# CITY NEWS and views





Neighborly

It's in our DNA.

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NORTH MANKATO

Keep watch for our new website design - launching this spring!

# Message FROM THE MAYOR

As I write this message, most of at the Marriott Courtyard in Mankato. It including southern Minnesota. North Mankato, is preparing for a "snowpocalypse." Like many of you, I am seeing signs of spring and look forward to warmer weather, ice outs, spring flowers, and birds migrating north.

I can tell you all that I am very humbled to be elected to represent the City of North Mankato as your Mayor. It is a position that I do not take lightly, and I pledge to always be available for discussion and respond to electronic communications as quickly as possible. It has been great to begin meeting our many dedicated city staff. I can clearly see that our staff cares about the city and how well it runs and is maintained. As I have begun interacting with my fellow council members, I feel positivity, hope, energy, and the will "to do the best for the most", as one of my mentors has profoundly emphasized.

The first six weeks were quite busy for staff and council members. Matt Peterson and I attended newly elected officials training for two days was put on by the League of Minnesota Cities and was a fantastic and informative experience. We are also in the middle of lobbying to include our regional indoor recreational facility in the state bonding this session. Rest assured, all hands are on deck as we make a final push for 10 million dollars in state bonding to secure the funding to begin this long-awaited project.

We are also finalizing discussions on how to proceed with water meter installations and formulating an end game for the completion of the project. In addition, our staff has worked tirelessly to pursue and secure a contractor to purchase and present a concept for the Norwood Inn property redevelopment. We have a purchase agreement signed and are now working with the developer, Regards, residents, and city staff to formulate a plan that fits North Mankato's longterm plan for the neighborhood and the Hwy 169 corridor.

The opening of Starbucks and Chipotle this spring, along with the potential new Gordini distribution facility in the

Northport Industrial Park, breathes life into our thriving community. I want to welcome Luke Arnold, our new Public Works Director, and Jessica Ryan, our new City Finance Director to our team. Both are hard workers with team mindsets. They will each bring creativity and new optics to how our city can be even better now and in the future.

I'm looking forward to being at more City functions and meeting many of you in the future. This role has given me new energy and life. North Mankato has been my home for 51 years. I like to call it "Mayberry" from the "Andy Griffith Show", and I want to keep it that way. I hope this spring brings hope and happiness to all of you reading this.

Scott Carlson - Mayor

# KEEP WATCH FOR OUR NEW WEBSITE DESIGN launching this shring!



# **NORTH MANKATO**



**Scott Carlson, Mayor** 

507-514-6688

**Email Address:** 

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**Kevin McCann, City Administrator** 

1001 Belgrade Ave.

507-625-4141

**Email Address:** 

kmccann@northmankato.com



# MAYOR/COUNCIL **Member Requests**

If there is an event you would like the North Mankato Mayor or a Council Member to attend, please contact April Van Genderen.

Follow us on









# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT **DEPARTMENT**

The City of North Mankato is constantly working to improve the quality of life for its citizens. This is accomplished through various planning initiatives undertaken by the Community Development Department and City Administration, often in conjunction with area planning partners. Planning initiatives are usually extensive; targeted over a specific growth location, area of commerce, or vital transportation corridor in our community, and can take several months to over a year to complete in some instances.

Plans, studies, and other city planning initiatives require robust public involvement. City staff rely not only on area stakeholders (those property and/or business owners with potential for direct impacts) but all citizens for input to shape a vision for the future. This ensures community needs and desires are reflected in the vision. Citizens help guide:

- City Growth Planning
- · Parks and Recreation Planning
- Area Development and Redevelopment Planning
- City Ordinance Development
- Transportation Improvement Planning

This list is not exhaustive. All efforts are aimed at maximizing quality of life for North Mankato residents. The following table outlines current and upcoming planning initiatives underway at the city:

