LEADERSHIP LETTER

Council Member Lynn Branderhorst, Ward 1
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In my earliest days on the Council in 2018, Mayor Jim Mueller brought up a topic the citizens of Pella had asked us to consider: establishing a municipal telecommunication system that would provide fast, reliable broadband with stellar customer service.

We knew it could make life better for everyone. But it seemed like a big commitment. And we wondered: Was the City of Pella prepared to invest in developing a new utility?

We decided to issue a referendum to find out, and the citizens of Pella made their feelings clear in May of that year when 92 percent voted in favor of the new municipality.

Since then, 75 miles of optical fiber have been laid throughout the community. In April we cut the ribbon on the new Pella Fiber building, which my neighbors and I welcomed into Ward 1.

That day, I was reminded of what I have loved about this community since my family put down roots here almost 60 years ago. The people of Pella are fiscally responsible, but this town also knows how to roll up its sleeves and do something for its future. In this case, citizens weren’t afraid to commit a purse of money from city funds to make a new service a reality.

It’s part of who we are, and I think it’s because we believe in ourselves. It’s in our DNA, unseen but powerful, just like the fiber under our feet.

Today, we all share the benefits of Pella Fiber. If you’re a student, you can access a world of information to support your studies. If you’re a business owner, you can reach and serve your customers quickly. If you work from home, you can connect instantly and effectively with your coworkers and employer. If you’re in a nursing home and your chart needs to reach your doctor or a specialist, it can happen quickly.

And if there’s a problem, you can reach customer service 24/7 and talk with a local expert to get the support you need to be up and running again as soon as possible.

I’m proud of the hard work, spirit of responsibility and commitment we share. It’s who we are, and — like the new fiber lines that connect us all — it’s what makes our future bright.
FOR ADULTS

- Culture Night: Niger featuring the Johnson Family
  June 22 at 7:00 p.m.
  Community Center Room 206

- Storm Chasers Program
  June 24 at 11:00 a.m.
  Community Center Auditorium

- Brown Bag Book Club
  June 30 at noon in the Heritage Room
  Grandma Gatewood’s Walk: The Inspiring Story of the Woman Who Saved the Appalachian Trail by Ben Montgomery

- Take & Make: Nature Walk Bracelet
  Kits are available at the library

- Adult Summer Reading Challenge: Read Beyond the Beaten Path
  As you read books in June and July, enter them in your Beanstack account or fill out an entry form for each book to be eligible for prizes

FOR CHILDREN

- Summer Reading Challenge
  Register online or stop in for a reading log

- Books and Art
  Mondays at 10:00 a.m. starting on June 13
  West Market Park South Shelter House

- In-Person Story Time with Miss Katie
  Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. starting on June 6

- Online Story Time with Miss Katie
  Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.
  Register at https://pellalibrary.libcal.com/

- Duke Otherwise Program
  June 16 at 10:00 a.m.
  Community Center Auditorium

- Pint Size Polka Program
  June 23 at 3:00 p.m.
  Community Center Auditorium

- Storm Chasers Program
  June 24 at 10:00 a.m.
  Community Center Auditorium

- Neal Smith Prairie Program
  June 28 at 10:00 a.m.
  West Market Park South Shelter House

For more information about all library events, visit https://pellalibrary.libcal.com/ or call 628.4268.

NEW PELLA FIBER TEAM MEMBER

Kurtis Earls is Pella Fiber’s newest Field Technician. Originally from Tulsa, Oklahoma, Kurtis recently relocated to Pella after completing 15 years of service in the United States Marine Corps as a Motor Transportation Operations Chief. During his free time, Kurtis enjoys the great outdoors, playing or watching sports, and spending time with his six-year-old daughter and friends.

Welcome to the City of Pella, Kurtis!

SUMMER ART CENTER CLASSES

For more details or to register for any of these programs, visit cityofpella.com/summerCC or call 628.4571.

- Learning & Dyeing Garden
  May 24 - June 30 [Tues. & Thurs.]
  from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

- Adult Clay Garden Plant Markers
  June 6 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

- Aliens Have Landed
  June 7 - 9 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

- Family Mural Keith Haring Style
  June 10 from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

- Adult Lunch Art
  June 10 from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

- Art with Me
  June 13 - July 25 [Mondays]
  from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

- Junior Clay
  June 13 - July 25 [Mondays]
  from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

- Adult Giant Paper Flower
  June 13 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

- Adult Clay Wheel
  June 14 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

- Adult Resin
  June 20 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

- Adult Clay Flower Pots
  June 24 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

SIGNAGE REMINDERS

Signage must not be placed in the public right-of-way (between curb and sidewalk), on public utility poles, or near intersections. Citizens are able to place political and non-commercial signage on private property without obtaining a permit. For more information, call 628.0043.

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 2021 report at: cityofpella.com/waterqualityreport

For questions, call 628.2464.

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 cityofpella.com/rebates.