.

Examples of future project developments include wayfinding maps throughout the City, neighborhood profiles, Community Organization highlights, Field Trip guides for educators, and the Explore Belleville podcast- a partnership with the Belleville District 201 Belleville CEO program. For more information regarding project progress, visit [ExploreBelleville/abouttheproject](https://ExploreBelleville.net/abouttheproject)

Have questions about the Explore Belleville Project?
Contact Courtney Adams,
City of Belleville Tourism Coordinator.

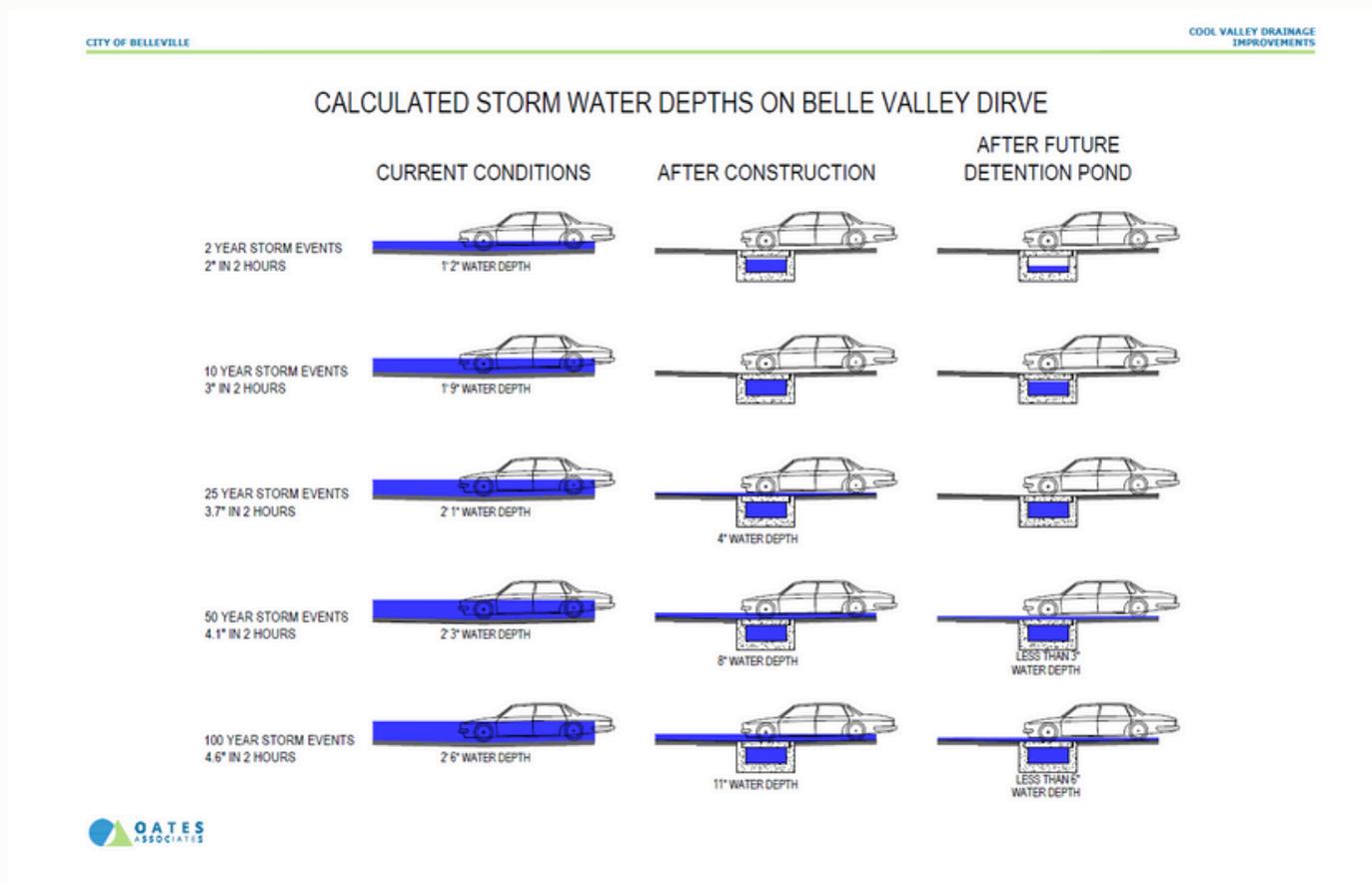
Email: cadams@belleville.net

Whether it's holiday shopping, planning your weekend, or our favorite- exploring what's new in your City, we encourage you to choose Belleville First and visit ExploreBelleville.net.

DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES

ENGINEERING DEPT

The Belle Valley/Cool Valley drainage improvements project is expected to start in November. The severity of the road flooding in this area will be reduced by the project which is expected to be completed by late summer 2026. Below is an illustration of calculated current and future flooding depths.



The pumps that pump the storm water out of the Dewey detention basin have been replaced. To the right is a picture of one of the new pumps and discharge piping.



DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES

ENGINEERING DEPT (continued)

The West Washington St sidewalk curb ramps have been replaced at South 1st, 2nd and 3rd Streets. Below are two pictures of the ramps being replaced. This section of West Washington will be repaved after the water main is replaced.



The TIF 12 Alleyway reconstruction project is nearing completion. Below are pictures of Schilling Ave near Lebanon Ave being graded and compacted.



DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT

NEW HIRES / REHIRE

Dustin Wolf
Laborer Waste Water Treatment Plant
Hired 09/22/2025

Charles Schaeffer Jr.
Part-time Assistant Housing
Hired 09/15/2025

Amy Ohlendorf
was rehired and transferred to Housing Secretary
10/07/2025

Kathryn Heitland
Collector for the Sewer Billing Department
Hired 09/08/2025

Zahary Eiseman
Teamster for the Street Department
Hired 09/08/2025

Dusty Hosna
Planning and Zoning Administator for Economic Development
Hired 10/13/2025

Employees in Wastewater Treatment Plant received Certification.

Charles Harmon received
Class 4 Operator
Certification on 08/26/2025

Kyle Scharf received Class 2
Certification 08/26/2025

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT

Melody Anderson - Part-time Library Clerk Retired 09/30/2025
Alvin Mc Kerracher – Teamster, Street Department – Retired 09/02/2025

DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT



PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING **NEW BUSINESSES TO BELLEVILLE**

(8/18/2025-10/20/2025)

- I Don't Know** - 4004 W. Main Street
- Belleville Stein Haus** - 805 S. Illinois Street
- Sparger Center for Performing Arts** - 120 N. Jackson
- Bath and Body Works** - 5731 Belleville Crossing
- Smoke World Vape** - 2525 Belleville Crossing
- El Jacal** - 1550 IL Rt 15
- Asher Mill Photography** - 733 Lebanon Avenue
- Verizon Wireless** - 5630 Belleville Crossing
- MIT Insurance, LLC** - 631 Mascoutah Avenue
- Fresh Ink Tattoos** - 117 W Main Street
- Unforgettable Fittings** - 5 North 47th Street
- Babe Luxe Bar** - 3 Bellevue Park Plaza

BUSINESS EXPANSION AND REMODELING

(8/20/2025-10/20/2025)

Bungalow - 318 E. Main Street



COMING SOON

- Cupio's House of Snoots** - 4320 W. Main Street
- Blush Home Decor** - 132 W. Main Street
- Velora Beauty** - 5541 Belleville Crossing
- Mi Nail** - 5725 Belleville Crossing
- The Barkery** - 335 W. Main Street
- Regions Bank** - 5401 N. Belt West
- First Care Express Care** - 5720 N. Belt West
- Nikki Styles** - 6400 W. Main Street
- Vortex Elite LLC** - 7200 W. Main Street
- Advantage Business Resources** - 9720 W. Main Street
- Helfrich's Painting Company** - 140 Iowa Avenue, Ste. 11
- Chase Bank** - 2508 Green Mount Commons
- Dewitt's TCG Art Gallery** - 140 Iowa Avenue, Ste. 9
- Calico Cottage Confections, LLC** - 3 Amann Court
- Bark of the Town** - 400 Carlyle Avenue

DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES

FIRE DEPARTMENT



Please join us in congratulating Probationary Firefighters, Brady Nowak and Matthew Lorton of our Belleville Fire Department. They recently graduated from the Southwestern Illinois Fire Academy.