	Planning Effort	Anticipated Completion*	Description
	North Mankato Comprehensive Plan Update	Early- to Mid-2023	The City is currently updating its 2015 Comprehensive Plan to understand the state of the community and identify future planning needs.
Dates are subject to change	Lookout Drive Area Plan	March-April 2023	This plan will identify a vision for the land uses surrounding Lookout Drive.
	Brewing New Ideas	February 2023	City staff solicited input from residents on opportunities and big ideas residents have for the city moving forward. Results will inform development of the North Mankato Strategic Plan.
	Belgrade Avenue Three-Lane Conversion Grant Applications	Spring 2023	The City is in pursuit of funding to convert the 200 block of Belgrade Avenue from four to three lanes. If awarded, construction would align with MnDO'r's reconstruction of US Highway 169 ramp intersections with the Veteran's Memorial Bridge in 2025.
	Heritage Preservation Research	Spring 2023	City staff is researching heritage preservation.
	Deer Inventory	Spring 2023	City staff is evaluating its deer population.
	Greater Mankato Inclusivity Study	Spring 2023	North Mankato is working with the Mankato Area Foundation, Mankato Clinic, and other agencies to evaluate diversity, equity, and inclusivity among the Greater Mankato area to gage how agencies are serving all populations.
"Dates are	Mankato Transit Development Plan	Early Fall 2023	North Mankato is joining the City of Mankato in updating the Transit Development Plan to evaluate area transit to identify improvements to the system.
	ADA Transition Plan	Late 2023	The Mankato/North Mankato Area Planning Organization (MAPO) is currently updating the 2018 MAPO ADA Transition Plan.

\*Dates are subject to change If you have any questions about city planning initiatives, don't hesitate to contact Matt Lassonde, City Planner, at 507-514-6456 or matthewl@northmankato.com.

# **AUTOMATIC WATER METER**

The City has installed 1,042 new meters since January 1, 2019, when the City transitioned to an automatic read meter as the new standard meter. Property owners can replace their current manual read meter with the automatic water meter if desired. If you are interested in a new automatic water meter, you may contact your plumber or place your name on the waiting list to have City staff install the meter. To sign up, please visit www.northmankato.com/water-meter or call 507-625-4141



# THE fire SCENE by CHIEF JAMES ZWASCHKA

The North Mankato Fire Department is a dedicated and professional organization that stands ready to serve when the need arises. Our fire department is on call twentyfour hours a day and will respond to emergency and nonemergency requests within our community. As I write this spring edition, the fire department is getting ready for a change in the seasons. Spring is a busy time for training members at state and local schools. The warmer weather allows easier work on pump operations, fire attacks, ladder and aerial operations, and auto extrication.

As winter turns to spring, snow emergencies change to other weather emergencies. Spring and summer bring storm season. Are you and your family prepared?

#### If you want alerts from Nicollet County, go to www.co.nicollet.mn.us

As you prepare, tailor your plans and supplies to your specific daily living needs and responsibilities. Discuss your needs and responsibilities and how people in your family network can assist with communication, care of children, business, pets, or specific needs. Create your own personal network for specific areas where you need assistance. Keep in mind some of these factors when developing your plan:

- Different ages of members within your household
- Responsibilities for assisting others
- Dietary needs
- Medical needs include prescriptions and equipment
- Disabilities or access and functional needs including devices and equipment
- Pets or service animals
- Households with school-aged children
- Extended power outages

Take a moment the next time you come home and look at the house numbers to see if they are visible and stand out from your surroundings, especially at night. If you call for help, please turn on a porch or garage light to help us find your address.

#### Recreational Fire

Warmer weather will present opportunities for outdoor recreational fires. We want to remind you to be courteous to your neighbors. The recreational fire guidelines are posted on the city website along with ours; this will answer questions about location, size, and materials. Some neighbors may have respiratory problems and may not be able to tolerate the smoke; others sleep with their windows open. Please consider the time of day when enjoying your fire.

#### **Membership Recognition**

Three firefighters have retired from service in 2022: Dan Giefer, Ed Hoffman, and Jay Hewlett. These members will be added to the North Mankato Honor Roll for serving 20 or more years.

