

***STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS***

***2015 -2016***

***Monday, June 06, 2016***

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***Fellow citizens of Belvidere and Boone County, my city of Belvidere co-workers, our elected officials, and other interested parties: I bid you good evening and welcome to the City of Belvidere 2015-2016 State of the City Address.***

***It remains a distinct honor and privilege to serve the City of Belvidere and our Citizens as your Mayor. I love my job! The support and encouragement of the people of Belvidere and the opportunity to partner with our outstanding city workforce make coming to work each day an extraordinary, positive experience.***

***A responsive and responsible City Council, dedicated to the rebuilding and improvement of Belvidere, charts the course for our successful future. Together we have accomplished much and the future is bright.***

***The second eighteen months of this administration have been a realization of what can be accomplished when imagination, innovation, and hard work are forged into willing partnerships for progress.***

***We have continued to focus on improving our relationships with businesses, developers, and contractors. The idea that Belvidere presents a difficult environment in which to do business is being put to rest. Our recent recognition as number 6 on a list of the 25 best small cities in Illinois to start a business***

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***was a welcome accolade for our focus and hard work.***

***Growth Dimensions Executive Director Jarid Funderburg and Business***

***Development Executive Assisitant Joana Balliu function well together with***

***the City Hall team in presenting the advantages of doing business in the***

***Belvidere and Boone County environment. Recent positive developments***

***concerning FCA are direct evidence of that successful cooperation. Also, working***

***with County Officials, our state legislators, the State Department of Commerce,***

***and ComEd, we were able to keep a local firm from relocating to Wisconsin.***

***The Mayor's office has again devoted significant time to building robust***

***regional partnerships. April 2016 saw the unanimous formal approval of the***

***RMAP Policy Board in creating a Regional Planning Commission. The scope and***

***organizational schematic of the RPC are a work in progress, with the focus being***

***the ability to share assets, provide intrinsic services and promote our region to***

***the world.***

***In that same vein, your Mayor and Alderman Arevalo journeyed to Denmark***

***and Sweden, in the summer of 2015, on an economic development mission to***

***develop a partnership with the City of Falkoping, Sweden. We are continuing to***

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***have that conversation with our new Swedish friends and hope to host a visit from them this year. It is important to note that no taxpayer dollars were spent for the trip. The Mayor and Alderman Arevalo paid for the trip themselves.***

***We are looking at four Swedish companies and exploring potential partnerships with similar businesses in our area.***

***There are several notable economic development projects to share from 2015 and thus far in 2016. 2015 saw the completion of the remaining two ramps at Irene Road, significant upgrades to the Genoa Road exit, and the formal opening of the western segment of the I-90 rebuild. All of these improvements will be keys in driving new economic development at Genoa Road, along U.S. 20, and at Irene Road. 2015 also saw the opening of the new Manley Motors facility on North State Street at the site of the former Wolf Chevrolet. The extensively remodeled property is striking, functional, and already great success. The remodeling of our beloved and historic St. James Church was completed in 2015, and is well received. A new location for the Secretary of State's Office, an ice arena and water park in Doty Park, and the demolition and reconstruction at NDK were additional notable projects in 2015.***

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***2016 saw the completion of a 60 M expansion at General Mills, celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 116 years in some form in Belvidere.***

***The new Mercy Health Clinic opened its doors and is very busy.***

***We have added several gaming parlors in the last 18 months, and more are on the horizon to open this year.***

***The new Taco Bell is open on State Street and is doing a good business. DaVita opened its new dialysis facility and is a welcome addition to Belvidere's medical offerings.***

***Athletico has also opened a new facility in the Henry Luckow Lane complex.***

***Speedway has submitted a project for a small truck stop in Sager Industrial Park.***

***Buchanan Street is seeing a significant revitalization this year. We have a new antique shop, the Buchanan Street Pub has added a very nice beer garden, and there are two new upscale food and drink establishments, Nikko's Cabin and Pointers, due to open this summer, hopefully soon.***

***Belvidere now has a vacuum cleaner emporium, Little Lloyd's, which occupies a dramatically improved location at E. Hurlbut and State.***

***We expect continued growth in new businesses in the future ... industrial, retail,***

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***and service sector. Belvidere is the place to be!***

***Financially, the city is secure. Under the skilled and watchful eye of Finance and Budget Director Becky Tobin, all is well. While there is still no good news from Springfield, prudent fiscal stewardship by the city of Belvidere continues.***

***We have seen a shrinkage or loss of some revenue sources: the Fire Department Safer Grant expired in 2015, and the Northern Illinois Auto Task Force funding has been eliminated. This represents an estimated \$160K decrease in revenue.***

