

## PARKS & RECREATION CALENDAR

### January 2012

Men's & Co-Rec Summer Softball Registration begins  
 Girl's ASA/AFA Softball (10 and under -18 and under)  
 Women's & Co-Rec Volleyball (ages 14 & up) Leagues begin  
 Youth Baseball Registration begins  
 Girls' Basketball (5th & 6th Grade)  
 Little Sluggers T-Ball Registration (ages 3-5) (Indoor/Outdoor)  
 Little Kickers Registration (ages 3-5) (Indoor/Outdoor)  
 Junior Spikers (3rd & 4th Grade)  
 Little Dribblers (ages 4-6)  
 Daddy Daughter Dance Registration  
 Little Movers & Shakers (ages 6-18 months)  
 Karate Class (PreK & K, 1st-4th Grades)  
 Tiny Tots & Tumbling (ages 2-4)  
 Happy Feet for Toddlers (ages 3-5)  
 Kids in Action (ages 3-5)  
 Parent's Night Out (ages 3-8)  
 Little Cheers (ages 4-6)  
 Watercolor Painting (ages 8-12)  
 Nerf Wars (ages 8-12)  
 Zumba (ages 18 & up)  
 Senior Aerobics (ages 55 & up)  
 Senior Trips (ages 55 & up)

**NEW PROGRAMS:** We have highlighted a few of our new programs at the Nichols Community Center. For more information or to register, please call us at (618) 277-9785.

**LITTLE CHEERS (ages 4-6)** Learn the necessary skills of cheering. Our clinic emphasizes stretching, flexibility and proper body movement while promoting spirit, enthusiasm and coordination.

**NERF WARS (ages 8-12)** Come to the Nichols Community Center and enjoy our new program, NERF WARS. This has become one of the most popular games in the area... don't wait to register, limited spots available!

**WATERCOLOR PAINTING (ages 8-12)** Watercolor can be described as a form of art where paint is combined with water to produce subtle, abstract and sometimes realistic effects. It could be used all alone or with other media like acrylic or colored pencils. If you have a fascination for art, or watercolor, this is a class you will enjoy!

**ALPHABET ACADEMY (ages 3-5)** - Alphabet Academy provides a socially rich environment that caters to the needs of children. We strive to promote independence and everyday skills that will help to enhance the future of these young growing minds.

Call (618) 277-9785 today to set an appointment to view the Nichols Community Center and meet the friendly staff, or email [alphabetacademy@hotmail.com](mailto:alphabetacademy@hotmail.com) for more information.

### AMERICAN LEGION DINNER & SILENT AUCTION

DATE: SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2012  
 Location: Scottish Rite Bodies,  
 1549 Frank Scott Parkway West, Belleville  
 5:00 Cash Bar/ 6:15 Dinner/ 7:30 Program  
 COST: Adult Tickets: \$35  
 Youth Tickets: \$15 (age 15 & under)  
 2011 Legion Players: FREE

Reservations available at the Belleville Parks & Recreation Dept. - (618) 233-1416.

**PLEASE CALL THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT AT 233-1416 FOR MORE DETAILS**

### February

Daddy Daughter Dance - Feb. 4th  
 Tour de Belleville Info available (Ride: Friday, July 13th)  
 Kids in Action (ages 3-5)  
 Little Sluggers T-Ball Registration (ages 3-5)  
 Little Dribblers (ages 4-6)  
 Parent's Night Out (ages 3-8)  
 Silly Scientists (ages 4-7)  
 Junior Spikers (3rd & 4th Grade)  
 Art & Drawing (ages 8-12)  
 Nerf Wars (ages 8-12)  
 Zumba (ages 18 & up)  
 Senior Aerobics (ages 55 & up)  
 Senior Trips (ages 55 & up)

**Dear Dad... please take me to the Daddy Daughter Dance on FEBRUARY 4th!!!**

Price: \$35 per couple/\$15 each additional daughter. Don't delay or disappoint that little girl... you must pre-register and this quality event sells out every year!

Make your reservations now by calling (618) 277-9785 or (618) 233-1416.

