



Leadership Letter

In May of 2015, an Ad-Hoc Committee was formed to make recommendations to the City regarding the future of the Pella Community Center. Some of the questions the Committee was asked to consider and make recommendations on were as follows:

- Does Pella need a Community Center?
- Could other facilities in Pella provide the services that the Community Center currently provides?

– If Pella does need a Community Center, should the current Community Center be renovated or should Pella build a new facility?

In September of 2015, the Committee recommended to the City that a Community Center is needed and recommended that the current Community Center be renovated in order to continue to provide services to the community. While there is significant cost associated with renovation, the Committee felt that renovation could provide opportunities for layout modifications to improve space utilization for current and future tenants. The Committee also liked the central location of the Community Center, and most importantly, the Committee noted the historical significance and value this building brings to our community. The Community Center celebrated 100 years in 2015.

Although there is much work to be accomplished to fulfill this vision, I for one will be glad to see this part of Pella's history continue to serve our community into the second century.

Noted below are a few historical facts about the Community Center building.

(Resources; *Pella School History 1847-1980* by Emma Lou Heusinkveld; *Pella Chronicle*)

- After failing to pass a bond issue in 1912, the school board obtained permission from voters to sell bonds for the purchase of ground and construction of a new Pella high school facility in 1914. The high school opened for classes in September of 1915. Original cost of the school building was \$52,000.
- In 1936, an increase in the size of the gym and auditorium, along with the East side addition, was funded as part of the WPA (Works Progress Administration) program and a \$32,000 bond issue.
- In 1962, the building became the Pella Junior High School after the new Pella High School was built.
- September 26, 1978, Pella Community School board issued a quit claim deed of property to the City of Pella for use as a community center.

– Bruce Schiebout

Election Winners Sworn Into Office

The oaths of office were administered on December 1, 2015 to the winners of the November 3, 2015 City Election. Per Iowa Code, these must be administered prior to when the term begins in January. In addition, office holders sign a written copy of the oath.

Pictured at right are Councilmember Larry Peterson (Ward 4), Councilmember Tony Bokhoven (At-Large), Mayor Jim Mueller, and Councilmember Harold Van Stryland (Ward 2).



Meeting Dates

1/5: 7:00 p.m.
City Council,
Police Training Room,
614 Main St. (rear entrance)

1/12: 4:00 p.m.
Library Board,
Pella Public Library

1/13: 5:30 p.m.
Community Development
Committee, Public Works
Conference Room

1/15: Noon
Community Services Board,
Community Center,
Room 204

1/19: 7:00 p.m.
City Council,
Police Training Room,
614 Main St. (rear entrance)

1/21: 6:00 p.m.
Historic Preservation
Commission, Public
Works Conference Room

1/25: 7:00 p.m.
Planning & Zoning
Commission,
Public Safety Complex,
614 Main St. (rear entrance)

1/29: 7:00 a.m.
Airport Committee,
Airport Terminal,
Meeting Room

January Special Dates

1/20 All Day
Free Bundled Brush
Pickup by City

1/6, 1/13 & 1/20
Christmas Tree
Pick Up

SNOW AROUND FIRE HYDRANTS



If you have a fire hydrant located at or near your property, please clear snow away from it. When responding to a fire emergency, every second counts. Buried or inaccessible hydrants may result in a delay at the scene of the emergency. Your assistance in keeping hydrants clear is greatly appreciated.

JANUARY HORS D'OEUVRES & ART

The Pella Community Art Center is offering adult (18 & up) classes with all materials and hors d'oeuvres being provided. Pre-registration is required, so call 628-4571 or email bross@cityofpella.com to register. Payment is due the day before the class. Because of our waiting lists, we ask you to give us 48 hours notice if you need to cancel, and we will credit your account. We will charge the class fee for reservations not cancelled 48 hours in advance. Cancellations can be done by email or phone.



