



9641 Bellefontaine Road  
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## **FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK 2023 YEAR-END REPORT**

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Dear Fellow Citizens:

I pray you and your family are safe and healthy!

As we bid farewell to 2023, the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors proudly reflects on a year marked by resilience, progress, and community strength. Despite facing the challenges of three storms on July 1, 14, and 29, our community demonstrated unparalleled solidarity as neighbors came together to support one another during these trying times.

At the beginning of my administration, I proposed that each Ward be allocated \$100,000 from the ARPA funds to assist citizens. No action has been taken! Please encourage your alderman to vote on and pass this critical legislation. The highly contested Resolution #202320-One Time Municipal Administrative Pay for Employees passed with a narrow 3 to 3 votes. I cast the winning tie-breaking vote, 4 to 3. Also, I vetoed Bill#2674, Ordinance #2648, An Ordinance Adopting The Budget For The 2023-2024 Fiscal Year. It lacked monies for community events, essential employees, inadequate funds for police recruitment, and community engagement, and it usurped the authority that Missouri State Statute 79.120 and the City's Ordinance #2418 Sec.2-47 and Sec. 2-48 give the executive branch.

One of the year's standout achievements was the successful acquisition of a \$1,000,000 USDA Urban Forestry Grant, a testament to our commitment to environmental sustainability and urban landscape enhancement. Missouri State Senator Angela Mosley, Missouri State Representative Marlene Terry, St. Louis County Department of Streets and Transportation, St. Louis County Department of Public Health, Davey Tree Service, Lincoln University, and Great Rivers Greenway provided letters of support. In alignment with our community values, all gaming machines have been removed from the city, fostering a safer and family-friendly environment.

Our Recreation Center underwent transformative renovations and now offers diverse programs catering to the entire family. These initiatives, from fitness classes to educational workshops, contribute to our community's well-being and enrichment.

In staffing milestones, the Public Works Street Department and the Parks and Recreation Department are almost entirely staffed, ensuring efficient service delivery and enhanced recreational opportunities for residents. However, efforts persist to fill the vital role of a full-time building inspector for the Building Department and full-time parks maintenance personnel. We have a committed group of police officers and staff who have endured many challenges, but they continue to serve and protect us and our city. To have a fully staffed police department, we need to hire five additional patrol officers.

The need for a part-time Finance Assistant and an Assistant for the Mayor or a City Administrator still exists and is essential to streamline operations further. Adding a full-time Code Enforcer has significantly improved our ability to enforce ordinances and maintain the city's integrity.

Regarding accessibility, filing systems in the Public Works Department have been updated and improved, making it more convenient for citizens to access information. Furthermore, court sessions are now held on Wednesday nights from 6-8 pm, enhancing accessibility for residents.

The city's leadership has actively engaged in regional collaborations; I am now serving on the Board of Directors for North County Incorporated and entering the second year on the Missouri Municipal League's Economic Development and Human Resource Committee. Gratitude is extended to citizens, staff, employees, and the police department for their unwavering vote of confidence.

Special thanks are offered to Mayors Michele DeShay of Moline Acres, Ella Jones of Ferguson, Tim Lowery of Florissant, and Mayor Emeritus Bob Doerr for graciously sharing their wealth of knowledge. I also want to acknowledge the invaluable input from citizens who shared their ideals and concerns, which played a pivotal role in shaping the decisions that have defined our remarkable year.

I encourage you to attend monthly Board of Alderman meetings at 7:30 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays. Meetings are held at City Hall. Pre-meeting is at 7:00 p.m. As we look to the New Year, I ask you to help decide who will lead our "Great City." VOTE for our future, VOTE for your leadership, and VOTE on April 2, 2024. Let's continue the work!

