



Mayor's Message

On to a new year! 2018 saw many challenges and successes and it looks like 2019 is shaping up the same way. But before we look too far down the road, I would like to talk briefly about one process that is a critical component of good government: financial stewardship through annual budgeting. It is our goal to provide the maximum benefit to our citizens at the lowest reasonable cost. It is our responsibility to request from our citizens only as much of their financial

resources as is necessary to perform our duties. You have earned your income and, as much as possible, you should be able to keep it.

I am very pleased to say that next year's budget maintains the same property tax rate in Pella for the 18th consecutive year. That fact alone shows why we enjoy one of the lowest city tax rates in the State. We have been able to maintain this rate due to a number of factors. First and foremost, a thriving business environment. When our citizens are working, they are spending and supporting many other businesses within our community. Every dollar earned and spent in Pella is re-spent many times before it leaves town. Second, stable property tax values have reduced the need for rate increases. Finally, creating a thoughtful and future focused budget enables the community to plan for the many demands we face. Each year, every City department creates a financial plan looking at projects and needs for the next five years. This puts us in a great position to schedule projects and expenses at specific times in order to minimize the financial impact. Today we are benefiting from sound financial planning by past community leaders. My hat goes off to those that put us on this path and to City staff who work so hard to spend our resources wisely.

Stay tuned as 2019 is going to be an exciting year, and be assured that we have a good plan in place to keep things moving forward.

– Mayor Jim

Yield to Public Safety Responders

This winter, sirens and lights have been common in Pella as our public safety employees and volunteers have responded to numerous accidents due to weather. Did you know that our firefighters are volunteers? When called out, they travel to the scene or to the fire station in their personal vehicles. Each vehicle is equipped with blue flashing lights near their rear-view mirror. When responding to an emergency, they also have their vehicle's hazard lights on. Please keep a watchful eye for these volunteers, as well as all public safety responders. When you see them, pull your vehicle to the right side of the road, then stop and wait until they pass before proceeding. For more information about this law, visit the Iowa Department of Transportation's website at <https://iowadot.gov/rules>.



The City will be flushing hydrants throughout the system starting April 22 through 26. If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Department at 628-1601.

Mowing and Grass Clipping Reminders

Spring is officially here! With the arrival of spring comes the necessity to maintain an appropriate grass height. Per City Code, grass and weeds must be kept to a height no greater than 8 inches. Grass clippings are also to be kept off sidewalks and roads.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Code Enforcement Officer, Jared Parker, at 628-0043 x4, or via email at jparker@cityofpella.com.

Meeting Dates

4/2: 7:00 p.m.
City Council
Public Safety Complex
614 Main St. (rear entrance)

4/8: 5:30 p.m.
Historic Preservation
Commission
City Hall Conference Room
825 Broadway Street

4/8: 7:00 p.m.
Special Planning &
Zoning Commission
Public Safety Complex
614 Main St. (rear entrance)

4/9: 4:00 p.m.
Library Board
Pella Public Library

4/10: 5:30 p.m.
Community Development
Committee
Public Safety Complex
614 Main St. (rear entrance)

4/12: Noon
Community Services Board
Community Center
Room 206

4/16: 7:00 p.m.
City Council
Public Safety Complex
614 Main St. (rear entrance)

4/22: 7:00 p.m.
Planning & Zoning
Commission
Public Safety Complex
614 Main St. (rear entrance)

Special Dates

4/13: 9:00 a.m. to Noon
Household Hazardous Waste
Drop Off at 100 Truman Road

4/1 - 4/5
Spring Cleanup Week

4/17: All Day
Free Bundled Brush
Pick-up by City

4/22 - 4/26
Hydrant Flushing

APRIL ART CLASS — JOURNALS

Bookbinding is a lost art, but we have found it again! Our creative instructor will demonstrate several different sewing techniques during this class. Time should allow for each participant to make a few of these cute little journals which are perfect for notes, drawings, or gifts.

Where: Pella Community Art Center

When: April 11 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Fee: \$15/resident or \$18/non-resident

Pre-registration is required by calling 628-4571 or emailing bross@cityofpella.com.