Painting
Snowflake
Tuesday, Jan. 12
7-9 pm - \$20



Paint A Bowling Pin
Thursday, Jan. 14
7-9 pm - \$20



Mixed Media
Heart Shapes
Thursday, Jan. 14
7-9 pm - \$20



Painting
Books
Tuesday, Jan. 19
7-9 pm - \$20



Polymer Clay
Pendants
Thursday, Jan. 21
7-9 pm - \$20



Painting
Spring in January
Tuesday, Jan. 26
7-9 pm - \$20

Are you in charge of planning a bridal shower, birthday party or an office party? How about a painting party? For a low price of \$80 you and nine friends can come to the Community Center for two hours of instructor-led painting time.

COMMUNITY CENTER ACTIVITIES

Art programs for students K-12. Register early to get your desired class.

2nd semester – January 18 through May 13

After School – Monday or Tuesday 3:30 - 5:00 pm (kindergarten through 12th)

Home School Classes – Wednesday 10:30 am - 12 pm (5 yrs. old/in kindergarten)

Junior Art Center – Monday or Tuesday 9:00 - 10:00 am (must be at least 4 yrs.)

Art With Me – Thursday 9:00 - 10:00 am (Student must be 3 years old)

Fee: \$37/resident \$43/non-resident per semester.

Wednesday After School – When school is dismissed 90 minutes early, class will be held from 2:00 - 5:00 pm, otherwise class will be held 3:30 - 5:00 pm.

Fee: \$55/resident \$66/non-resident per semester.

Specialized art classes available Thursdays from 4:00-5:30 pm. Call 641.628.4571.

CITY OF PELLA CHRISTMAS TREE PICK UP

There are three more days in January scheduled for Christmas tree pick up. They are January 6, 13, and 20. Trees must be placed at curb by 7:00 am on pick up day.

All trees must be able to go through the chipper which means they must be unwrapped, free from plastic bags, wire, nails and stands. Trees that do not meet these requirements WILL NOT be picked up.

Christmas wreaths and roping with wire will be collected as normal household waste if placed within a closed tote. Please contact the Pella Public Works Department at 628-1601 for more information.



JANUARY LIBRARY EVENTS

- Weekly Story Time, Tot Times and Lap Sit will be offered in January. Please call the library for times and dates.
 - Story time is offered every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Saturday story time is suggested for ages 3 and up with parents.
 - January 2 at 10:30 a.m.: **Spanish Story Time.**
 - January 6 at 2:00 p.m.: **Afternoon Movie** on the big screen in the meeting room.
 - January 12 at 4 p.m.: **Girls LEGO Club** for girls in grades K and up. Sign up is required and limited to 20. Sign up at the Circulation Desk.
 - January 16 at 10:00-11:30 a.m.: **Book Bash.** There will be activities based on the children's book *I Spy Little Animals* by Jean Marzollo. The first 100 families with children ages 0-5 will receive a copy of the book. The Book Bash is sponsored by Families First and the Pella Public Library.
 - January 21 at 10:15 a.m.: **Genealogy Club** in the Library Meeting Room.
 - January 28 at 12:00 noon: **Brown Bag Book Club** will discuss *The Distance Between Us* by Reyna Grande.
 - **Drop In LEGO Club dates:**
 - o Thursday, January 7 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. for students in grades K and up.
 - o Tuesday, January 12 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. for children of all ages with parent/caregiver.
 - o Wednesday, January 20 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. for students in grades K and up.
- * Please remember that children under the age of 8 need to have an adult or mature person in the library while attending programs.

For more information about any of these programs, please call the library at 628-4268.

New Library System: The library is excited to introduce a new Integrated Library System called *Symphony* on January 21. Look for exciting new services like the ability to download eBooks from Bridges and magazine articles from EBSCOHost without leaving the library catalog. Our catalog will have a new look and a new URL, so stop in the library or check our web page for more information in the coming weeks.

Tax Forms: The library will have a limited number of federal tax forms available as well as reproducible forms. We also have a tax form kiosk in the library to make it easy for you to print the forms you need.

Check this out: TumbleBooks are interactive books for children. If your kids have cabin fever, try distracting them with TumbleBooks. You'll find them on our website at www.cityofpella.com/library under "Popular Resources." We also have a TumbleBooks station in the library.