### March

Camp Quackers Brochures available  
 Kiddie Camp Brochures available  
 Pitch-Hit & Run Competition  
 April 17, Rainout date April 19  
 British Soccer Camp-Registration Starts  
 Brazilian Soccer Camp-Registration Starts  
 Little Movers & Shakers (ages 6-18 months)  
 Tiny Tots & Tumbling (ages 2-4)  
 Little Kickers / Indoors (ages 3-5)  
 Parent's Night Out (ages 3-8)  
 Little Dribblers (ages 4-6)  
 Crafts from other Countries (ages 4-6)  
 Nerf Wars (ages 8-12)

### EGG-stravaganza 2012 (ages 1-7)

You are invited to our Annual Egg Hunt at Bellevue Park on Saturday - March 31st, 2012. This event is open to the public and is co-sponsored with the Turkey Hill Grange. There will be free cookies and punch after the hunt. Must be pre-registered by March 26th, 2012. Call (618) 277-9785 for more information. The event will take place, RAIN or SHINE.

### Other programs available:

Camp Quackers (K-6th Grade)  
 Kiddie Camp (ages 3-5)  
 Fishing Derby - Free (May 12)  
 Adult Dodgeball League (18 +)

### 2012 Youth Baseball Registration

The Belleville Parks & Recreation Department baseball leagues will be taking registration December through May for the Tee-Ball, Robot Jugs Pitching Machine League, Optimist Baseball League, Jr. Jaycee Travel Baseball League, and Jaycee Travel Baseball League. Early Bird Registration will take place December- January, Regular Registration February - March and Late Registration will be April-May.

**MAYOR**  
 Mark W. Eckert  
 233-6518 x 239 (Office)

**TREASURER**  
 Jerry Turner  
 233-6518 x 240 (Office)

**CITY CLERK**  
 Linda Fields  
 233-6518 x 227 (Office)

**WARD 1**  
 Michael Heisler  
 277-3304  
 Ken Kinsella  
 234-0825

**WARD 2**  
 Dorothy Meyer  
 277-3855  
 Melinda Hult  
 235-1520

**WARD 3**  
 Rob Anderson  
 235-2363  
 A. 'Gabby' Rujawitz  
 235-5077

**WARD 4**  
 Tim Carpenter  
 977-2143  
 Dean L. Hardt  
 830-1135

**WARD 5**  
 Phillip Silsby  
 257-1524  
 Joseph W. Hayden  
 234-8956

**WARD 6**  
 Paul Seibert  
 233-3917  
 Dave Martinson  
 277-4234

**WARD 7**  
 Phil Elmore  
 235-1987  
 Lillian Schneider  
 234-7569

**WARD 8**  
 James Musgrove  
 233-3967  
 Joe Orlet  
 394-0661



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



# Belleville

Information you can use

I · L · L · I · N · O · I · S

A Community of Character

### Community of Character

#### Words of the Month

January - Integrity  
 February - Honesty/Trustworthiness  
 March - Perseverance

#### DOWNTOWN EVENTS

**DIVA Nights**  
 January 19  
 February 16  
 March 15  
 5 - 8pm

**St. Patrick's Day Parade**  
 Saturday, March 17, 11am

**CITY HALL CLOSING**  
 Monday, January 2  
 (New Year's Day Observed)

Monday, January 16  
 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

Monday, February 20  
 (President's Day)

### MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year, Belleville! It has been my pleasure to serve as the Mayor of Belleville this past year. We are still excited about having been named a 2011 All-America City by the National Civic League.

Downtown Belleville looks great and has become a popular destination for many folks. Many people are rediscovering Belleville or discovering it for the first time as they attend some of the special events that we host downtown. Sales tax has increased as more and more folks are shopping and dining in Belleville.

Despite the situation with the economy, which con-



**Mark W. Eckert**

tinues to be a concern to all of us, we are proud to see the aggressive expansion of Lindenwood University's Belleville campus, the City's Waste Water Treatment Plant \$44 million improvements and expansion, and the newly constructed So. 17th Street. Improvements at Bicentennial Park are well under way as a result of the \$400,000 grant from the Kimball Foundation. Improvements to Dapron Dr. and No. 37th St. show that Belleville is committed to improving our community for its residents.

I look forward with great anticipation to continuing to serve the residents and businesses during the new year and wish all of you a very happy and prosperous 2012.

### ELECTRIC ENERGY - THE CHOICE IS YOURS

Illinois law allows municipalities and counties to arrange for the purchase of electricity supply on behalf of residential and small business investor-owned electric utility customers within the municipal or county borders. This process is commonly known as municipal or county aggregation.

