

City of Bellefontaine Neighbors

Bellefontaine News

January 2021

9641 Bellefontaine Road

(314) 867-0076

St. Louis County, MO 63137

From The Office of The Chief



Jeremy Ihler

Greetings Residents,

Although police officers are not immune to the effects of COVID-19, the police department has been very fortunate in maintaining the health of our staff and a COVID-19-free working environment. As COVID-19 levels continue to rise during this cold season, we

continue to provide police employees with proper personal protection equipment and enhanced safety standards. We continue to use an adapted professional way of providing you services while maintaining COVID-19 safety compliance. Although we are all still adjusting to the continuing changes to our lifestyle, our community is still moving forward. Even though the virus continues to diminish the interaction of in-person community policing events, this does not mean that community-policing has been diminished. Community-policing reaches far beyond these events as the foundation of it rests with relationship building. Our relationship building with the community continues in many forms and we are presently working toward the common goal of a safer community through collective problem-solving.

Now Accepting Applications

- City Administrator
- Parks and Recreation Director
- Police Officers
- Various Commissions (Board of Adjustment, Image and Beautification, Human Relations, and Parks and Recreation etc.)

For more information and to apply go to www.cityofbn.com

Phone: 314-867-0076

See the website for upcoming events



facebook

Follow the Police Department on Facebook!

For the latest information affecting our community. <https://www.facebook.com/>

For non-emergency situations, call police dispatch at (636) 529-8210. For emergency situations, dial 911.

Crime: Data, Reporting, and Reducing

As it concerns crime within the City, we have experienced an overall average increase of 7% in crime when collectively considering homicide, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. (Figure 1.) As for crimes against persons, we have experienced decreases in homicide and rape and increases in robbery and assault. As for crimes against property, we have experienced decreases in burglary and larceny and increases motor vehicle theft. We are still experiencing problems with motor vehicle theft (43% increase) – many of which occur to people leaving their vehicles running, unlocked, and unattended.

Policing starts with you – the community. You are the heart of the policing mission and we require your involvement to increase the safety and security of our community. If you observe suspicious activity, a crime about to occur, or a crime in progress please call the police immediately so that the police department can investigate these matters quickly to prevent and stop crime. **For non-emergency situations, call police dispatch at (636) 529-8210. For emergency situations, dial 911.** Any resident who would like to host a **Neighborhood Watch meeting** in their area to discuss crime and other policing related matters and initiatives, please contact the police department office during normal business hours, between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm, to make arrangements. The police department will have a police officer available to attend your meeting and we will help you with marketing your neighborhood meeting.

Figure 1.

Crime Type	Jan. – Sept.		Percentage Change
	2019	2020	
Homicide	4	1	-75%
Rape	3	2	-33%
Robbery	14	20	30%
Assault	133	141	8%
Burglary	95	78	-8%
Larceny	139	127	-9%
Motor Vehicle Theft	70	122	43%
	458	491	7%

Body-Worn Cameras

The police department has finally unveiled and materialized all the work that has been done over the last couple of years in an effort to use federal grant



money to start a body-worn camera program. The \$435,304.00 initiative partnered 8 St. Louis area municipal police departments with the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the federal Training and Technical Assistance. The development and approval of police policies, officer training, and storage, access, and release of recordings were all developed and implemented under federally approved guidelines. In August 2020, the program was formally launched. In October 2020, Chief Jeremy Ihler provided a body-worn camera public presentation and demonstration for our community. Its purpose was to educate the citizenry on the grant process, the realities of body-worn cameras, and to engage in discussion and answer questions on issues surrounding this type of technology and how it will be used in our community. The recording of the presentation can be found on the department's Facebook page. More information, including the federally approved police body-worn camera policy and procedures, can be found on the City's website.



Police Chaplain Contacts

Glen Connoley, gconnoley@cityofbn.com
Nathan Ruback, nruback@cityofbn.com
Tommie Harsley, tharsley@cityofbn.com
Greg Warnusz, gwarnusz@cityofbn.com
DWayne Elliott, drelliott@cityofbn.com

Want another layer of anonymity? Use the T.I.P. Line!