***The State informed the City of a past error in their calculation of PRT(Personal Property Replacement Tax) allocations to all local governments. Their error requires Belvidere to repay the State \$58,265 over the next two years.***

***We continue to see little or no growth in the property tax or sales tax revenues, currently representing 49% of the City General Fund total revenues.***

***On a positive note, we are seeing an increase in the local use tax – items that were purchased in another state for use in Illinois – is expected to increase 22% to an estimated \$108,000, mostly due to tax now collected by Amazon for online sales.***

***The City's gaming revenues are estimated to be in the range of \$185,000, as***

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***some effect from market saturation becomes evident.***

***The City still needs to rely on the Utility Tax revenues to help fund public safety operations, replenish and maintain the General Fund Reserves, and pay for road projects. This revenue was down by \$140K in FY2016 due mostly to a mild winter. The City spent \$1,070,000 of Utility Tax revenues on daily operations of the City which include salaries for police and fire. General Fund expenses, as a total, were approximately \$200K under budget 2015.***

***The City continues to pay off debt and has not acquired any new debt. We decreased our outstanding debt by 5.9% last year. We will continue to look for ways to pay off debt early or to refinance at lower rates, decreasing total payoff costs.***

***The City has \$16,190,000 in CD investments, and \$100,000 invested with IMET.***

***The General Fund has \$7,526,000 in CD's and Water/Sewer has \$8,209,000. The cash balance for all City funds at the close of April 2016 was \$22,372,684.***

***Now let's take a look at some highlights from the FY 2015 Audit. The General Fund reported an ending fund balance of \$11,003,529, an increase of 12.7%. This was due, in large part, to conservative spending, coupling with more substantial***

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***revenues from gaming, tipping fees, and court fees. The additional reserves are helping to fund this summer's important infrastructure projects including Columbia Avenue (1.5M), the downtown streetscape improvements (700K), and the repaving project on State Street.***

***The Water and Sewer Fund reported a reserve of \$673,058 last year. The reserve grew due to conservative spending and having fewer bond payments. The majority of the Department's debt has been retired in recent years, allowing the City to save money for future public works projects.***

***The residential sector is continuing to struggle, with only 7 new homes built in 2015. The FY 2016 Audit is just getting underway.***

***The Public Works Department, under the experienced leadership of Director Brent Anderson, has been very active. 2015 saw the completed delisting of the Belvidere Municipal Landfill #1 as Superfund site. Engineering plans were completed for the State Street Streetscape Rehabilitation Project and the Columbia Avenue Reconstruction Project. Both projects were put out to bid in February 2016. More on these projects later.***

***The Street Department, under Supervisor Danny Anderson, completed***

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**improvements to Buchanan Street from Caswell Street to Warren Avenue in-house. Improvements included storm sewer, curbs, and bituminous pavement. Additional projects completed by the Street Department in 2015 include:**

- 3.16 miles of bituminous overlays on City streets at a cost of \$441,000.**
- 32.15 miles of pavement striping on City Streets at a cost of \$63,000.**
- Construction of a new railroad crossing at West Pleasant Street.**
- Replacement of the fuel island, including new dispensers, at the Street Department.**

**Work continued on the \$310,000 state grant to obtain a “No Further Remediation” declaration from the EPA for the foundry brownfield site.**

**A used mechanic’s truck was purchased at auction, saving \$35,000 from the capital budget. Street Department Personnel include:**

**Jack Butenschoen      Jeff Carlson      Jason Charlesworth**

**Keith Hildebrand      Jeremy Klinefelter      Rusty Lindberg      Ryan Morey**

**Jim Roman      Derrick Vail**

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**The Water Department, also under Supervisor Danny Anderson, completed Well #6, per EPA requirements, was abandoned and closed at a cost of \$17,666. the SCADA system for the water tower was relocated. Other notable Water**

**Department projects included:**

- **Completed construction of new Well #10, including iron treatment at a cost of \$3.6M.**
- **Abandoned Well #6 per EPA requirements at a cost of \$17,666. Related SCADA system to the water tower**
- **Rehabilitation of well #5 at a cost of \$118,000.**
- **Repaired 25 water main breaks.**
- **Replaced 18 water services.**
- **Replaced 45 water boxes.**
- **Replaced 8 fire hydrants.**

**2015 was the fifth consecutive year without a rate increase.**

**Upcoming Water Department projects include:**

- **Well #8 Booster Pump Rehabilitation Project**
- **Well #9 Rehabilitation Project**
- **Continuation of the Southside Remote Reader Project**

