



City Office: 314-381-2834  
 Police Office: 314-381-2971  
 Police Dispatch: 314-889-2341  
 Emergency: dial 911

Visit our website [www.cityofbelnor.org](http://www.cityofbelnor.org)

CITY OF BEL-NOR 8416 NATURAL BRIDGE ROAD BEL-NOR, MO 63121

# Bel-Nor Chimes Newsletter



ISSUE: SUMMER /FALL 2022

## Year One of the Bel-Nor Garden Corps

It's been almost one year since the Bel-Nor Garden Corps began renovations on the community gardens. The Garden Corps is a volunteer-powered, community-funded collective of neighbors dedicated to supporting Bel-Nor's public and private gardens. Through our volunteer events and neighborhood fundraisers, the Garden Corps helps maintain all twenty-two public gardens.

In addition to regular social gatherings, planning sessions and workdays, the Garden Corps hosts both an early summer garden tour and a fall perennial plant swap. We also regularly assist overwhelmed residents, offering free help and advice whenever possible. We encourage residents of all ages to come to one of our gatherings – we regularly post updates and events on Next Door and

Facebook. Search for Bel-Nor Garden Corps to find and follow our pages.

We welcome neighbors of all skill levels to get involved. Join us! Grab a pair of work gloves and work alongside us whenever you see volunteers weeding, watering or planting. Keep an eye out for multiple volunteer events this fall. See you in the gardens!

For more information, please contact Garden Corps leader, Dan Riley, at [danriley@gmail.com](mailto:danriley@gmail.com)

## Normandie Golf Course “Nicklaus and Normandie”

The course has officially changed hands, from the University of Missouri to an ownership group consisting of Beyond Housing and the Metropolitan Amateur Golf Association.

The course will remain open through the end of the 2022 season but will close at the end of the year to begin renovations. It is expected to open again in

2024. Residents will not see much activity on the course until next Spring. So far planning revolves around things such as tree trimming and removal and slight topography changes. There will not be major changes to the layout at this point. No decisions have been made concerning what facilities and structures will be added to the course.

The ownership group is currently focused on fundraising and soliciting major donors, but will soon announce a small-donor campaign to complement the large donors.

As the new ownership group stated in their announcement last November, “Be patient, stay tuned and continue to support Normandie the way you always have. For more information on or to support of the Normandie Golf Course project contact Curt Rohe, Executive Director, Metropolitan Amateur Golf Association, at [curt@metga.org](mailto:curt@metga.org) or (314) 567-MAGA.”

### Normandy Meals on Wheels

Normandy Meals on Wheels has served residents in most of the area covered by Normandy schools since the 1970's. The all-volunteer organization delivers meals to recipients who are unable to grocery shop or prepare meals for themselves. Recipients pay on a sliding scale basis.

We are always looking for new volunteers to join our friendly group—especially as regular or substitute drivers. Driving a route usually takes about an hour. We pick up meals at UMSL between 10 and 10:30 each day, Monday through Friday. Some drivers volunteer on a given day each week, while other drivers share a route. If you are interested in volunteering or obtaining more information, please call **Mary Lou Krueger at 314-385-0586**.

If you are interested in receiving meals, please call the office at **314-450-4872** and leave a message with your name, address and telephone number. An interviewer will contact you.

**Reminder:** Be sure to note your address as “Bel-Nor” (not St. Louis) when purchasing a vehicle, RV, or watercraft. This information ensures that we receive our fair share of sales and personal property taxes levied on these purchases. The zip code alone does not guarantee the proper distribution of these taxes.

Also, the Bel-Nor PD will soon be issuing citations for expired temp tags, so if you own a vehicle and it is past due for proper registration, please take care of this immediately. Registration is a means of ensuring that your vehicle is fully insured and that all personal property taxes have been paid.

### Important Municipal Codes to Remember

The City of Bel-Nor has an agreement with General Code, the company which publishes all municipal code-related ordinances. Follow this link to view our online Municipal Codes.  
<https://ecode360.com/BE3760>

**Leash Law:** Dogs must always be leashed. All cats and dogs must be with their guardian at all times. All dogs and cats must be registered at city hall. Never leave your animal unattended to roam within the community at any time.

**The Weeds and Vegetation Ordinance** applies to vegetation that grows on private property and encroaches onto the public right-of-way. Cut grass and raked leaves cannot be blown nor raked into the street or left on the sidewalk. High grass and weeds are not allowed, ordinance states maximum height is 7 inches. **See more on Nuisance Abatement on the enclosed fact sheet.**

**Building Permits** are required from City Hall on the following: concrete / asphalt work, decks, utility buildings (sheds), dumpsters, pods, fences, and swimming pools.

Any time a **change occurs in occupancy in a home**, by selling or renting, a municipal inspection is required and the new occupant(s) must obtain an occupancy permit.