**YOUR SERVANT LEADER**

Mayor Reverend Dinah Tatman

**CITY OF  
BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS  
PROPOSED  
ARPA FUNDS / EQUIPMENT  
STRATEGIC PLAN  
2023 – 2026**



## **CITY OVERVIEW:**

The history of Bellefontaine Neighbors, Missouri, can be traced back to the mid-1800s when the area was part of the Louisiana Territory, ceded by France to Spain in 1762 in the Treaty of Fontainebleau. Spanish military authorities constructed forts near the mouth of the Missouri River to strengthen their hold on the territory and discourage intruders from the east. Captain Rios, dispatched to the area, established forts near the present-day locations of Spanish Pond (or Spanish Lake) and Fort San Carlos in St. Louis.

In 1800, Spain ceded the territory west of the Mississippi River back to France, then sold it to the United States in 1803 as part of the Louisiana Purchase. In 1804, a treaty was made with the Sac and Fox Indians that led to establishing a trading post on the south bank of the Missouri River. The area was chosen for its natural advantages, including a sizeable clear water spring called "la belle fontaine" by the early French settlers.

By the winter of 1805, Fort Bellefontaine was constructed under the command of Colonel Jacob Kingsbury, with log cabins, a trading house, a bakery, a blacksmith shop, and huts for enlisted soldiers. General Daniel Bissell served as the military commander of the territory and resided at Fort Bellefontaine for several years. The fort was connected to St. Louis by a trail that eventually evolved into present-day Bellefontaine Road.

Fort Bellefontaine was abandoned in 1834, and the surrounding land was divided into land grants. The area now Bellefontaine Neighbors comprised land grants issued by Spanish, French, and American officials. Notable landowners in the area included General Daniel Bissell, who purchased land through public land sales, and Dr. James W. Gibson, who built his "Forest Home" in the area in 1832.

The area remained primarily agricultural until the 1950s, when a building boom following World War II led to the construction of subdivisions and a population increase. Bellefontaine Neighbors was incorporated as a fourth-class city in 1950, with a population of 766 people. At the time, the city had 18 streets, one public school, and one Bellefontaine Methodist Church.

Between 1950 and 1960, the population of Bellefontaine Neighbors multiplied, reaching 13,650 people by 1960. The growth resulted in the construction of new churches, such as St. Jerome's Catholic Church, Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, Bellefontaine Neighbors Baptist Church, Grace Lutheran Chapel, and Frieden's Evangelical and Reformed Church. Additionally, the number of schools in the city increased, with Gibson Elementary, Danforth Elementary, Grace Lutheran, Stormin Academy, and Riverview Gardens Senior High School now serving the community.

The city administration of Bellefontaine Neighbors has evolved since its incorporation, with A. W. Schnur was appointed as the first mayor in 1950. The city is divided into four wards and operates under a Mayor-Aldermen form of government, with the mayor and aldermen elected to four-year terms. Elections are held on the first Tuesday in April.

# CHALLENGES:

**SWOT ANALYSIS:** Complete the boxes below to assess the current environment in your Ward or Department in terms of strengths and weaknesses (internal) and opportunities and threats (external). After completing your analysis, provide your thoughts on how strengths can help to maximize opportunities and minimize threats; how weaknesses can slow our ability to capitalize on the options; and how flaws could expose citizens, employees, or guest to dangers?

Purpose of the Analysis

**Strengths**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

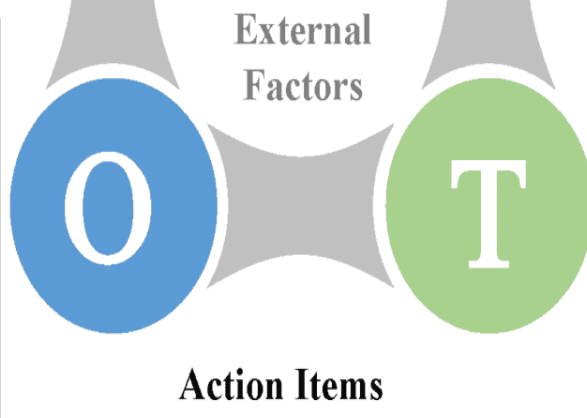


**Weaknesses**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Opportunities**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



**Threats**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## **CHALLENGES WORKSHEET CONT.**

**19.5% of the population for whom poverty status is determined in Bellefontaine Neighbors, MO (1.98k out of 10.2k people) live below the poverty line, a number that is higher than the national average of 12.6%. The largest demographic living in poverty are Females 6-11, followed by Females 65-74 and then Females 23-34.**