Trends, Issues, & Problems



bnpdtp@cityofbn.com

Have you ever been concerned with your safety when reporting crime to the police? Have you felt embarrassed to discuss an issue with a police officer? Do you want to better hide your identity when providing information to police that may lead to the arrest of a person? Remain anonymous and reduce your stress by using the T.I.P. Line! The “Trends, Issues, and Problems” email reporting system is for those who prefer to remain unknown while providing the police necessary information to maintain order and safety in our community. The T.I.P. Line can be used to relay information on reoccurring suspicious activity, neighborhood problems, derelict vehicles, and other issues that serve the goal of community problem-solving.

When providing information, please be as detailed as possible by including the following (as relevant):

1. Location of incident
2. Time of occurrence
3. Description of suspicious/illegal activity
4. Description of persons involved (height, weight, description of clothes, etc.)
5. Vehicle information including license plate
6. Any additional information that you feel will be helpful

If you choose to provide your name and phone number, a member of the police department may contact you to obtain additional information. Do not use the T.I.P. Line to report crimes in progress and other matters that require immediate police attention – call non-emergency dispatch or 911 as appropriate. We thank you for your assistance in helping us keep our community safe.

REMINDERS: Trash containers should be stored behind the front wall of your property. Trash containers shouldn't be placed at the curb no earlier than 5pm on the day prior to your trash day and must be removed by 5pm on the day after collection. Grass should be no taller than 8 inches in height and grass clippings may not be left in the street.

Snow Routes

The street department does an amazing job keeping our streets open during snow events. The City of BN has passed ordinances to ensure sufficient space for emergency vehicles to serve residents and snow removal equipment to easily maneuver and clean streets efficiently. Ordinance #2096 was passed in 2008 to deem the following streets no parking:

- Addition, 1000 block
- Akron, 1400-1500 block
- Avant, 1000 block
- Comet Drive, between Ashbrook and Dwight
- Dwight, 10151
- Hamlet Court
- Kelvin Drive, cul-de-sac only
- Kimball Court
- Laire, 1100-1200 block
- Larue Court
- Southworth Court
- Surf, 10232, 10236
- Green Acres Road from Bellefontaine Road, generally westward to the “Y” intersection at lot # 47, including Orchard Court, Orchard Lane, Willow Court and Willow Lane

Residents and visitors should keep in mind that everyone should be aware of parking restrictions, especially during snow or ice events. Please take notice of the ordinances below and always leave enough room in the street so a snowplow or emergency vehicle can get through. These ordinances were passed in 1964 and are still in effect today.

Sec. 17-152. Standing or parking close to curb.

Except as otherwise provided in sections 17-153 through 17-155, every vehicle stopped or parked upon a roadway where there are adjacent curbs shall be so stopped or parked with the right-hand wheels of such vehicle parallel to and within eighteen (18) inches of the right-hand curb.

Sec. 17-156. Parking not to obstruct traffic.

No person shall park any vehicle upon a street, other than an alley, in such a manner or under such conditions as to leave available less than ten (10) feet of the width of the roadway for free movement of vehicular traffic.

Local Community News

NORTH COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT NEW

Provided by: Jennifer Swatek, Fire fighter/paramedic



Your Riverview Fire Protection District is excited to announce that we have been approved for a Missouri ALS (Advanced Life Support) license! It was a process to obtain this licensure, and a lot of hard work was put in by your RFPD Firefighters to help take our district to the next level. When our citizens overwhelmingly passed the EMS tax increase, we planned to be ALS ready in 10 years. With some hard work and perseverance, we made it happen in just 4!!

What does ALS mean for our citizens? We will now carry more lifesaving medications and equipment.

When will RFPD begin providing ALS services? Our "go live" date is January 1, 2021. We are waiting for some additional equipment to come in, and some in-house training, and then we will be ready to go!

We are beyond excited to be able to do this for our community! Once again, YOU made it happen by believing in your RFPD firefighters and voting YES!!! Thank you for believing in us!!!

In other exciting news, we will be changing our name effective January 1, 2021. Our new name will be North County Fire Protection District. It was decided that because our fire district represents numerous cities, that we should have a name that encompasses them all. We are excited for this change as well!