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**Water Department personnel include:**

**Kelly Ahlberg   Chris Cox   Ryan Culvey   Denise Delaney   Tony Delmore**

**Nick Ekberg   Bret Fidler   Ken Fisk   Jesse Gonzales**

**Ed Gustafson   Craig Lawler   Chris McElhinney   Kim Richardson**

**The Sewer Department completed the rehabilitation of the grit collection system and bar screens at the WWTP, at a total cost of \$1.12M, including a \$49,000 energy efficiency grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce.**

**Other substantial projects completed include:**

- **Replacement of the main electrical switchgear at the WWTP, at a cost of \$570,000.**
- **Continued updating of the pre-treatment and water quality programs.**
- **Installed a backup generator at the 4<sup>th</sup> Street lift station at a cost of \$43,000.**
- **Installed a backup generator at the Newburg #2 lift station at a cost of \$20,000.**
- **Completed the engineering design for the rehabilitation of the primary digester. Project to be bid in November with an estimated cost of \$1.47M.**
- **Land applied 587 tons of sludge on approximately 1000 acres of farm fields.**
- **Root treated 2900 lineal feet of sanitary sewer main.**

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- ***Cleaned 17000 lineal feet of sanitary sewer main so far this year.***
- ***Fourth consecutive year with no rate increase.***

***Upcoming WWTP Department Projects include:***

- ***Primary Digester Rehabilitation Project***
- ***Polymer feed System Rehabilitation Project***
- ***Grit and Screenings Processing Project***
- ***UV Disinfection Project***
- ***Secondary Digester Rehabilitation Project***

***2015 saw the retirements of long-time WWTP employees Superintendent Terry***

***Wickler and Steve Hansen. We thank them for their long and distinguished***

***Service. The current WWTP team includes:***

***Chris Blatchford      Dean Chambers      Cindy Kindschy      Steve Leonard***

***Scott Przybyla      Scott Roush      Nick Steiner***

***2016 Public Works projects underway Include outside bid contracts:***

- ***State Street Streetscape Rehabilitation, with project awarded to Alliance Contractors in the amount of \$616, 836.35.***
- ***Columbia Avenue Reconstruction Project awarded to Northern Illinois Service Company in the amount of \$1,426,512.00***

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***Our public Works folks do a lot with a little ... their innovation and ability to complete many projects in-house saves significant taxpayer dollars.***

***They also take great personal pride in providing outstanding service to our community.***

***Our Community Development Group, consisting of the Building and Planning Departments, had a very active 2015. The Building Department, under Director Lesa Morelock, had their hands full with a deluge of permits for new roofs and sidings, following a significant hailstorm in Spring of 2015. Revenues from this process helped to purchase a 2013 Ford Edge for the department, whose fleet has been, and remains sorely in need of upgrading.***

***The Building Department implemented a new Permitting and Code Enforcement software system, starting in 2015, and reaching fuller potential this year. A ticketing process, administered by Code Enforcement Officer Cara Whetsel, has been highly productive.***

***The department workload has been helped by the use of summer interns ... Selena Sanchez, a Construction Management student, in 2015, and Nick Krawczyk this summer. Lesa is also responsible for overseeing our City***

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***Inspectors, Jeff Cowles, who is in-house, and our outside contracted providers, Phil Long for electrical and Bill Toft for plumbing.***

***The Planning and Zoning Department, for decades shared venture with Boone County, has undergone reorganization. With the retirement of interim Director Kathy Miller this Spring, the relationship with Boone County was dissolved. A new City Community Development Planning position was created and filled by long-term City/County Planning employee Gina DelRose. Rounding out this group is Cathy Crawford, our City Hall receptionist and jack-of-all-trades up front.***

***The City of Belvidere is always focused on the safety of our citizens. We enjoy outstanding Police and Fire Departments.***

***Our Police Department is responsible for one of the lowest crime rates in the State of Illinois. Belvidere PD, under the leadership of Chief Jan Noble and Deputy Chiefs Tony Martin and Shane Woody, have the privilege of commanding an elite team of Sergeants, Detectives and Officers. We are known and respected for our superior training regimens, career longevity reputation, and our “promote from within policy.” Simply put, we grow and***

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***keep great cops. The professionalism of our law enforcement team is second to none.***