Former members who passed away in 2022 are Henry Guentzel, Dale Schneider, and Timothy Heelan.

We thank them for their dedication to the department and the citizens of North Mankato.

Currently, we have five new Firefighter Recruits going through 140 hours of training to become certified firefighters. This recruiting class will help us maintain the number of firefighters we need to protect the city. However, there continues to be a need for new firefighters: if you or someone you know is interested in learning more, please get in touch with me or any department member. We love to talk about the opportunity to do a good thing in our communities.

#### **Smoke Detectors**

I want to answer one of our most frequently asked questions about smoke detectors: When you should change the batteries in your detectors? Look at the date; if it is more than ten years old, it must be replaced. Hardwired detectors must be replaced every ten years, and batteries must be changed semi-annually. The risk of dying in a home fire is cut in half in homes with working smoke alarms.

In closing, I would like to thank all our residents for your continued support of our fire department. I welcome any questions, concerns, or comments regarding the fire department. You can contact me at nmfdchief@ northmankato.com or 507-625-5378; additional contact information is on the City of North Mankato website.

# OUR NORTH MANKATO Find a digital version of this map SYSTEM TRAIL MANKATO

SUMMER!

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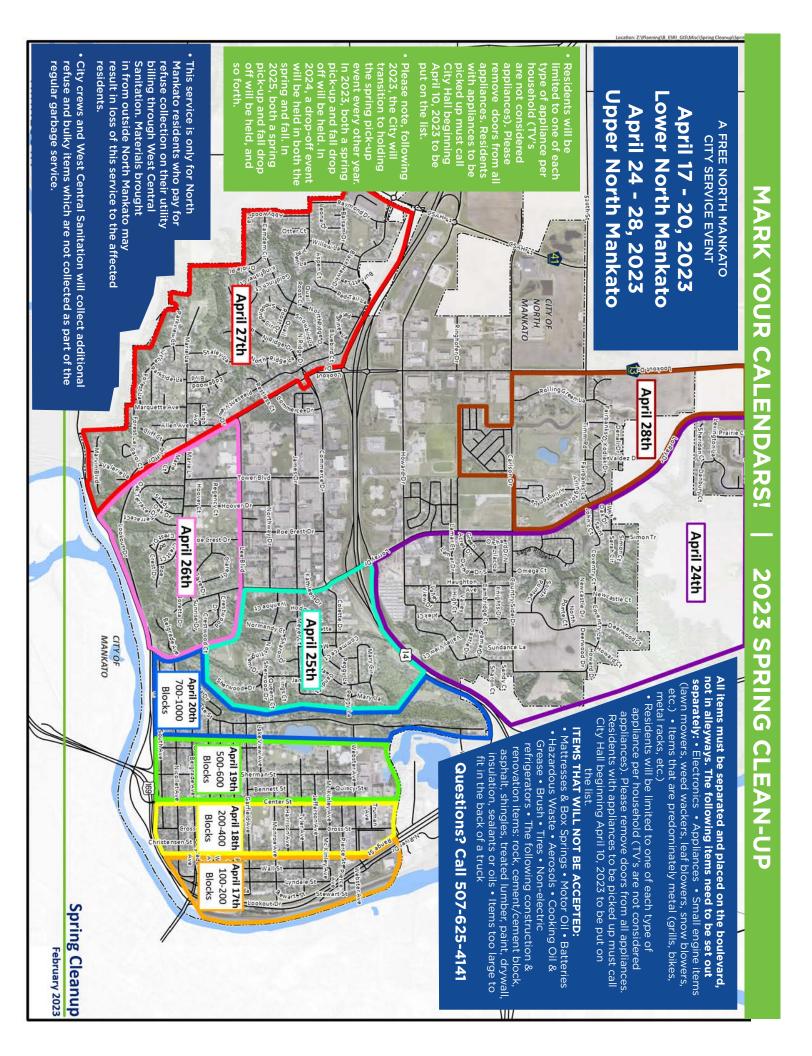
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4 North Mankato City News and Views