**The most common racial or ethnic group living below the poverty line in Bellefontaine Neighbors, MO is Black, followed by White and Two Or More.**

**The Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and compositions to determine who classifies as impoverished. If a family's income is less than the family's threshold then that family and every individual in it is considered to be living in poverty.**

### **CITY 2020 CENSUS DATA:**

**<https://datausa.io/profile/geo/bellefontaine-neighbors-mo/#:~:text=In%202020%2C%20Bellefontaine%20Neighbors%2C%20MO,median%20household%20income%20of%20%2441%2C815>**

# **WORKSHEET:**

**CITY / DEPARTMENT SOLUTIONS:**

# **WORKSHEET:**

**CITY / DEPARTMENT SOLUTIONS:**



**DEPARTMENT****BUDGETED ARPA FUNDS FINANCIAL FORECAST****NAME****MONTH****COST/  
MONTH****PAID****TOTAL****TOTAL ARPA & CARES ACT  
FUNDS****\$2,826,212.85****ADMINISTRATION**

Zoom Computer Technology- Board Room

\$25,000

Website update and rebranding

\$10,000

**SUBTOTAL****\$35,000****PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Capital Expense-Equipment Replacement

\$10,000

Software-Automotive

\$3000

Signage

\$48,205

New Truck-Outfitted

\$90,500

Street Light Bulbs

\$50,000

**SUBTOTAL****\$201,705****POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Hazard Pay

\$155,016

Police Cars

\$115,000

Police Department Equipment

\$26, 278

**SUBTOTAL****\$296,294**

**DEPARTMENT****BUDGETED ARPA FUNDS FINANCIAL FORECAST****NAME****MONTH****COST/  
MONTH****PAID****TOTAL****RECREATION CENTER**

Gymnasium Roof Renovation-Phase #1

\$600,000

Exmark Diesel 72" Turn Lawnmower

\$28,000

(2) Ford F-150 Truck-8ft bed with tow package

\$56,000

Camera Upgrade

\$10,000

HVAC

\$28,000

HVAC Repairs (locker rooms and racquetball unit)

\$7,000

**SUBTOTAL****\$729,000****TOTAL****\$1,265,399.00****BALANCE****\$1,560,813.85**

| DEPARTMENTS                    | PROPOSED ADDITIONAL ARPA FUNDS ALLOCATIONS |                |      |                        |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------|------|------------------------|
| NAME                           | MONTH                                      | COST/<br>MONTH | PAID | TOTAL                  |
| <b>BALANCE ARPA FUNDS</b>      |  |                |      | <b>\$1,560, 813.85</b> |
|                                |  |                |      |                        |
| <b>ADMINISTRATION</b>          |  |                |      |                        |
|                                |  |                |      | \$100,000              |
|                                |  |                |      |                        |
|                                |  |                |      |                        |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>                |  |                |      | <b>\$100,000</b>       |
|                                |  |                |      |                        |
| <b>PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT</b> |  |                |      |                        |
| Additional Street Repairs      |  |                |      | \$573,000              |
| Public Works Department        |  |                |      | \$100,000              |
|                                |  |                |      |                        |
|                                |  |                |      |                        |
|                                |  |                |      |                        |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b>                |  |                |      | <b>\$773,000</b>       |
|                                |  |                |      |                        |
|                                |  |                |      |                        |

| DEPARTMENT        | PROPOSED ADDITIONAL ARPA FUNDS ALLOCATIONS |            |      |            |
|-------------------|--|------------|------|------------|
|                   |  |            |      |            |
| NAME              | MONTH                                      | COST/MONTH | PAID | TOTAL      |
| POLICE DEPARTMENT |  |            |      |            |
|                   |  |            |      | \$100,000  |
|                   |  |            |      |            |
|                   |  |            |      |            |
|                   |  |            |      |            |
|                   |  |            |      |            |
| SUBTOTAL          |  |            |      | \$100,000  |
|                   |  |            |      |            |
| TOTAL             |  |            |      | \$873,000  |
|                   |  |            |      |            |
| BALANCE           |  |            |      | 687,813.85 |
|                   |  |            |      |            |
| WARDS             |  |            |      |            |
| #1                |  |            |      | \$100,000  |
| #2                |  |            |      | \$100,000  |
| #3                |  |            |      | \$100,000  |
| #4                |  |            |      | \$100,000  |
| SUBTOTAL          |  |            |      | \$400,000  |
|                   |  |            |      |            |

