



City Office: 314-381-2834
 Police Office: 314-381-2971
 Police Dispatch: 314-889-2341
 Police Watch Phone: 314-920-9513
 Emergency: dial 911

Visit our website www.cityofbelnor.org

Bel-Nor

Chimes

Newsletter



CITY OF BEL-NOR 8416 NATURAL BRIDGE ROAD BEL-NOR, MO 63121

ISSUE: SPRING 2020

April 7 Election

In addition to electing a Mayor and two Aldermen, there are three important Propositions on our April municipal ballot:

Bel-Nor Prop R

“Shall the City assess an annual registration fee of fifty dollars on dwellings, including one-family dwellings, (and) two-family dwellings..... offered for rent or lease to any person who otherwise qualifies for an occupancy permit and who is not the owner of record of said property?”

Prop R is being proposed in order to provide more effective management and routine inspection of all rental properties in the City. This will help ensure the safety and welfare of the general public and protect the rights of property owners and persons renting their properties. With the

uptick in properties being turned from owner-occupied to rental units after the 2008 financial crisis, we have experienced an increase in the number of absentee landlords, leading to issues with property maintenance and upkeep. Registration will also help the City keep closer tabs on owners and the management companies they may employ to take care of the properties. Bel-Nor will collect approximately \$5000-\$6000 per year from this fee.

Bel-Nor Prop S

“Shall the current annual sewer lateral fee be increased so that a maximum charge not to exceed fifty dollars may be assessed annually on residential property for each lateral sewer service line to provide funds to pay the cost of certain repairs of those lateral sewer service lines which may be billed quarterly or annually?”

Prop S is being proposed in order to generate additional revenue to fund our sewer lateral reimbursement fund. Over the past five years income from the current \$28.00 per household fee has failed to keep pace with the number of requests for partial reimbursement, not uncommon due to the increasing age of the sanitary sewer system in an older neighborhood such as ours. Over that five-year period, we have incurred a deficit of just over \$55,000. While we have managed to pay down some of that deficit, the additional \$15,000 from Prop S will close the gap more quickly and ensure our reimbursement fund is there to meet future demand. Residents will see an increase of \$22 on their annual property tax bill.

Election (Cont'd)**MSD Prop Y**

The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD Project Clear or MSDPC) is asking voters in St. Louis and St. Louis County to make a decision that will impact wastewater rates in the region. Proposition Y will determine how MSDPC funds \$1.58 billion worth of capital improvements over a four-year period from July, 2020 to June, 2024.

A 'yes' vote gives MSDPC the ability to issue \$500,000,000 in bonds to fund some of the work, and repay the debt over a 20 to 30- year period. A 'no' vote means MSDPC will pay for the work as it's done, and will incur higher financing costs.

To see the projected impact on your monthly sewer bill with and without passage of Prop Y, please go to

<https://portal.laserfiche.com/Portal/DocView.aspx?id=2192982&repo=r-a96260ce>

As of this writing, the County Election Board is considering a date change for the municipal election, from April 7 to April 28. More information will be provided when it becomes available.

City of Bel-Nor **Aldermen**

Ward 1

Aldermen Joe Riebold and Charlee McBride – email them at: aldermenward1@cityofbelnor.org

Ward 2

Aldermen Douglas Anders and Jan Nelson – email them at: aldermenward2@cityofbelnor.org

Street/Sidewalk Clean-Up

Thank you to the residents who have recently cleaned the sidewalks and curb areas of their property. This is an ongoing responsibility of the homeowner. Removing leaves, gumballs, and sticks is a benefit to the City and the property owner in many ways. It helps to maintain the integrity of the streets, keeps debris from flowing into the sewers that can cause backups, and improves the overall appearance of the City. Please note that property owners of corner lots are responsible for cleaning both front and side gutters and sidewalks.

Wrong**Right**

Bids are now being solicited for construction work on the Horatio Park Trail. Thanks to a \$265,000 grant from the St. Louis County Parks Commission, residents will soon have a paved and landscaped walking trail on Horatio Parkway!

**New Police Officer**

Mark Mack joined the department last July with over 27 years' experience with surrounding municipalities. Officer Mack usually works second shift but is anxious to meet all our City residents and get to know them.