Riverview Fire Protection Director Meetings

1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Tuesday of every month at 5:00 p.m., unless otherwise posted

Location: 9933 Diamond Drive

RIVERVIEW GARDENS SCHOOL DISTRICT AWARDED HOTSPOTS, LAPTOPS THROUGH GRANT

Riverview Gardens School District was awarded 2,621 WiFi hotspots and 750 Chromebooks from the Saint Louis County Library as a part of its Digital Equity Initiative. The initiative is a partnership between the Library, Saint Louis County and local school districts to provide hotspots and technology to support education.

The essential technology will provide crucial support to families and aid the District's virtual learning curriculum.

"We couldn't be more excited to have been a recipient of this technology grant from the St. Louis County Library," said Dr. Scott Spurgeon, superintendent of schools. "We are now able to level the playing field with greater access to WiFi and technology for our students."

The equipment was financed through a \$4 million designation of federal CARES Act funding by St. Louis County Executive Sam Page.

In a statement, St. Louis County Library Director Kristen Sorth said, "We are grateful to St. Louis County for their generous support in helping address digital equity in our region. Providing students with digital access will give them the tools they need to be successful..."

In addition to providing Riverview Gardens School District with technology, the Library also restarted Operation Food Search, a "drive-thru food pick-up for kids."

The service provides free, pre-packaged meals at select library locations, including the Lewis & Clark Branch, located at 9909 Lewis & Clark Blvd. The location sits across the street from the RGSD administration building.

"The St. Louis County Library system has and continues to be a tremendous resource not only for Riverview Gardens School District but for the St. Louis region and beyond," Spurgeon said.

The Library's efforts support the District's own. On Aug. 31, RGSD began delivering and distributing breakfast and lunch to students to support virtual instruction.

Additionally, Riverview Gardens School District purchased 1,126 hotspots, which are available for families at their local schools. The District also purchased 2,537 Chromebooks to distribute to students. The delivery of those Chromebooks has been delayed due to limited availability amid a staggering increase in global demand due to COVID-19.

Families interested in obtaining technology equipment to support virtual learning should contact the school in which their child is enrolled. (retrieved from <https://www.rgsd.k12.mo.us/>)

Board of Education Meetings

All meetings of the Special Administrative Board will be held on the second & fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Go to the website for details on meeting format.

City Officials



**Tommie Pierson Sr.,
Mayor**
314-869-8251
tpierson@cityofbn.com
Term of Office: 2023



**Fran Stevens,
City Clerk**
314-867-0076
fstevens@cityofbn.com
Term of Office: 2023

Board of Aldermen



**Ward
1**

Barbara West
314-867-9347
bwest@cityofbn.com
Term of Office: 2022



Rev. Dinah Tatman
847-238-2220
dtatman@cityofbn.com
Term of Office: 2024



**Ward
2**

James Carroll
314-341-5693
jcarroll@cityofbn.com
Term of Office: 2024

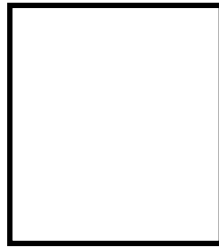


Theresa Reed
314-388-5780
treed@cityofbn.com
Term of Office: 2022



**Ward
3**

James Thomas
314-580-7698
jthomas@cityofbn.com
Term of Office: 2024



Vacant
Term of Office: 2022



**Ward
4**

Alease Dailes
314-403-0888
adailes@cityofbn.com
Term of Office: 2024



**Miranda Avant-Elliott, Ed.D
President of BOA**
314-690-1797
Mavant-elliott@cityofbn.com
Term of Office: 2022

City of Bellefontaine Neighbors Meetings

Board of Aldermen- 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Pre-Meetings are at 6:30 p.m.

Town Hall Meeting- September 19, 7:30 p.m. at BN Recreation Center

Municipal Court- 2nd Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. and 4th Wednesdays, 1 p.m.