The City of Belleville is creating a referendum for the upcoming ballots to allow participation in municipal aggregation. However, citizens also have the choice to buy electric from alternative suppliers on their own. **While the City will ensure that the supplier we choose will not affect current PIPP customers, please be advised that if you are one of the 412 LIHEAP/PIPP customers currently living in the City of Belleville and you choose to switch to another retail electric supplier, you are encouraged to inquire about LIHEAP/PIPP eligibility with that provider.**

Electric supply from Ameren Illinois is the default supply purchased on customers' behalf and the cost is passed on dollar for dollar, therefore Ameren Illinois is indifferent as to a customer, municipality or county's choice of electric suppliers. Ameren Illinois is still the electric delivery company, no matter who customers choose to supply the electricity.

Ameren Illinois is neutral on municipal and/or county aggregation and does not attempt to promote, discourage, or otherwise influence the City's position on aggregation. The City of Belleville is following Ameren's advise as they strongly suggest that any municipality or county exploring aggregation should inquire about any potential effect to customers currently receiving Percent of Income Payment Plan or Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program. We suggest that customer's making their own electric energy choices do exactly the same.

### 47TH ANNUAL MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, held annually in the City of Belleville, is a city-county version of the Presidential Prayer Breakfast held annually in Washington, D.C. These events were inaugurated as a time of rededication of ourselves and our nation to God. Similar events are held in numerous states and cities throughout the United States. Many communities surrounding Belleville hold annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfasts.

Belleville's Mayor's Prayer Breakfast is sponsored by a voluntary committee of concerned laymen who have informally joined together for the past forty-six years to organize the breakfast.

This year's breakfast will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 7:30am at Fischer's Restaurant at 2600 W. Main St. in Belleville. For reservations and/or more information, please call (618) 236-9205.



## CITY DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

**Switchboard**  
233-6810

**Cemetery**  
233-6518 x 236

**City Clerk**  
233-6518 x 210

**Economic Development & Planning**  
233-6518 x 250

**Engineering**  
233-6518 x 272

**Finance**  
233-6518 x 235

**Fire**  
234-2236 non-emergency

**Health, Housing & Building**  
233-6817

**Human Resources**  
233-6518 x 280

**Library Downtown**  
234-0441  
West Branch  
233-4366

**Maintenance**  
277-4965

**Mayor**  
233-6518 x 239

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

**Police**  
234-1212 non-emergency

**Sanitation**  
233-6816

**Street**  
233-6518 x 213

**Treasurer**  
233-6518 x 240

**Wastewater or Sewer**  
233-7146

## BELLEVILLE EARNS A+ RATING

Belleville recently completed a refunding of some of its outstanding bonds that will save the City approximately \$468,000 over the next 8 years. The transaction is similar to refinancing a home loan whereby the City can replace a loan with the lower interest rate loan that is available in today's market.

To insure the highest possible savings, the City solicited proposals from banks and brokerage firms for the purchase of bonds. Eight proposals were received and the City selected the firm offering the lowest interest rate.

# A+

As part of the refunding process, the City obtained a rating from Standard & Poor's, a leading global credit rating and risk analysis firm. Standard & Poor's affirmed the City's "A+" rating. In addition, Standard & Poor's changed the City's financial management assessment score from "standard" to "good".

Joy Howard, principal of WM Financial Strategies and Belleville's financial advisor, indicated that in spite of the poor economy, the City has successfully maintained reserves and implemented financial management practices that were viewed favorably by the rating agency.

## OLD TOWN MARKET EXPANDING IN 2012

The Old Town Market is excited to announce that they have expanded their presence downtown for the 2012 season and they are looking for new vendors to join the market. The market will now occupy the first block of West Main Street and the Northwest Quadrant of the Square, while continuing to utilize the St. Clair County Public Health parking lot at West Main & 1st Streets for vendor booths and parking. West Main Street will remain open while the market is operating. The market is held every Saturday from 7:30 a.m. – noon, rain or shine, beginning May 5, 2012 and ending October 27, 2012.