All **trash cans** must have tight fitting lids and all trash must be stored in the trash containers properly. Household trash cannot be placed at the curb in plastic bags or containers without lids. Trash cans may be placed at the curb after 4 p.m. the evening prior to trash day and removed from curb by 11:59 pm on trash day.

### Short-term residential dwelling rentals (e.g., AirBNBs)

Guidelines regulating these are contained in Chapter 405, Section 405.120

If you have questions about the code, please contact the City Clerk at 314-381-2834.

Want to receive this newsletter electronically instead of by mail? Please register your email address with Diana or Margaret at City Hall (314-381-2834) and you can receive newsletters and important notices that way – and save the City some money in the bargain!

### Pride of Bel-Nor

Our community appreciates your hard work, time, and expense in maintaining our beautiful homes, yards, and landscaping. With the resident's permission, we have placed a “Pride of Bel-Nor” sign in various front yards for a few weeks to show our gratitude and pride. We do enjoy our unique brick homes and wish to show them off.



*Residents 65 Years of Age and Older are eligible for a 10% discount on fees for trash pickup. Please come to City Hall Tues-Fri to fill out an application.*



## **City of Bel-Nor** **Aldermen**

### **Ward 1**

**Aldermen Joe Riebold and Charlee McBride** – email them at: [aldermenward1@cityofbelnor.org](mailto:aldermenward1@cityofbelnor.org)

### **Ward 2**

**Aldermen Terri Durand and Jan Nelson** – email them at: [aldermenward2@cityofbelnor.org](mailto:aldermenward2@cityofbelnor.org)

**Mayor Bill Hook** – email [mayor@cityofbelnor.org](mailto:mayor@cityofbelnor.org) or call/text 314-705-2725

## **Restaurant Status**

After resolving most legal issues with the previous proprietor, the City has begun the process of cleaning and restoring the building in anticipation of bringing in a new operator to reopen under a new name. A request for information has been prepared for all interested parties and we will be evaluating the responses before selecting the best offer. We hope to have a restaurant back in business sooner rather than later.

## **BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETINGS**

Meetings of the Board of Aldermen are open to all residents. This meeting is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:30 pm. Meetings are held at the City Hall located at 8416 Natural Bridge Road. **Everyone is invited to attend!**

[www.cityofbelnor.org](http://www.cityofbelnor.org)

(Right) Bel-Nor's "Little Library" on Clearview Plaza, courtesy of resident Mike Marty, is open for business!

## **Bel-Nor School News**

The new school year for the Normandy Schools Collaborative kicked off on Monday, August 22. Two of our elected officials and Chief Scott Ford, along with Capt Scott Seabaugh, were on hand at Bel-Nor School to greet the students as they arrived that day. Bel-Nor is one of five elementary schools in the district and is starting the year with approximately 200 students in grades 1-5.

Mr. Duane West is the new Principal this year and is a long-time educator in St. Louis City and St. Louis County schools. West comes to Normandy from the Hazelwood School District, where he served as Dean of Students at Southeast Middle School. He now brings his enthusiasm to Bel-Nor School. Welcome Mr. West and all teachers and staff!



**New Principal Duane West and Mayor Hook with the "Bel-Nor Bulldog" mascot**



## **New Police Officer**

**Nate Mitchell** joined the department August 4 with over 27 years' experience with surrounding municipalities. Officer Mitchell will be part-time but is anxious to meet all our City residents and get to know them.



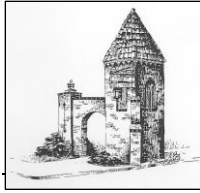
**City Clerk Diana Krosnicki administering the oath of office to Officer Mitchell**

## **SENATE BILL 5 COMPLIANCE**

**Posted on City website September 2022**

During 2021, the City of Bel-Nor, Missouri, met the minimum standards established by Section 67.287.2, Revised Statutes of Missouri. For details of our compliance, please visit our website at <https://www.cityofbelnor.org>. For more information, contact the Mayor at 314-381-2834. Although compliance with these standards is no longer statutorily required, they do constitute a set of "best practices" for municipalities to follow.

Bel-Nor's record of compliance is made possible through the hard work and sacrifice of our valued City employees in the office and our Police Department, as well as all our elected officials!



# City of Bel-Nor

8416 Natural Bridge • Bel-Nor, MO 63121-4550

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**Code Enforcement Fact Sheet –Nuisance Violations and Abatement.** Tall grass and weeds are just one of several ordinance violations that may require the City to take enforcement action. Certainly, residents have noticed several properties that have fallen into disrepair or need major cleanup/fix-up. Occupancy permit violations, abandoned vehicles, and general trash around the home are major concerns and keep our Housing Commissioner very busy. The process of warnings and citations leading to administrative search warrants and Special Tax Liens applies to these properties as well. Obtaining legal authorization to enter a property to abate a nuisance is a drastic step, but one that is necessary when residents or owners refuse to fix severe ordinance violations. Maintaining property values is the basic rationale behind annual inspection of rental property, registration of vacant properties, and inspections such as the City-wide sweep of exterior conditions conducted in 2017.