The Firefighters rang the bell many times serving their famous chili at the 41st annual Belleville Chili Cook-Off October 10th & 11th.



Last month, some of our firefighters attended "VES: Beyond the Door", a Fire Nuggets course focused on advanced search tactics used to find and rescue victims during structure fires. This intensive two-day class challenged our team to think fast, move smart, and stay sharp — all in the name of saving lives.

DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Here is your fall reminder for all things burning within the City. Please remember there is absolutely NO burning of anything but seasoned fire wood.

City of Belleville – Burning Ordinance (§130.07)

Only dry-seasoned firewood, charcoal, or commercial fire logs may be burned. Burning trash, yard waste, or treated wood is strictly prohibited. Fire officials may extinguish fires, disperse spectators, and issue citations and fines for violations.

Recreational Fire – “Fires in approved stoves, fireplaces, or fire rings using dry wood, charcoal, or fire logs.” (§130.07(A))

Permit: Not required
Where: Fire rings, stoves, approved fireplaces
Size & Distance: Small, 15 ft from structures
Time: Out by 1:00 a.m.



Residential Bonfire – “Ground fires following permit rules; only dry, seasoned wood allowed.” (§130.07(C))

Permit: Required (\$10)
Where: On the ground at home
Size & Distance: Max 3'x3'x3', 25 ft from structures
Attended: Yes, with fire-extinguishing equipment
Time: Out by 11:00 p.m.



Special Event Bonfire – “Ground fires for permitted events; only dry, seasoned wood allowed.” (§130.07(D))

Permit: Required (\$300)
Where: On the ground for community events
Size & Distance: Max 10'x10'x10', 100 ft from structures
Attended: Yes, by city firefighters & responsible adults
Time: Out by 11:00 p.m.



VIOLATIONS:



If a police or fire official is required to investigate a fire, they will determine if all rules and regulations are being followed. Officials have the authority to **extinguish the fire, disperse spectators, and issue citations and fines** (§130.07).

To request
a Bonfire Permit
please contact the

Admin. Office @ 234-2236

DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES

POLICE DEPARTMENT

In August, BPD swore in Ofc. Dean to attend the Southwestern Illinois Police Academy.



BAR BUDDIES & FOP BELLEVILLE LODGE #226
INVITE YOU TO OUR 2025 ANNUAL



Trivia Night



SATURDAY, DOORS OPEN
AT 6PM
NOVEMBER 22ND
TRIVIA STARTS AT 7 PM

print
master

COPS & KIDS

BEL-AIR BOWL
THE REGENCY ROOM
200 S. BELT WEST
BELLEVILLE, IL

\$160/TABLE (8 PEOPLE) \$100/ROUND SPONSOR
21+ EVENT - SILENT AUCTION - CASH BAR
BRING YOUR OWN SNACKS
NO OUTSIDE DRINKS ALLOWED
FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT: BARBUDDIES618@GMAIL.COM OR 618-698-4059



Belleville Cops & Kids 2025 will take place the mornings of December 6th and December 13th at the Belleville Target. Students have been selected by Belleville area schools for participation. If you see all the officers at Target on these dates, don't be alarmed!

To support this event, the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #226 is hosting a Trivia Night on November 22rd at Bel-Air Bowl. For tickets, you can look us up on Facebook, or scan the QR code on the event flyer.

DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT



The Illinois Big Tree Register has officially recognized two new State Champion trees right here in Belleville — a Red Maple at Mt. Hope Cemetery (9401 West Main) and a Mockernut Hickory near the Bellevue Park Playground!



EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

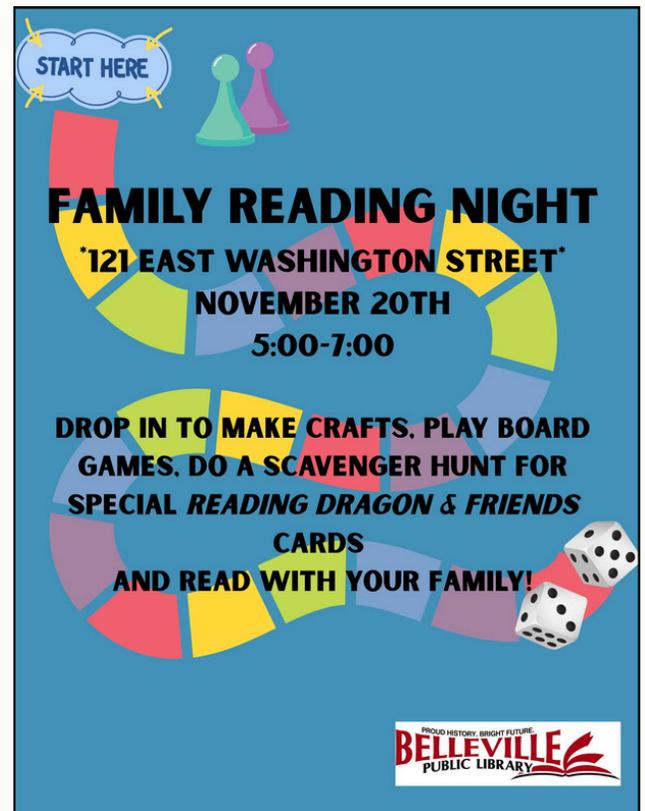
Congratulations to Leyla of Troop 520 on completing her Eagle project and installing signs for FD access around the Belleville Parks and Recreation lakes.

DEPARTMENT NEWS & UPDATES

BELLEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY



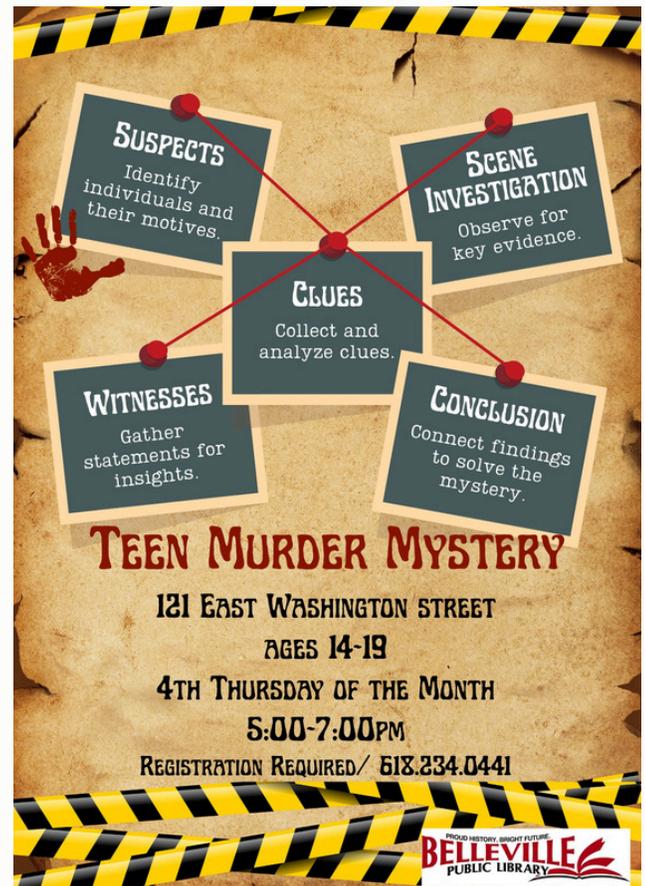
WINTER READING
Ages 3 - 12
Register Now
DECEMBER 1ST - JANUARY 31ST
BELLEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
121 E WASHINGTON STREET
(618) 234-0441