Commissions and Meeting Times	Chair	Alderman Representative
Planning and Zoning Commission- 2nd Monday, 7 p.m.	Pat Barratt	Vacant
Public Safety Commission- 4th Thursday, 6:30 p.m.	John Koester	James Carroll
Youth Commission- 3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m.	Alicia Smith	N/A
Image and Beautification Board- 2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m.	Jennie Stewart	N/A
Parks and Recreation Board- 3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.	Vacant	N/A
Board of Adjustment- Upon Request	John DuHadway	N/A
Human Relations Commission- Upon Request	Yolanda Poe	N/A

All meetings are open to the public and are held at the City of BN City Hall except the Parks & Recreation committee, which is held at the BN Recreation Center.

How Did Your Alderperson Vote?

Bill #	Date	Description	West (Ward 1)	Tatman (Ward 1)	Reed (Ward 2)	Carroll (Ward 2)	Thomas (Ward 3)	Christian (Ward 3)	Dalles (Ward 4)	Avant-Elliott (Ward 4)	Pass or Fail	Ord. #
2587	6/25/2020	2020-2021 Fiscal year Budget Adoption (Avant-Elliott)	Y	N	Y	Y		Y	N	Y	Pass	2580
2588	7/16/2020	Temporary Closing Of City Streets (West)	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Pass	2581
2589	8/6/2020	Prosecuting Attorney, Public Defender, Provisional Judge Amendment (Carroll)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Pass	2582
2590	8/6/2020	General Penalty Provision SB5 and 572 (Carroll)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Pass	2583
2591	8/6/2020	Sec 106.4 Violation Property Maintenance Code Amendment (Carroll)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Pass	2584
2592	8/27/2020	Basketball Hoop (West)	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Pass	2587
2593	8/20/2020	Amending Article III Nuisance Bill (West)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Pass	2585
2594	8/20/2020	MIRMA Employee Health Insurance Renewal (Thomas)	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Pass	2586
2595	9/3/2020	Agreement With United States Department of Justice (Dalles)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Pass	2588
2596	9/17/2020	Cares Act Funding (Thomas)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Pass	2589
2597	9/28/2020	AD Valorem 2020 Tax Rates (Reed)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Pass	2590
2598	10/1/2020	Contract With Preferred Resource Network, Inc. (Carroll)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Pass	2591
2599	11/5/2020	Agreement to Retain Helmut Starr As Consultant Attorney (Avant-Elliott)	Y		Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Pass	2592
2600	11/19/2020	Special Counsel Todd Hamby and The Firm of Carmody MacDonald (Carroll)	N		N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Fail	xxxx

Y = Yes, N = No, A = Abstain, Blank = Absent, R = Resigned, - = Not Appointed Yet

Res #	Date	Description									
2020-03	8/12/20	St. Louis County Municipal Park Grant (West)	Y		Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Pass
2020-04	8/12/20	Code of Conduct (Carroll)	Y		Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Pass
2020-05	8/12/202	Censure of Mayor Pierson (Carroll)	Y		Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Pass
2020-06	9/12/20	Cares Act Funding (Tatman)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Pass
2020-07	11/5/2020	STP Grant Shepley (Thomas)	N		N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Fail
2020-08	11/12/20	Municipal Parks Grant (Dalles)	N		N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Fail
2020-09	11/12/20	Censure of Alderwoman Alease Dalles (Carroll)	Y		Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Pass

All meetings, records and votes are open to the public; except that any meeting may be closed to discuss legal actions and advice, leasing and purchase of real estate, personnel matters, and other matters as outlined in Ord. No. 1572, § 6 1, 8-19-04 Sec. 1-21. The City Clerk, Fran Stevens at 867-0076 is the official keeper of records for copies.

CITY DIRECTORY

Administration Department

Public Services: City Records, Complaints, Board Contact, Trash Concerns, and Sunshine Request
Contact Information: 314-867-0076

Name	Title	Additional Contact
City Administrator (Vacant)		
Tommie Pierson Sr.	Mayor	tpierson@cityofbn.com
Fran Stevens	City Clerk/Records Keeper	fstevens@cityofbn.com
Semmie Ruffin-Hall	Receptionist	

Police Department

Services: Public Safety, Code Enforcement, Derelict Vehicles, and Neighborhood Watch
Office Contact Information: (314) 867-0080
Emergency Number: 911
Non-Emergency Number: 636-529-8210
Fax: 314-867-0241