## **High Grass, Weeds and Vegetation Violations**

**(Section 215.120) <https://ecode360.com/32082776>**

Did you know that the City of Bel-Nor has ordinances in place pertaining to weeds, overgrown lawns, grass clippings, trees, shrubs and hedges? These ordinances are in place to increase the livability, safety, desirability and appearance of our entire neighborhood. If you notice a yard in the neighborhood with tall grass or weeds approaching over 7 inches in height covering some or most of the lot, this issue needs to be resolved as quickly as possible to for the sake of health, safety, and neighborhood preservation. You have the option of offering to assist your neighbor with their yard, or you can contact City Hall (314-381-2834) for Code Enforcement assistance.

We've all seen the occasional property with landscaping that has been let go to the point where tall weeds and overgrown bushes seem to be the only features on the lot. Tall grass and weeds is an indication that no one cares about their property or neighborhood. It makes the property very unattractive, unsightly, and also a potential fire hazard during the dry summer months. All noxious weeds are prohibited by our Ordinances.

## **A Property Owner's Responsibility**

The City of Bel-Nor has declared that overgrown grass and weeds are a public nuisance. It is the duty of property owners to properly maintain their property to prevent the accumulation of such nuisances. In addition, overgrown weeds and shrubs may be abated according to provisions stated in the City's municipal code.

Streets and sidewalks are for everyone's use. As a property owner, you may not be aware that you are responsible for maintaining part of the public right-of way next to your property—including the sidewalk, tree lawn, walkways and curbs. The Weeds and Vegetation Ordinance applies to vegetation that grows on private property and encroaches onto the public right-of-way, sidewalks and fence lines. Grass clippings and leaves cannot be blown or raked into the street nor left on the sidewalks. You must clear sidewalks of grass clippings, overgrown weeds and keep curb free of debris, leaves and trash. You must trim or remove vegetation growing on your private property.

**(Over)**

### **Violation Letter**

To ensure community safety and maintain property values, the City Code Enforcement Official identifies properties with high grass and weeds and issues a violation letter. The letter provides the property owner 5 days to mow the overgrown grass, remove vegetation and trim around all trees, fences, sidewalks, flower beds and any other structure on the property to bring the property into compliance.

If the property owner fails to abate the nuisance violations within five days of the notice, the City petitions our Municipal Court for an administrative search warrant to allow for abatement, such as mowing and/or removal of the excess vegetation, at the property owner's expense, and to bill for this work, and any other associated costs incurred by the landscaping contractor performing the work on the City's behalf.

**IMPORTANT** in accordance with Section 71.285 RSMo, the City will only send one letter/notification per calendar year, not each time your property is overgrown or in violation, before taking action to abate the outstanding nuisance violations. **ONLY ONE WARNING WILL BE GIVEN.**

### **Invoice, Special Tax Bill & Penalty**

If the invoice for these services is not paid within 15 days following such abatement, the City notifies St. Louis County to issue a special tax bill which includes all costs related to the abatement. Such tax bill, if unpaid within 15 days, will constitute a lien on the property. In addition, every person violating any provision of Chapter 215, Article III) shall be subject to a penalty by a fine of not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and each day any such violation shall continue to be deemed a separate offense. Abatement of the violation or nuisance by the City or otherwise shall not relieve any person of the penalty herein provided.

Let's work together to protect the health and safety of the environment... remember Neighborhood Preservation!

**IWA Homecoming!**

As Incarnate Word Academy begins its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we invite you to our upcoming Homecoming Celebration on Sunday, September 18, 2022. Join us for a day of community and fun! All are welcome to enjoy the activities, including a parade through Bel-Nor, Food Trucks,

and our annual Powderpuff Football Game. The event is free and no registration is required. IWA is located at 2788 Normandy Drive, Saint Louis, MO 63121. For questions, please contact Emily Riccio at 314-725-5850 ext.1181.

Event Timeline:

- 9:30 am - Mass in the Theater Building
- 11:15 am - Parade Through Bel-Nor
- 11:30 am - Festhaus Tent and Food Trucks Open Next to the Field
- 12:15 pm - Blessing of the Field and Field Activities Begin
- 1:00 pm - Powder Puff Game and Tug of War
- 3:00 pm - Event Concludes

Weather permitting, residents are encouraged to walk to the campus in order to allow students and families ample parking without

clogging up our neighborhood streets.