View the Community Services Summer Program Guide on the City's website at www.cityofpella.com.

Registration for all summer programs begins April 1.

PELLA COMMUNITY SERVICES

MEN'S SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL

Team registrations are now being accepted for men's slow pitch softball. Games will be held at the Sports Park on Sunday evenings between May 5 and June 23. A double elimination tournament will be held on June 30.

- Minimum of 4 and maximum of 16 teams
- Registration forms are available on our website at www.cityofpella.com
- Registration fee is \$133.75 per team
- Registration deadline is April 18 at 4:30 p.m.



New Assistant Aquatic Manager

Zach Van Donselaar was recently promoted to the position of Assistant Aquatic Manager. Zach is a Pella native who has worked at the Aquatic Center for the past four years. In his free time, Zach enjoys spending time outdoors with his family and friends. Congratulations, Zach!

Upcoming Events in May

- ◆ The next Citizen Police Academy begins on May 8. Classes are held from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. every Wednesday through June 26. To register, or for more information, email sveenstra@cityofpella.com.
- ◆ The next annual eCycling event will be held on May 18. Additional details will be included in the May newsletter.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off

When: Saturday, April 13th from 9:00 a.m. to noon

Where: Public Works Complex at 100 Truman Road

Who: Residents of Marion County

Items NOT accepted: latex paint, ammunition, asbestos, electronics, explosives, fire extinguishers, medications, propane tanks/cylinders, and radioactive materials.

For more details, contact SCISWA at 641-828-8545 or visit their website at www.sciswa.org.

APRIL LIBRARY EVENTS

- April 2 at 4:00 p.m.: **Tinker Tuesday**; for children in 1st to 5th grade.
- April 3, 10, 17, and 24 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.: **Whatchamacallit Wednesdays**; for children in K to 5th grade.
- April 4 at 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.: **Megathon Preview Night!** Join us for an introduction to the online game "Stall Catchers." Bring your own device to create an account and play or watch the game and introductory video on the large screen.
- April 8 at 7:00 p.m.: **Culture Night: Puerto Rico** featuring Yara and Leila Braulio. Learn about the culture of Puerto Rico from a native, sample authentic food and hear some lively music. Held in Room 206 at the Community Center.
- April 9 and 11 from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.: **Green Screen Pictures!** Come check out what adventures we have planned this year. We will also be taking pictures on Wednesday, April 10 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Remember not to wear green!
- April 12-22: Friends of the Library **Book Sale**.
- April 13 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.: **Megathon: A Citizen Science Day Event:** Join thousands of people around the world to play the online game "Stall Catchers" that helps scientists with Alzheimer's Disease research. Register at <https://pellalibrary.libcal.com/calendar/main/>
- April 18 at 10:15 a.m.: **Genealogy Club** discussion: "What's Available at County Courthouses?"
- April 19 and 21: **Library closed** for Good Friday and Easter.
- April 23 at 7:00 p.m.: **Library Tales: The Story of Pella's First Free Public Library.**
- April 25 at 12:00 noon: The **Brown Bag Book Club** will discuss *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann.
- April 27 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon: **If You Plant It, They Will Come:** Milkweed seed giveaway. Find out how you can help the iconic monarch butterfly and pick up your FREE milkweed seed.
- **Saturday story time** is offered every week at 10:30 a.m.; suggested for ages 3 and up with parents.

Food for Fines, April 7-13 – In honor of National Library Week, the library will hold a "Food for Fines" drive April 7-13. The library will accept non-perishable food items in exchange for overdue fines. One food item will equal up to \$1.00 in fines. You may exchange a maximum of \$10.00 during the week. Each food item donated to the library will be given to the Food Shelf at the Well.

Check this out: The Book Nook has been re-named and re-designed. Now called Friends' Finds, you can buy used books and other finds there.

Did you know? You can now place a hold on an item with an "available" status and the library staff will pull it from the shelf for you and hold it at the desk. There is a limit of 5 per day.

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