

## LEADERSHIP LETTER

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The current COVID-19 crisis brings back memories of family stories of a similar

situation that claimed the life of my great grandma's sister, Effie De Jong Rozenberg. This was during World War I, and that pandemic was caused by a virus known as the Spanish Influenza. The December 27, 1918 issue of the Dutch language newspaper *Pella's Weekblad* reported that her life ended within a week of being infected, dying at the age of 31 and leaving behind her husband and three small children.

While her death certainly was a traumatic event in one specific family history, it was not isolated. Looking at all three newspapers that were published in Pella at that time, the issues that contained the details of Aunt Effie's death also reported influenza-related death notices and memorials of 12 other people. And unlike the present pandemic which is particularly hard on older populations, for reasons not entirely known by science, the Spanish

Influenza attacked those in the prime of life. Just look at the ages of those 12 citizens in the Pella area who did not survive: 56, 54, 52, 40, 31, 28, 24, 24, 23, 17, 12, and 11.

These statistics are certainly a grim reminder that we have to take the present COVID-19 virus and its possible mutations seriously, particularly when we observe that the horrific late fall 1918 Spanish Influenza outbreak occurred after a milder version had hit the country in the spring. The editor of the *Pella Chronicle* took note of the need to be cautious, correctly stating in the December 19, 1918 edition that the disease was killing considerably more Americans than the war. He ended his thoughts with this quote: "Influenza is more dangerous than a gun, yet many people who are scared to death of a gun will needlessly expose themselves to flu germs."

But, once the 1918 pandemic began to subside, life eventually normalized. Churches in Pella that were closed during the crisis opened their doors again. The Central College building

## COVID-19 UPDATES

We are committed to providing updates related to the current COVID-19 pandemic as they are available. Visit Facebook @PellaCityHall or [www.cityofpella.com/COVID-19](http://www.cityofpella.com/COVID-19) for the most recent information.

To receive a notification when future updates are available, visit <https://pella.ia.reggroup.com/signup> and elect to receive Emergency Alert notifications.

that was hastily converted into a make-shift hospital for influenza patients returned back to its original purpose of educating students. But the decisions of exactly "when" and "how" to make those changes were not easy then, just as they are not easy now. Rest assured the Mayor, City Council, and City staff have all been wrestling with the tough balancing act of protecting the public while trying to maintain our normal day-to-day activities. Are we succeeding? Only the passage of time with the proverbial 20/20 rear-view mirror vision will eventually give us the answer.

## MEETING DATES

Public meetings will continue to be monitored in light of the developing COVID-19 pandemic. Changes to meeting dates and information about where meetings will be held, including how to join the meeting via conference call if applicable, will be posted at least 24-hours prior to each meeting at [www.cityofpella.com/calendar.aspx](http://www.cityofpella.com/calendar.aspx). Individuals without internet access should call 628.4173 with questions regarding meeting details.

**AIRPORT COMMITTEE**  
6/26 – 7:00 a.m.

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**  
6/15 – 6:00 p.m.

**CITY COUNCIL**  
6/2 – 7:00 p.m.  
6/16 – 7:00 p.m.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
6/10 – 5:30 p.m.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD**  
6/19 – Noon

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**  
6/8 – 5:30 p.m.

**LIBRARY BOARD**  
6/9 – 4:00 p.m.

**PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION**  
6/22 – 7:00 p.m.

**SPECIAL DATES**  
**FREE BUNDLED BRUSH PICK-UP**  
6/17 – 7:00 a.m.

## ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

This annual report helps customers understand the quality and safety of tap water provided by the Pella Municipal Water Department.

View the 2019 report at:  
[www.cityofpella.com/waterqualityreport](http://www.cityofpella.com/waterqualityreport)

For questions, call 628.2464.

## CONTACT US

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PLANNING & ZONING  
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POLICE  
641.628.4921

PUBLIC WORKS  
641.628.1601

@PELLACITYHALL

# LIBRARY EVENTS IN JUNE

## SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM UPDATE

The Pella Public Library would like to help you "Imagine Your Story!" this summer with the announcement of our Summer Library Programs!

Not surprisingly, the Summer Library Program will be a little different this year.