The market is eager to add new vendors for the 2012 season and has considerably reduced rates for both full season and daily booths. The annual vendor sign-up meeting will be held at Turkey Hill Grange (next to Eckert's Country Store, at the Intersection of Highway 15 and Green Mount Road) on Wednesday, February 15, 2012, at 7:00 pm. If you are interested in joining the market as a produce vendor, handmade craft vendor or food vendor (including both licensed restaurants and foods prepared in home kitchens as allowed by the Illinois Cottage Food Bill), plan to attend this meeting and/or contact Toni Toggias at

618.416.5196.

The Illinois Cottage Food Bill eases the regulatory burden for those who prepare certain non-hazardous foods (primarily baked goods, certain fruit jams and jellies, and herb and tea blends) in home kitchens for sale at Illinois farmers' markets. It also creates a stepping stone for local food entrepreneurs to experiment with recipes and business models, while at the same time adding new and interesting products at the market.



## DUMPSTER ENCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

Over the past couple of years, there have been a number of changes made to the City's Dumpster Enclosure Ordinance. Most recently, the City approved an ordinance that will require dumpsters to be enclosed ONLY if they meet one of the following criteria:

1. The dumpster is cited three (3) times in any one (1) year period for nuisances.
2. The primary building on the



lot is enlarged by 50%

3. A new commercial, industrial, or multi-family dwelling (with 4 or more units) is constructed

If you have questions about the Dumpster Enclosure requirements, please contact the Economic Development and Planning Department at (618) 233-6810 x250.

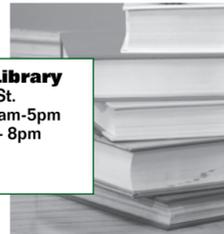
## LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

• **"Picture the Music"**, a traveling photographic display from the St. Louis Symphony, will be on display at the Main Library, March 5-13. Please call or visit the library for more details.

• **Spring Story Times**, Belleville Public Library West Branch, Thursdays, 6:30pm - 7:00pm. This 4 week session starts Thursday, March 15th and ends Thursday, April 5th. Children should be old enough to sit and listen to stories and participate in simple activities. Pre-registration is required. Call 233-4366

**Main Library**  
121 E. Washington  
Mon-Thur: 9am-8pm  
Fri-Sat: 9am-5pm  
Sun. Closed  
234-0441

**West Branch Library**  
3414 West Main St.  
Mon, Wed, Sat: 9am-5pm  
Tues, Thur: Noon-8pm  
Fri, Sun: Closed  
233-4366



## MESSAGE FROM THE NEW LIBRARY DIRECTOR

I am truly honored to have been selected as the Director of the Belleville Public Library. I come to Belleville by way of St. Louis where I was born and raised. I studied Mechanical Engineering at Tuskegee University, Graduated with a BS in Business Administration and Management from Harris-Stowe University and a MLS from the University of Missouri-Columbia. I have held various support and professional positions with the St. Louis Public Library, St. Louis Community College Library and St. Louis County Library.

Belleville is one of the oldest and most historic libraries in Illinois.

I plan to build on the excitement and enthusiasm that surrounded the 175th anniversary celebration and elevate this library to becoming one of the best libraries in the state, as well.

I look forward to my tenure at the Belleville Public Library, and with the cooperation and support of the City and the community, this can and will be an award winning institution and the pride of an already proud community.

*Leander Spearman,*  
Library Director

## RECORD BREAKING GINGERBREAD 5K RUN



On December 3, the City's Gingerbread 5K Run broke several records. A record number of 873 individuals registered for the race; exceeding 2010's runners by 139. A record number of 112 volunteers showed up to patrol the street corners and cheer for the runners, topping last year's volunteers by 46. New course records were posted in the male and female divisions. Overall champion, Jason Olszowka posted a 15:47, and Candace Caveny posted a 19:33.

On the day of the run, Craig Virgin, the race host for the event and a three time Olympic distance runner, was inducted into the USA National Track and Field Hall of Fame.

While this year marked the 6th year for the Gingerbread Run in Belleville, it was the 4th year the run was conducted by the City's Parks & Recreation Department.

## TOWN HALL MEETINGS

**All Ward 1** residents are invited to meet with Alderman Heisler and Alderman Kinsella on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at 7pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall for a Town Hall Meeting. Watch for signs posted in your Ward 1 neighborhood prior to the meeting.