Colonel Jeremy Ihler	Chief of Police	jihler@cityofbn.com
Angie Wojtkowski	Administrative Assistant	awojtkowski@cityofbn.com

Building/Street Department

City Engineer

Public Services: Issue All Permits, Inspections (Sewer, Electrical, Plumbing), Code Enforcement
Contact Information: 314-867-0076

Clayton Klein	City Engineer (Supervisor of the Streets and Building Official of the City)	Clayton.Klien@cityofbn.com
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Building Department

Services: Property Inspections, Permits, Sewer lateral, Occupancy Permits, and Code Enforcement
Contact Information: 314-867-0076
BFNBuildingDept@cityofbn.com

Joe Raben	Building Inspector/Sewer Lateral Commissioner	jraben@cityofbn.com
Kelsie Holmes	Part-Time Inspector	
Judy Mantych	Office Assistant	jmantych@cityofbn.com
Delores Brown	Office Assistant	

Street Department

Public vices: Tree removal, Tree Trimming, Street Repair and Maintenance, Street Snow Removal
Contact Information: 314-867-0076

Mark Sanders	Supervisor	msanders@cityofbn.com
Jeff Ross	Assistant Foreman	

Finance Department

Public Services: Budget, Tax Collections, Busines License, Liquor Licenses, and Special Events Permits
Contact Information: 314-867-0076

Patrick Howard	City Treasurer	
Cathy Broussard	City Collector	
Lori Lenz	Finance Clerk	

CITY DIRECTORY CONTINUED

Recreation Department

Public Services: Park and Recreation Reservations, Park Maintenance, Recreation Memberships, Fitness, Swimming, and Community Events

Contact Information: 314-867-0700

Fax: 314-867-9517

Name	Title	Additional Contact
Director (Vacant)		
Amy Mulholland	Recreation Supervisor	amulholland@cityofbn.com
Martha Snead	Aquatics Director	msnead@cityofbn.com / bellefontaineswim@yahoo.com

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

Public Services: Court Cases and Court Fines

Contact Information: 314-867-0076

Municipal Court

Fax: 314-867-1790

Judy Preddy Draper	Municipal Judge	
Steven Flowers	Court Clerk	sflowers@cityofbn.com
Judy Gladney	Assistant Court Clerk	

Prosecuting Attorney Office

William Clark	Prosecuting Attorney	
Delores Brown	Prosecuting Attorney Clerk	dbrown@cityofbn.com

Treasurer's Report

Date: November 10, 2020

To: Mayor Tommie Pierson Sr. Board of Aldermen and Alderwomen

From: Patrick Howard, City Treasurer

Re: Treasurer's Report - Summary

Current Key Notes:

- As of **October 2020**, the city held a total of \$3.5 million in funds at the local investment banks administered by the city treasurer, mayor and city clerk.
- Fifty percent of Cares Act Funds were received on 10/26 from STL County. (\$373,426.50)
- Remaining 50% schedule for 11/13 per final agreement. (\$746,853.00)
- The annual audit for fiscal year 2019-2020 started the last week of September. To date, there hasn't been any significant concerns brought up by the auditors.
- Revenue Notes:
 - To date, sales tax revenue is up by 12% than budgeted. Licenses, Fines & Rec Center revenue are down a combined average of 69%. Overall, current revenue is slightly above budget by less than 1% with the exception of the Cares Act Funds which puts the revenue rate above budget by 56%.
- Expense Notes: Expense allocations across departments and funds are still being reconciled and processed for October. To date, total expenses for the general fund are trending below budget by 7%.
 - Key drivers of this is payroll to be booked to capital fund (per budget) and MIRMA insurance higher than budgeted by 13%. In person services are still trending below budget due to the pandemic. Regis expenses are trending above budget and are being researched to determine source of increase and savings potential. Indirect expenses overall are below budget by 25%. This excludes payroll, insurance and employee related taxes.
- Overall Financial Health:
 - The city has solid liquidity to meet short-term obligations or those due within the current fiscal year, considering the recovery of loss revenue from the CARES Act funds.

This publication was developed and edited by Ward 4 Alderwoman, Dr. Miranda Avant-Elliott with the collaboration from city officials, staff, and BN community.