***Chief Noble has prepared some major points of progress to share with you tonight.***

***Community Policing and Outreach:***

- ***“Feed-the-Need” Program ... the collection of food and dry goods for the needy ... benefitting six area churches and the Veterans Assistance Commission.***
- ***Six new Neighborhood Watch groups were started in 2015 to bring neighbors together for the common cause of making their neighborhoods safer.***
- ***Increased the number of contacts thru from 2836 to 3664 people through Crime Prevention Programs and Community policing.***

***Patrol Division:***

- ***A new taxicab oversight ordinance requires a comprehensive background and fingerprint submission by applicants.***
- ***Establishment of a joint City-County Metro Narcotics Unit, consisting of two City Narcotic Detectives and two County Narcotic Detectives with oversight by an experienced City Sergeant.***
- ***Integration of Boone County Sheriff’s Deputies into the eight man City Tactical Response Team, expanding the team to a twelve man unit.***

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- ***Implementation of the Administrative Tow Ordinance has met significant success in deterring habitual drivers with violations for driving without a license and/or no insurance.***
- ***Increased community contacts by City officers through reaching out to business owners to update after hours emergency contact information.***
- ***The Gang Intervention Unit continues to disrupt gang activity, resulting in substantial reduction of gang-related and violent crimes.***
- ***Development of a gang database to facilitate tracking of gang members.***
- ***Successful Grant applications resulting in receipt of over \$70,000 in traffic safety grant monies.***
- ***Working to recruit bilingual officers by partnering with La Voz Latina, Rock Valley College, and Rockford University.***
- ***Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) continue to donate thousands of hours each year, saving the City of Belvidere over \$200,000 in payroll cost in 2015 and thus far in 2016.***
- ***Placement of A Prescription Drug Turn-in Box in the lobby of the PSB. BPD is responsible for removing and disposing of expired and unneeded medications.***
- ***Acquisition of an Advanced Incinerator to facilitate proper disposal of narcotics and medications deposited in the Turn-in Box.***
- ***Replacement of the radio tower and antennas which serve Police, Fire, and EMS communications.***

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- ***BPD has become a member of the Winnebago/Boone Integrity Task Force. The taskforce provides independent reviews of officer-involved shootings and other use-of-force incidents.***
- ***Rehab of a military surplus Humvee for mobile support and severe weather deployment.***

***The Belvidere Police Department Roster is as follows:***

***Chief Jan Noble      Deputy Chief Tony Martin      Deputy Chief Shane Woody***

***Sergeants:      Matt Wallace      Pat Gardner      Chris Washburn***

***Dave Dammon      Marty Gorsuch      Pat Staples***

***Detectives:      Mike Ball      Dave Bird      Tom Delavan***

***Robert Kozlowski      Dan Smaha***

***Community Policing Coordinator: Tim Blankenship***

***School Resource Officer: Jonathan Kaplan***

***Patrol Officers: Jeremy Bell (DEA)      Ethan Berillo      Michelle Bogdonas***

***KC Brox      John Coduto      Ryan Davenport (K9 Baks)      Paul Derry***

***Dave Ellingson      Julie Grubar      Thomas Jones      Paul King***

***Julie Kirk      Cory Lane      Katelyn Lopez      Joseph McDermott***

***Todd Moore      Brandon Parker (K9 Ralphy)      Shane Polnow***

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**Zachary Reese**

**Matthew Shook**

**Daniel Sommerfield**

**Michelle Wilgus**

**Christopher Yambor**

**Richard Zapf**

**Administrative Asst. To Chief of Police: Sandy Daniels**

**Secretary to Detective Division: Michelle Mitchell**

**Patrol Transcriptionist: Judi Taromina**

### **Belvidere Fire**

**We are blessed to have a highly regarded professional Fire Service protecting us**

**24/7. Our enthusiastic new Chief, Al Hyser, provided the following to share:**

**Every day the 29 dedicated personnel that make up the Belvidere Fire**

**Department strive to carry out its mission to provide our citizens with an**

**outstanding professional fire service. Today, as the definition of “fire service”**

**continues to evolve and broaden, we continue to evolve as well. Our**

**Mission/Vision/Values are comprised of the following elements:**

- Purpose: To protect life and property**
- Goal: To prevent and rapidly mitigate immediate threats to life, health, and property**
- Strategy: Plan, Prepare, Position, and Practice**

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- ***Priorities; Focus on the Core 4: EMS ...Fire...Hazmat...Extrication***
- ***Values: Rapid Response, efficient/skilled scene performance, a family standard of care, professional appearance, good stakeholder relationships***