# Saturday - May 20th, 2023

NORTH MANKATO TAYLOR LIBRARY, 1001 BELGRADE AVENUE



#### Race Starts at 9am SATURDAY, MAY 20TH RACE DAY CHECK IN 8:00-8:45AM

**PRICES** 

# Group (6 or more)

- \$20 BEFORE MAY 1
- \$25 AFTER MAY 1
- **EXTRAS** HEALTHY SNACKS
- ACTIVITIES

   BALLOON ARTIST BOUNCE HOUSE (WEATHER PERMITT
- MAKE AND TAKES FOR THE KIDS FACE PAINTING
- T-SHIRT WITH EARLY REGISTRATION

Child 10 and under

• \$10 BEFORE MAY 1

• \$15 AFTER MAY 1

 FREE BOOK WITH CHILD REGISTRATION GOODIE BAGS (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)

FOR MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER: CALL 507-345-5120. SCAN THE OR CODE OR VIS

\$20 EACH AFTER MAY 1

PRESENTED BY BUSINESS ON BELGRADE ASSOCIATION. THE BOOKIN' ON BELGRADE NEARLY 5K FUN RUN AND WALK IS A FAMILY ERIENDLY OPPORTUNITY TO GET HIP AND GET MOVING IN REALITIEUL LOWER NORTH MANKATO





TAYLOR W

# **CITY ANNOUNCEMENT**

#### **WATER MAIN FLUSHING APRIL 3RD - 21ST**

The North Mankato Water Department will be flushing water mains for both the valley and hilltop areas.

Flushing will begin for both the valley and the hilltop on April 3rd, 2023, and the valley will finish on April 7th and the hilltop will finish on April 21st.

Water main flushing is done twice a year to remove sediment and minerals that may have accumulated in the water mains. You may notice some discoloration of the water during the period we are working in your area. The water is safe to drink; however, we suggest that you refrain from laundering clothes for several hours until the water has had a chance to settle out, as the water may stain.

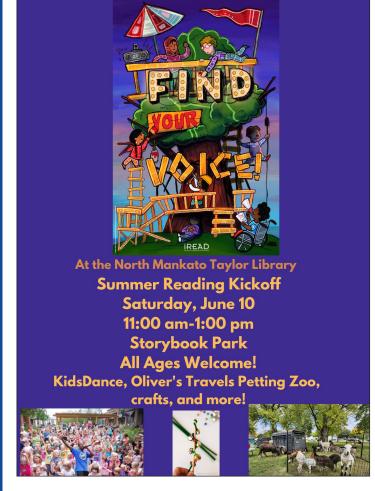
When the Water Department is actively flushing a hydrant, do not drive through the water. The water leaves the hydrant at a high rate of speed and can cause damage to your vehicle.

**QUESTIONS? CALL 507-625-4141** 





Located next to Fallenstein Park at the west entrance of Caswell Park 1875 Howard Dr. W.



# THE EMERALD ASH BORER

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been confirmed in the City of North Mankato. Infested trees were discovered by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and City staff as part of a routine tree inspection.

#### WHAT IS IT?

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an exotic beetle that is metallic green, about 1/2 inch long and attacks and kills ash trees. The larvae feed on the inner bark of these trees, destroying the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients and killing the tree altogether.

#### WHAT SHOULD NORTH MANKATO **RESIDENTS DO?**

- Homeowners with ash trees on their property have 2 options. First, determine if your ash tree is worth saving.
- If your tree is new, in good health, and is a high quality tree, you will need to work with a certified arborist to treat the tree every 2-3 years for the remainder of its life.
- If the tree is old, a nuisance, or in poor condition, you will need to work with a professional to cut it down. Consider planting a tree or two to replace trees you remove.
- More resources for homeowners with ash trees are available on our website: www.northmankato.com/eab
- Look for woodpeckers around ash trees (they like to feed on EAB larvae).
- Watch for bark cracks in ash trees. EAB larvae tunneling beneath the bark can cause the bark to split open.
- Look for S-shaped galleries under the bark and for small, D-shaped exit holes in the crown of the tree.
- Dispose of ash tree debris at the North Mankato Compost Site located at 600 Webster Ave.
- Don't import or move firewood unless it's MDA Certified.
- If you believe your tree shows signs of infestation, contact the North Mankato Parks Department at 507-625-4141.

