

Leadership Letter

Another year has officially come and gone. In all my years serving on the City Council, I have never seen so much activity at once. I'd like to take an opportunity to share highlights of what the City of Pella has to look forward to as we begin 2019.

- We have experienced unprecedented transformation in retail spaces within our Central Business District due to retirements as well as ownership changes. With new ownership comes fresh ideas and energy.
- Investors have identified Pella as a promising place to begin projects.
- In December, Council adopted a new Downtown Streetscape Master Plan. The "Plan" is merely meant to be a guide when, in future years, we have to start dealing with replacing the 100-year-old utilities that serve the Central Business District. The most critical area is the Oostport Alley; this project is planned for 2019.
- Several housing projects are either underway or in the planning stages.
- The City is conducting a study to address future space needs of several City facilities including the Public Safety Complex and the Community Center.
- Phase 2 of the Pella Sports Park, which will add two new ballfields in addition to other enhancements, will be complete later this year.
- The City Council will soon be discussing a business plan that provides details on the next steps involved to develop a municipal telecommunications utility. This utility would make high-speed internet, cable, and telephone services available to our citizens.
- The Red Rock Hydroelectric plant is scheduled to come online late this year.
- And finally, our local base of manufacturing companies are all doing well. We are always grateful for the support they give back to our community.

As 2019 begins, I think it is appropriate to say that we, as citizens of Pella, should "count our many blessings."

— Mark De Jong, Council Member At-Large

Oskaloosa Street Corridor Workshop

Join us on **January 24th, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.**, for a public input session and visioning workshop regarding improvements along the Oskaloosa Street corridor. This meeting will be facilitated by Snyder & Associates with the goal of seeking the community's vision for desired improvements such as aesthetics, safety, types of businesses, and services. The meeting will be held at the Public Safety Complex at 614 Main Street (use the Liberty Street entrance).

ELECTRIC METER TESTING

During the months of January and February, the City will be testing electric meters. Prior to removing the meter, electric personnel will notify the customer if they are home. Electric service will be temporarily interrupted when the meter is removed and again when the test is completed. If you have any questions, please contact Electric Distribution at 628-2581.

Welcome Bret!

On December 10th, Bret Freshwater joined the Electric Distribution line crew as an apprentice lineperson. Bret grew up in Albia graduating from Albia High School and Indian Hills Community College. He also studied at Minnesota West Community and Technical College in Jackson, Minnesota where he graduated with a Powerline Diploma. After graduation, he worked for Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative as a summer intern. His background, education, and experience make him a valuable addition to our Distribution crew. Welcome Bret!



Meeting Dates

1/2: 7:00 p.m.
City Council
Public Safety Complex
614 Main St. (rear entrance)

1/7: 7:00 p.m.
Special Planning & Zoning
Commission
Public Safety Complex
614 Main St. (rear entrance)

1/8: 4:00 p.m.
Library Board
Pella Public Library

1/9: 5:30 p.m.
Community Development
Committee
Public Safety Complex
614 Main St. (rear entrance)

1/14: 5:30 p.m.
Historic Preservation
Commission
City Hall, 825 Broadway St.

1/15: 7:00 p.m.
City Council
Public Safety Complex
614 Main St. (rear entrance)

1/18: Noon
Community Services Board
Community Center
Room 206

1/28: 7:00 p.m.
Planning & Zoning
Commission
Public Safety Complex
614 Main St. (rear entrance)

Special Dates

1/16: All Day
Free Bundled Brush
Pick-up by City

Jan. 9, 16 & 23
Christmas Tree Pick-up

Holiday Closings

Offices closed on Jan. 1:
City Hall, Community
Services, Electric Distribution,
Planning and Zoning, Public
Library, and Public Works

**Garbage and Recycling
Pick-up Changes**
Tuesday's route (1/1) will run
on Wednesday (1/2). The rest
of the week will be as usual.

CITY OF PELLA CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP

Three additional Christmas tree pick-up days will be offered on January 9, 16, and 23. Trees must be placed at the curb by 7:00 a.m. All trees must be unwrapped and free from plastic bags, wires, nails, and stands. Trees that do not meet these requirements WILL NOT be picked up.

Christmas wreaths and roping with wire will be collected as normal household waste if placed in a closed tote. Contact the Public Works Department at 628-1601 for more information.