START HERE
FAMILY READING NIGHT
121 EAST WASHINGTON STREET
NOVEMBER 20TH
5:00-7:00
DROP IN TO MAKE CRAFTS, PLAY BOARD GAMES, DO A SCAVENGER HUNT FOR SPECIAL READING DRAGON & FRIENDS CARDS AND READ WITH YOUR FAMILY!
BELLEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY



Large Format Printing!
We are now offering large format printing at the Belleville Public Library.
Printer Information
Maximum width is 36" or 10,800 pixels
Cost is \$2.00 per linear foot, rounded up to the nearest dollar.
Prints can be submitted online or in-person.
Contact us at 618-234-0441 for more information.
BELLEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY



SUSPECTS
Identify individuals and their motives.
SCENE INVESTIGATION
Observe for key evidence.
CLUES
Collect and analyze clues.
WITNESSES
Gather statements for insights.
CONCLUSION
Connect findings to solve the mystery.
TEEN MURDER MYSTERY
121 EAST WASHINGTON STREET
AGES 14-19
4TH THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
5:00-7:00PM
REGISTRATION REQUIRED/ 618.234.0441
BELLEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

DID YOU KNOW?

The Media Lab at the Belleville Public Library provides a wide range of equipment and services for the public to use, including recording equipment, 3D printers, Adobe editing software, and many other options. [Learn more about the Media Lab and see a list of available equipment.](#)

Need a car? Drive one of ours.

\$5/hr



Now available at the
Belleville Library!



We're growing! Check our website for more locations, coming soon.

Sign up for \$10, complete an orientation, book your car, and drive. Download the app to get started:



mdocarshare.org/STL

Access a network of
all-electric cars 24/7
for \$5/hour or
\$50/day.

Insurance and 150
miles included with
each trip!



Powered by Mobility Development in partnership with Forth, Ameren, McCormack Baron, Urban League, Belleville Public Library, and Eastern Missouri Alliance for Clean Transportation



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS



At Illinois American Water, we want to help keep life flowing to our customers. We know that when finances are stretched thin, it can be hard to get back on track once an account falls behind. If you're experiencing financial hardship, please reach out to us. We may be able to assist. Please visit illinoisamwater.com > Customer Service & Billing > Customer Assistance Program.



INCOME-BASED DISCOUNT PROGRAM

Illinois American Water has partnered with Dollar Energy to launch the Income-Based Discount Program. Eligible customers will receive a monthly discount on their water and/or wastewater bill. For more information, please visit illinoisamwater.com > **Customer Service & Billing > Customer Assistance Program.**



H2O HELP TO OTHERS PROGRAM™

H2O Help to Others is a customer assistance program created by Illinois American Water and Illinois' Salvation Army agencies. The program helps provide supplemental funding to residential customers who would otherwise have trouble paying their bills. For more information, please visit illinoisamwater.com > **Customer Service & Billing > Customer Assistance Program.**



PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

If you cannot pay your bill by the due date, please contact our Customer Service Center immediately, before the due date at **800-422-2782**. Our team will work with you on a plan to pay the balance of your bill over time. Both residential and Commercial/Industrial customers can enroll in a payment plan.



BUDGET BILLING

Budget Billing provides a fixed monthly payment over a period of 12 months based on the residential customer's anticipated annual billing. Please call **800-422-2782** to learn more.

SERVICE. ONE MORE WAY WE KEEP LIFE FLOWING.

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

DEPARTMENTS

Economic Dev., x 1250

Engineering, x 4272

Finance, x 1233

Human Resources, x 2280

Info. Tech (IT), x 1254

Mayor, x 1207

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

Tourism

618-967-9459

**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 Jenny Gain Meyer

618-233-6518, x 1207

City Clerk

Shelly Schaefer

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

Gigi Dowling Urban

618-750-1019

WARD 3

Kent Randle

618-239-9227

Scott Ferguson

618-610-5639

WARD 4

Johnnie Anthony

618-520-9784

Raffi Ovia

618-444-5171

WARD 5

Edward Dintelman

618-972-5569

Kathy Kaiser

618-444-3802

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