Santa Visits Bel-Nor – Dec 22, 2019

Mary Schulte, Terri Durand, and Don Muckerman provide the musical accompaniment to Santa's visit to the Bel-Nor gazebo last December. Don and Mary have generously donated their time for several years to help welcome Santa and kick off the Christmas season.

Coming Soon! Horatio Park Trail

Upcoming Events

City-Wide Yard Sale, June 27, 2020

Rain Date – July 11

The 2019 Bel-Nor City-Wide Yard-Sale will be held on Saturday, June 27, starting at 8:00 a.m. We will once again hold our City-Wide Yard Sale in conjunction with the City of Greendale. No city permit is needed that day. We will be publicizing your addresses if you register in advance, by June 20. You can register with Diana at City Hall (cityclerk@cityofbelnor.org).

Alderman Douglas Anders is seeking two or three people to help with a Yard Sale Publicity Committee, working on ways to publicize our Yard Sale.

If interested, please contact Douglas at (314) 300-8440 or douglas.uccrev@att.net. Last year, despite the rain we had a decent number of homes that were part of the City-Wide Yard Sale. This year we are adding a rain date as well. We hope you will consider being part of this event; the more participating homeowners the greater the interest, participation, and traffic.

For a list of City officials visit the website at:
<https://www.cityofbelnor.org>.

There you will find city information, meeting agendas, and future upcoming events.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING

Meetings of the Board of Aldermen are open to all residents. This meeting is held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:30 pm. Meetings are held at the City Hall located at 8416 Natural Bridge Road. **Everyone is invited to attend!**

www.cityofbelnor.org

Trees Matter!

Trees are good. Trees provide many benefits to people and the communities they live in.

Trees need care. Proper long-term care is essential to maximize the benefits a tree has to offer.

Arborists care for trees. Professional tree care providers (arborists) are individuals knowledgeable in the care needed to sustain a tree's life and long-term benefits.

TreesAreGood.org provides the public with educational information about the benefits of trees and how to properly care for trees in the urban environment. The site contains resources from the International Society of Arboriculture, and also provides a collection of reliable tree care information provided by other industry organizations.



7th and 8th graders from St. Ann School “learning the ropes” at an educational event hosted by Bel-Nor, 24:1, and Vertical Voyages last November. This event was funded by our TRIM Grant from MDC.
See our City website for more information on preserving our urban forest.

2020 Census is Underway

The first Census mailings have been received with responses due by the first of April. It is simple to respond electronically if you have a computer and internet access (also available at the Natural Bridge branch library). Information protection is guaranteed by the government.

The Census Bureau is using the internet to securely collect your information because responding online helps conserve natural resources, save taxpayer money, and process data more efficiently. If you are unable to complete your 2020 Census questionnaire online, they will send you a paper questionnaire in a few weeks for you to complete and mail back.

The census is so important that your response is required by law. Your answers are kept completely confidential and may not be shared with any other government or private entity. If you do not respond, they will need to send a Census Bureau Interviewer to your home to collect your answers in person. If you need help completing your 2020 Census questionnaire, please call toll-free 1-844-330-2020.

Because of its impact on our City budget, it is very important that all adults, children, and babies living or staying at each address are counted. A Complete Count Committee has been established for Bel-Nor to assist census workers in reaching all our residents in order to ensure everyone is counted. A preliminary meeting of this committee will be held on Monday, March 23 at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall. Please contact Alderman Douglas Anders at douglas.uccrev@att.net for more information.



We'll handle it from here.™

Reduce Contamination in the Recycle Cart

Please be mindful of the materials disposed of into the recycle container:

- **Keep recycling simple.** Get back to the basics of recycle materials: paper, cardboard, plastic, metals, aluminum and glass.
- **When in doubt, throw it out.** If you're unsure if something can be recycled, opt to put it in the trash.

- **Trash the plastic bags.** Plastic bags don't belong in the recycle cart. Reuse or take plastic grocery bags back to the local grocery store to be recycled instead.
- **Ditch the debris.** Plants, soil and yard waste don't belong in your recycle cart.
- All items being recycled must be **ECD** (empty, clean and dry).

By utilizing these suggestions, it helps ensure the recycled materials leaving your homes are in fact recyclable. Together, we are caretakers of this planet. Recycling is worthy of every effort we can make to protect it for our families.

ALWAYS Recyclable

Paper



Plastic



Metal



Cardboard



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