For additional information, visit northmankato.com/eab or call the North Mankato Parks Department at 507-625-4141.



# **EFFICIENT LAWN** WATERING PRACTICES

Fall is the best time of year to fertilize your lawn and control weeds. In fact, healthy lawns help area lakes and streams. Thick grass prevents soil erosion and absorbs rainwater. By soaking up rainwater, lawns decrease the amount of stormwater runoff funneling pollutants into lakes and streams.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- · Adjust sprinklers to water-only grass areas and not impervious surfaces such as streets, driveways, and walkways.
- Mow grass to a height of 2 1/2 to 3 inches. Taller grass shades the roots and soil surface, which reduces the amount of water lost to evaporation.
- Use sprinklers that spray low large drops vs. high fine ones.
- Use handheld soakers for small trees, shrubs, and plants.
- Use shut-off nozzles on hoses and repair leaky hoses and fittings.
- Know your grass. Different grass types require different amounts of water. Speak with a lawn care professional to determine the amount of water your type needs.
- · Know your soil.
- Sandy soil absorbs water quickly: needs less water more frequently.
- Loamy soil absorbs water evenly, without puddling or runoff.
- Clay soil absorbs water slowly; it can cause runoff when water is applied too quickly and holds moisture longer.

#### WHEN TO WATER

- About one inch of water per week (including precipitation) is adequate for maintaining a healthy lawn. Use a can or rain gauge to determine the amount of water applied by the sprinkling system and supplied by rainfall.
- Don't use a fixed schedule for lawn watering. Apply water only when it is needed. Overwatering can promote diseases and affect the health of the lawn.
- A simple test for determining if the grass needs water is to walk on the lawn, and if you leave footprints, it may be time to water the lawn.
- A good soaking once or twice a week is better than watering every day. Allowing the soil to dry between watering will allow the roots to grow to greater depths and help make turf more drought tolerant.

#### **BEST TIME FOR LAWN WATERING**

- · Water during the cool part of the day to minimize water lost to evaporation. Early morning hours (4 a.m. to 8 a.m.) are the best, and the peak water consumption hours (4 p.m. to 9 p.m.) should be avoided.
- · Avoid watering during midday hours when it is hot and sunny to prevent scalding the turf.
- Watering at night is not recommended because the lawn stays wet for a long period, promoting diseases and affecting your lawn's health.

# **VOLUNTEER TO PLANT FLOWER BEDS**



The City of North Mankato is looking for volunteers to help plant the City's flower beds. Each year the City plants flowers to beautify the City and needs assistance to complete the plantings.

If you are interested in offering your services to plant these beautiful flower beds, don't hesitate to contact Parks Superintendent Duane Rader at 507-625-4141.

Planting will be completed in May, and you will be contacted with planting dates.

# DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE HIGH WATER USAGE???

#### **Culprits of unexplained high consumption**

A running/leaky toilet | Water softener Outdoor watering

#### Don't let your toilet waste water.

A silent leak in your toilet can waste several thousand gallons of high-quality water each year and place unnecessary demands on your sewer system or septic tank.

#### Follow these easy steps to discover if your toilet leaks.

- 1. Lift off the lid from your toilet tank.
- 2. Place 3 or 4 drops of ordinary food coloring into the toilet tank (note- do not use dye - it could stain).
- 3. Do not flush the toilet for 2 hours or longer.
- 4. If the color shows up in the bowl, you have a leak.

#### You can check for leaks by watching your water meter.

This can be done either overnight or during the day when you know there will be no water used.

- 1. Read your meter before going to bed or before leaving for the day.
- 2. Reread it when you first get up or get home.
- 3. There should be NO change. If there is. vou have a leak.

You may need a plumber.