**Tree Board News**

In January several Bel-Nor residents (members of our Tree Board) attended a five-hour on-line seminar hosted by Doug Seely, our 24:1 Director of Community Forestry. This course covered everything from tree identification to selection and planting, pest control, and of course, pruning and maintenance. Our attendance enhances our City status as a Tree City USA and eligibility for Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) grants to perform trimming and removals throughout the City. In 2021 we budgeted \$48,600 for this effort but ended up spending \$52,000 mostly due to a few severe storms. This was offset by a grant of \$10,000 from MDC. In 2022 we budgeted \$48,600 for trimming and removals and to date have spent \$43,700. However, our grant from MDC increased from \$10K to \$25K thanks to the effort of Tree Board Chairman Joe Riebold and with help from Doug Seely.

Thus far for our fall tree-planting effort we have only received requests from five homeowners, so we encourage all residents who feel trees are a good long-term investment in increased property values to accept a new tree for your tree lawn and help start to restore our wonderful tree-lined streets! Last year we trimmed 81 street trees and removed 31; this year we are planning to trim 88 and remove only 7.

For more info on the Tree Board, please contact Alderman Riebold at 314-496-2574 or joer@cityofbelnor.org



7th and 8th graders from St. Ann School “learning the ropes” at an educational event hosted by Bel-Nor, 24:1, and Vertical Voyages April 22, 2022. This event was funded by our TRIM Grant from MDC.

***See our City website for more information on preserving our urban forest.***

**Backyard Composting with Kathy Dolson**

Back in 2020, while most of us were hunkered down in our houses or taking endless walks to get away from our houses because of COVID, City officials requested and received a grant. Residents Kathy Dolson and Sue Waterman generously volunteered their time to get more people in Bel-Nor to give backyard composting a try.

In early 2021, after both online and in-person (outdoors, remember COVID?) informational meetings, we gave out 70 compost bins! Participants also received a countertop bin for the kitchen. This was at no cost to residents with the only commitment being that they had to keep track of how much food waste they collected.



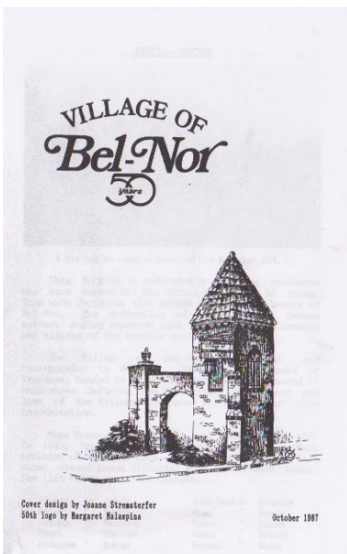
Many of those residents were new to composting and a few were old hats that wanted to add to what they already used. Some gave up, but almost all stuck it out and in the end, in just 7 months, Bel-Nor collectively kept about 6875 more pounds ( $\approx 3.5$  tons) of food waste out of the landfill than the we did before. That's pretty darn remarkable. And we're still at it!

If you're interested in learning how to start composting, first, let me say — it's easy! There is a slew of information on the internet, some of which might make it sound complicated. Trust us, it doesn't have to be complicated. Or you can ask a neighbor — chances are they might already do it.

Here are a few links to more information:

[Types of Composting](#)  
[Composting at Home - EPA](#)  
[Composting 101 - NRDC](#)  
[You don't need a big yard to start composting](#)

Here is a site with more information about [Food Waste](#)  
 [For a print version use this - <https://earthday-365.org/toogoodtowaste>.]



*Residents enjoying the annual visit from Santa at the new Gazebo last December*



*City Treasurer Rachel Burse and Grandsons Chase and Caleb at the annual visit from Santa at the Gazebo last December*



*Resident Ty Warren keeping an eye on things while the kids anxiously await their turn with Santa*



*Alderman Jan Nelson and Santa's driver, Officer Gordon Brock*



We'll handle it from here.™

### Reduce Contamination in the Recycle Cart

Please be mindful of the materials disposed of into the recycle container:

- Keep recycle simple. Get back to the basics of recycle materials: paper, cardboard, plastic, metals, aluminum and glass.
- When in doubt, throw it out. If you're unsure if something can be recycled, opt to put it in the trash.

- Trash the plastic bags. Plastic bags don't belong in the recycle cart. Reuse or take plastic grocery bags back to the local grocery store to be recycled instead.
- Ditch the debris. Plants, soil and yard waste don't belong in your recycle cart.
- Empty, clean and dry.

By utilizing these suggestions, it helps ensure the recycle materials leaving your homes are in fact recyclable. Together, we are caretakers of this planet. Recycle is worthy of every effort we can make to protect it for our families.

## ALWAYS Recyclable

Paper



Plastic



Metal



Cardboard



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