**All Ward 7** residents are invited to meet with Alderman Elmore and Alderman Schneider on Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at 7pm in the City Council Chambers at City Hall for a quarterly Town Hall Meeting.

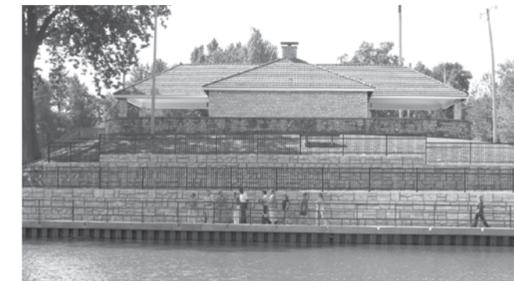
If you are uncertain about which Ward you live in, please call City Hall at 233-6810.



**BUY BELLEVILLE FIRST... IT WORKS FOR EVERYONE!**

## BELLEVILLE PARK RETAINING WALL

Construction of a 225 foot, three tier retaining wall was recently completed at Bellevue Park to correct the failure of an existing wall that had deteriorated. It utilized a vinyl sheet pile wall at the water level and a ledgerstone modular block on the two upper tiers. The new wall features a walking trail along the lake and a small sitting area on the second level. It blends



very well with the other aesthetic features found in the Park. Fournie Construction performed the work with the assistance of Mayer Landscaping and Belleville Fence Co. This project was a much needed and welcome addition to Bellevue Park.

## EPA BAN ON ELECTRONICS DISPOSAL

Beginning January 1, 2012 it will no longer be legal for individuals to dispose of unwanted electronics in their regular trash. Discarded electronics, including computers, monitors, electronic keyboards, scanners, fax machines and many other electronic devices, must be taken to a registered recycler for proper management. It will be illegal for the consumer to dispose of them in the trash and it will be illegal for Illinois landfills to accept them.

The Illinois Electronic Products Recycling and Reuse Act, which took effect in 2008, required manufacturers to establish a recycling program for discarded and unwanted electric products, if they sell their products in Illinois. This newest phase will include individual citizens in the effort to keep electronics, which contain a variety of potentially toxic contaminants, out of the state's 48 active landfills.

A 2007 report showed that electronic products were the fastest growing portion of the solid waste stream. That year, three million tons of electronic products became obsolete, yet only 14 percent of those products were recycled.

During calendar year 2011, electronics manufacturers are being required to collect and recycle or refurbish more than 28 million pounds of products. The reuse of these products, including metals, plastics and glass, conserves natural resources and saves energy. The law requires manufacturers of 17 electronic products, including televisions, computers, monitors, printers, keyboards, and DVRs, to recycle their percentage of a statewide recycling goal. Manufacturers typically hire local recyclers to help them meet their goal.

The metals, which include gold, cadmium, lead and silver, if landfilled, can threaten groundwater.

When the metals are reused, it eliminates some of the need for mining for new supplies and can also be valuable resources when reclaimed. For more information visit the Illinois EPA website at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/land/electronic-waste-recycling/index.html>

Below is a list of local IEPA approved registered residential e-waste collection sites:

- **E Scrap Plus**,  
1925 So. Illinois St., Belleville, IL  
618-719-1849
- **MERS/Goodwill**,  
125 Commerce Ln., Fairview Heights, IL  
314-982-8809
- **A1 Computer Repair**,  
9 Mascoutah Plaza Dr.,  
Mascoutah IL 618-566-4102



## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH:

If you are planning a meeting and would like city representation, please contact the Mayor's office in writing at:  
Mayor's Office  
City Hall  
101 S. Illinois  
Belleville, IL 62220

Please state what kind of representative is requested. (i.e. Police, Fire, Health & Housing, etc.)

## YARD WASTE SCHEDULE

Yard Waste Collection will be picked up during the 2nd full week of January and February during the winter. Weekly pick up of yard waste will run from the first full week of March through the 2nd Friday of December.

**YARD WASTE COLLECTION IS WEATHER PERMITTING**

## GARBAGE

Trash cans up to 45 gallons in capacity must have handles and lids and weigh no more than 60 pounds when filled.

## TRASH SCHEDULE

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

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

The City offers a large item pick up on a daily basis for a minimum fee of \$45. To arrange for a pick up, call the Sanitation Department at 233-6816 one day in advance.