***By the Numbers: 2528 calls for service in 2015; 3007 calls for service in 2016.***

***New in 2015:***

- ***Flatter organization through shared responsibilities and empowerment***
- ***Focus on relationships between agencies that work with the Fire Department ... PD and Lifeline***
- ***Increased efforts on prevention and public relations***
- ***Tactical EMS Team (TEMS)***
- ***Belvidere Fire Department Honor Guard***

***Prevention in 2015:***

- ***No second grader left behind***
- ***Fall prevention and fire safety for the elderly***
- ***Increase in number of child safety seat installers***
- ***Increase in CPR instructors***
- ***Creation of Inspections coordinator role (Lt. Craig Wilcox)***

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***Firefighters Volunteering in the Community***

- ***Fire safety demonstrations at the Boone County Fair***
- ***Fire Station Open Houses***
- ***Shop with a cop and a firefighter***
- ***Fill the boot for MDA (\$9500)***
- ***Ring the bell for the Salvation Army***

***Focus in 2016/17 (in addition maintaining 2015/2016 goals and achievements)***

- ***Service that exceeds expectations***
- ***Reduction in overtime***
- ***Increased planning for future operations***
- ***Increased training for Command Staff***
- ***Potential discussion of Deputy Position***
- ***Replacement of fleet assets at the end of their useful life (BC-1, E-102)***
- ***Acting officers become Fire Officer 1 certified as a prerequisite***
- ***Increase the number of firefighters certified as Fire Apparatus Engineers***
- ***Succession training through mentorship***

***2015 saw the retirements of :***

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**Chief Dave Worrell (34Years)      Firefighter Mike McElroy (35 years)**

**Firefighter Todd Frisella (25 years)**

**Belvidere Fire is composed of 1 Chief, 3 Captains, 3 Lieutenants, 22 firefighters and 1 Administrative Assistant. They are as follows:**

**Chief Al Hyser**

**Captains:      Mark Zumbragel      Greg Holmes      Ken Jaeger**

**Lieutenants: Brian Harbison      Shawn Schadle      Craig Wilcox**

**Firefighters:**

**Mark Beck      Dave Burdick      Danny Contreras      Chad Cunningham**

**Daniel Drall      Adam Ellwanger      Kevin Fox      Brad Heiser**

**Ron Herman      Jim Kriebs      Chris Letourneau      Matt Loudenbeck**

**Josh Oates      Greg Pavlatos      Aaron Pihl      Chuch Rotolo**

**Mike Scarpetta      Jason Swanson      Travis Tangye      Nick Thornton**

**Jeff Vaughn      Glenn Williams**

**Administrative Assistant: Chris Gilman**

**A successful municipal organization relies on a strong and experienced core. City Clerk Shauna Arco and her staff provide the City of Belvidere with that essential**

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***asset. Almost all city paperwork flows through the Clerk's office ... purchasing, payroll, insurance services ... you name it, Shauna and her team have a handle on it. The entire City benefits from their painstaking , professional work.***

***The City Clerk's office is comprised of:***

***City Clerk Shauna Arco Deputy Clerk Susie Embry Asst. Clerk Sarah Turnipseed***

***Mike Drella is our outstanding City Attorney. Not only does he provide the highest level of legal advice to the Mayor and Council, he has established a reputation for empathy and fairness in the courtroom when dealing with our citizens. Mike also pinch-hits as our resident IT problem solver.***

***Ric Brereton, in his first term as City treasurer, provides excellent support to Finance and Budget Director Becky Tobin.***

***Our City Council enjoys a beneficial mix of experienced and newer members. Lively discussion and a wide spectrum of viewpoints promote problem solving and ultimately arriving at workable solutions for the challenges our city encounters. I applaud them for their representation of their individual Wards, and the citizens of our community as a whole. Our Alderman are:***

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**Daniel Arrevalo      Ron Brooks      George Crawford      Wendy Frank**

**Clint Morris      Tom Ratcliffe      John Sanders      Mark Sanderson**

**Dan Snow      Clayton Stevens**

***Belvidere has enjoyed significant progress in many areas in 2015-2016. We have devoted our energies and employed our assets in expanding our economic horizons, improving city infrastructure and services, and creating a stronger community. We have had some fun along the way. Our Heritage Days Festival has expanded each year since 2013, building a regional presence and popularity. This year's festival, June 24, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>, will be the biggest and best yet. Our Hometown Christmas is being re-imagined and staged to build more community participation and draw visitors from the larger area. One only has to look around and listen to see and hear the positive changes in our wonderful community. Let's keep the ball rolling. In closing, I once again want to thank our elected officials and my city co-workers for their dedication in serving the needs of our community, and I humbly thank our community for the opportunity and privilege to serve as your Mayor.***