**BALANCE**

**\$287,813.85**

**DEPARTMENT**

**ARPA FUNDS FINANCIAL FORECAST**

**NAME**

**MONTH**

**COST/  
MONTH**

**TOTAL**

**DEPARTMENTS**

**ARPA FUNDS FINANCIAL FORECAST**

**NAME**

**MONTH**

**COST/  
MONTH**

**TOTAL**

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# **WORKSHEET**

**FINANCIAL / EQUIPMENT FORECAST:**

**DEPARTMENT**

**FINANCIAL / EQUIPMENT FORECAST**

**NAME**

**MONTH**

**COST/  
MONTH**

**TOTAL**

**SUB-TOTAL**

**TOTAL**



| <b>DEPARTMENT</b> | <b>FINANCIAL / EQUIPMENT FORECAST</b> |                        |  |              |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|--|--------------|
| <b>NAME</b>       | <b>MONTH</b>                          | <b>COST/<br/>MONTH</b> |  | <b>TOTAL</b> |
|                   |                                       |                        |  |              |
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| <b>TOTAL</b>      |                                       |                        |  |              |
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**DEPARTMENTS**

**FINANCIAL / EQUIPMENT FORECAST**

**NAME**

**MONTH**

**COST/  
MONTH**

**TOTAL**

**SUB-TOTAL**

**TOTAL**

**DEPARTMENT**

**FINANCIAL / EQUIPMENT FORECAST**

**NAME**

**MONTH**

**COST/  
MONTH**

**TOTAL**

**SUB-TOTAL**

**TOTAL**

**DEPARTMENT**

**FINANCIAL / EQUIPMENT FORECAST**

**NAME**

**MONTH**

**COST/  
MONTH**

**TOTAL**

**SUB-TOTAL**

**TOTAL**



**DEPARTMENTS**

**FINANCIAL / EQUIPMENT FORECAST**

**NAME**

**MONTH**

**COST/  
MONTH**

**TOTAL**

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| <b>TOTAL</b>     |  |  |  |  |
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# SUMMARY

9641 Bellefontaine Road  
St. Louis County, Missouri 63137  
Office: 314-867-0076  
Fax: 314-867-1790



## Veto of Bill No. 2674, Ordinance 2648

Members of the Board of Aldermen,

I am returning herewith **BILL NO. 2674, ORDINANCE 2648** entitled **AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR FOR THE CITY OF BELLEFONTAINE NEIGHBORS, MISSOURI**, WHICH THE Board of Aldermen passed with five (50 affirmative voted and two (2) negative votes at the Special Meeting of the Board of Aldermen, which was held via zoom on Thursday, August 31, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.



**Dinah Tatman**  
**Mayor**

In accordance with my authority as Mayor of the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors, I hereby notify you that I decline to sign **BILL NO. 2674, ORDINANCE 2648** and hereby veto the same and return it to you for further consideration as provided by law.

I firmly believe that adopting this Bill is not in the best interest of the City of Bellefontaine Neighbors' citizens, employees, and the executive body. It lacks funds for community events, essential employees, and adequate monies for police recruitment and community engagement. Also, whereas the **Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri 79.120** and the **City's Ordinance 2418, Section 2-47 and Section 2-48** give the executive branch specific powers and duties free from the interference of the legislative branch, the Bill seeks to usurp that authority.

**For reasons stated herein, I hereby return BILL NO. 2674, ORDINANCE 2648 unexecuted and hereby refuse to approve the same.**

*Dinah Tatman*

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Mayor Dinah Tatman

September 5, 2023

Date