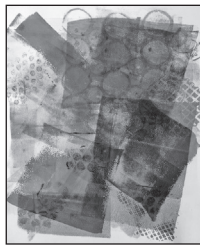
JANUARY ART CLASSES

The Pella Community Art Center is offering the classes below with all the materials being provided. Pre-registration is required. Please call 628-4571 or email bross@cityofpella.com to register. Payment is due at time of registration.



Water Color Pine Trees

Thursday, Jan. 10
from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Fee: \$15 resident or
\$18 non-resident



Printing Without A Press

Thursday, Jan. 24 & 31
from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.
\$30 resident or
\$36 non-resident

COMMUNITY SERVICES NEWS

Art Center Program Registration

Registration is available for the following classes, which start on January 21 and continue through May 8, 2019.

- Mondays from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. for students in K-12
- Tuesdays from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. for students in K-12
- Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for home school students (at least 5 years old and in K)

Fees for the above classes are \$42/resident or \$50/non-resident for the semester

- Wednesday Art with Me from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. for children who are 3 years old (with an accompanying adult) or 4 years old

Fees for the above class are \$37/resident or \$43/non-resident for the semester

For questions, or to register, contact the Community Services Department at 628-4571.

Snow Reminders



The snow season is upon us. Let's work together to keep our neighborhoods safe this winter season! If you have a fire hydrant located at or near your property, please clear snow away from it. When responding to a fire emergency, every second counts. Buried or inaccessible hydrants may result in a delay at the scene of the emergency.

Also, keep in mind, City ordinance requires that property owners remove snow and ice from public sidewalks next to their property within 24 hours after snow stops falling or ice stops forming. If you are planning to be out of town at any time during the winter months, please make arrangements for someone to clear your sidewalk.

JANUARY LIBRARY EVENTS

- **Story Time** is offered every Saturday at 10:30 a.m.; suggested for ages 3 and up with parents.
- January 2, 16, 23, & 30 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.: **Whatchamacallit Wednesdays**. Grades K to 5th.
- January 5 at 10:30 a.m.: **Spanish Story Time**.
- January 9 at 3:00 p.m.: **Early Out Movie**. Children under the age of 5 need a mature person watching the movie with them and children under the age of 8 need a mature person in the library during the program.
- Weekly story time, tot time and lap sit will start the week of January 14.
- January 14 at 6:00 p.m.: **Pajama Story Time**.
- January 14 at 7:00 p.m.: **Culture Night: Paraguay** featuring Ana Martinez. This program will be held in Room 206 at the Community Center.
- January 15, 22 & 29 at 6:00 p.m.: **Using DNA Tests in Genealogy**. Registration required.
- January 17 at 10:15 a.m.: **Genealogy Club**.
- January 21 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 6:00-8:00 p.m.: **Free Photo Digitizing**. Registration is required.
- January 31 at 12:00 noon: **Brown Bag Book Club**.
- February 1: **Stuffed Animal Sleepover**. Check in your stuffed animal, doll or toy on February 1 starting at 4:00 p.m. You can pick your special friend up on Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. Super-secret cameras will catch them as they check out all the fun things to do at the library. Stay for a movie at 10:30 a.m.

Book Worms and Chapter Chat Book Clubs

The library offers book clubs for kids during the school year. Book Worms Club is for kids in grades 1-2 who are reading simple chapter books. Chapter Chat Club is for kids in grades 3-5. Clubs will meet in February, March and April. Books for the February session are now available for check out at the Circulation Desk. Please contact Katie at kdreyer@cityofpella.com or call the library for more information.

Geri-Fit® Classes

Geri-Fit® video fitness classes will be held starting in January; intended for ages 65 or over who are not currently doing any strength training exercises. An information session will be held Jan. 9 at 10:30 a.m. and the classes will begin Jan. 16. Classes will be held on Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:30 a.m. Limited space is available and registration is required.

Tax Forms

The library will have a limited number of federal tax forms available this year. We also have a tax form kiosk in the library to make it easy for you to print the forms you need.

Check this out: Adventure Passes!

The Iowa Libraries Adventure Pass is an online program that allows you to use your library card to visit selected attractions, museums, and parks for free. Reserve the pass online by entering your library card number, and then present the printed reservation confirmation page and a valid photo ID for admittance to the venue. The pass is valid for the reserved date only, and admits 2 adults and 2 children. The Adventure Pass program is funded by the Friends of the Library. See our website for more information.

For more information about any of these programs, please call the library at 628-4268.