The Summer Library Program will be done completely at home with no need to come to the Library to pick up prizes. Starting on Monday, June 1 at 10:00 a.m., kids and parents are welcome to come pick up a bag with all they will need for summer in the bag! And guess what? The bag is the prize this year! Inside the bag will be supplies for four programs that Miss Katie will lead online and your reading log. But wait, there's more! There will also be experience prizes this year, all entries will be done online, and we'll announce additional prizes online through the Summer Library Program. For more information, please contact Miss Katie at [kdreyer@cityofpella.com](mailto:kdreyer@cityofpella.com) or call 628.4268. And for ongoing updates, please visit our webpage or follow us on social media.

## NEW CURBSIDE PICK-UP SERVICE

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has temporarily impacted our regular services, we continue to serve the public in new and creative ways, and our resources remain available to the public to borrow. Even though the Library building is currently closed to the public, we are pleased to offer a curbside pick-up service from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

To place an order for curbside pickup, begin by going to <https://pella.ent.sirsi.net> and clicking "Log In" at the top of the page. Enter your library card number and PIN number (usually the last 4 digits of your phone number) and log in. Look up the items you wish to request in the catalog and click "place hold." Up to 20 items may be requested per household, per day. If you don't find what you're looking for on our website, please do not hesitate to contact us; we're always happy to work with you to find the material you're looking for in the format that works best for you. If you are unable to place an order online, you may also call to request items. Library staff may be reached at [pplcirc@cityofpella.com](mailto:pplcirc@cityofpella.com) or by calling 628.4268.

## WELCOME NEW TEAM MEMBERS

**Matthew Lepke** has joined the City of Pella as the Planning and Zoning Director. A graduate of Central, the University of Iowa, and Drake Law, he has worked in county and city planning departments of varying sizes. In his spare time, Matthew enjoys reading, travel, photography, and sports.



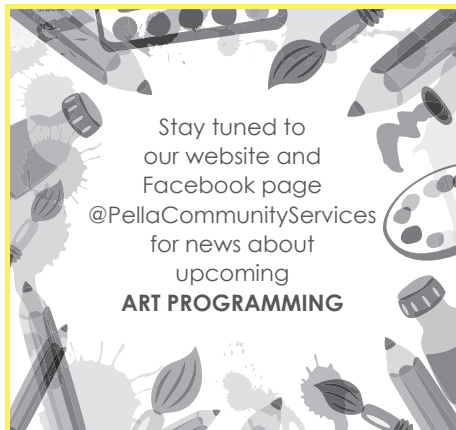
**Alex Olsen** has joined the City of Pella as the Bos Landen Golf Grounds Supervisor. Alex graduated from Iowa State University with a bachelor's degree in Horticulture specializing in Golf Course Management. Alex brings nearly 15 years of experience in golf course maintenance to his new role at Bos Landen. Outside of work, Alex's hobbies include hunting and playing golf.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS AND REBATES

- When it's warm outside, run your ceiling fan counterclockwise to create a cooling breeze. Ceiling fans cool people, not space, so turn the ceiling fan off when leaving a room.
- Now is a great time to have your central air-conditioner tuned up to prevent future problems; we offer a \$30 rebate every other year for AC tune-ups.
- Install a thermostat that keeps you comfortable when you are home and saves energy while you are away; we offer a \$25 rebate for Energy Star® smart thermostats.

For more information about all available rebates, call 628.2581 or visit our website: [www.cityofpella.com/rebates](http://www.cityofpella.com/rebates)



Stay tuned to  
our website and  
Facebook page

@PellaCommunityServices  
for news about  
upcoming  
**ART PROGRAMMING**

## FIND US ON FACEBOOK

The City has several Facebook pages to keep citizens up-to-date on what is happening within our community. Find and follow us on Facebook today!

- **City Hall** @PellaCityHall
- **Community Services** @PellaCommunityServices
- **Fire Department** @PellaFire
- **Pella Fiber** @PellaFiber
- **Police Department** @PellaPolice
- **Public Library** @PellaPublicLibrary

## MOWING AND GRASS CLIPPING REMINDERS

Summer is almost here! Along with summer comes the necessity to maintain an appropriate grass height. Per City Code, grass and weeds must be kept to a height no greater than 8 inches. Grass clippings are also to be kept off sidewalks and roads. Questions or concerns should be directed to our Code Enforcement Officer, Jared Parker, at 628.0043 x4, or [jparker@cityofpella.com](mailto:jparker@cityofpella.com)