#### NO MOW MAY

#### FOR REGISTERED NORTH MANKATO RESIDENTS

May 1st - Wednesday, May 31st

The City of North Mankato will be observing "No Mow May," an initiative encouraging property owners to limit mowing grass for one month to promote habitats for early season pollinators that emerge in the spring. Beginning Monday, May 1st, 2023, and ending Wednesday, May 31st, 2023, the City will temporarily suspend part of City ordinance (§ 90.111) that requires homeowners to maintain grass on their property to less than 6 inches tall. Residential properties that are owner-occupied or occupied by renters who receive landlord consent are eligible to register and participate. Noxious weeds will still need to be eradicated. Properties must come back into compliance in June following the end of the program.

Registration will open in April register at www.northmankato.com/no-mow-may

**Questions? Call 507-625-4141** 



Take advantage of early bird discounts and purchase your swim pass to the Swim Facility! Prices will increase after April 15th to regular season pricing.

Visit www.swimnorthmankato.com/admission to purchase passes and punch cards.

# **Board of Appeal and Equalization**

April 20, 2023 9:00 a.m. **North Mankato Police Annex** 

# Important information regarding property assessments.

This may affect your 2024 property taxes.

The Board of Appeal and Equalization of the City of North Mankato in Nicollet County, MN, will meet in the Police Annex at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, the 20th day of April 2023. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the City has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office at 507-934-7060 to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after conferring with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary and shall correct it as needed. Generally, an appearance before your local board of appeal and equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to your county board of appeal and equalization.

**Questions? Call 507-625-4141.** 









# THE CITY IS NOW **HIRING FOR SEASONAL SUMMER POSITIONS!**

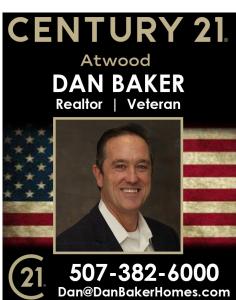
SWIM FACILITY LIFEGUARDS, **ATTENDANTS & CONCESSIONS WORKERS** 

- CASWELL PARKS MAINTENANCE & CONCESSIONS STAFF
- CASWELL SPORTS LEAGUES **OFFICIALS**
- CASWELL SPORTS YOUTH **RECREATION COACHES & STAFF**
- PUBLIC WORKS STAFF (STREETS & PARKS DEPARTMENT)

#### **INTERESTED?**

**Learn more by calling** 507-625-4141 or apply at www.governmentjobs.com/ careers/northmankato



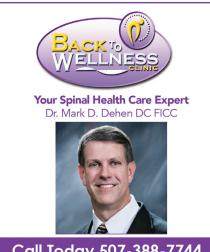












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RECEIVE IMPORTANT ALERTS AND **COMMUNITY UPDATES FROM THE** CITY OF NORTH MANKATO'S NIXLE SYSTEM!

> Sign up to receive notifications via text message, email, or phone call.

To sign up for Emergency Alerts: text 56003 to 888777

**To sign up for Community Events Alerts:** text NMCOMMUNITY to 888777

**To sign up for Taylor Library Alerts:** text NMLIBRARY to 888777

To sign up for Caswell Sports Alerts: text CASWELL to 888777

**To sign up for Construction and Traffic Alerts:** text NMCONTRAFFIC to 888777

> To sign up for Swim Facility Alerts: **text SWIM to 888777**

Sign up at www.northmankato.com/nixle-alerts or by calling 507-625-4141



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# **2023 EVENTS CALENDAR**

#### MAY

#### **BOOKIN' ON BELGRADE**

Saturday, May 20th 9:00 am

**North Mankato Taylor Library** 

#### **SWIM FACILITY OPENING DAY**

Saturday, May 27th noon - 6:00 pm 641 Webster Ave

#### SPLASH PAD OPENING DAY

Saturday, May 27th 1875 Howard Dr. W

# JUNE

#### **NORTH MANKATO FARMERS' MARKET**

Beginning Monday, June 5th (Mondays through October 16th) 3:00 - 6:00 pm South Central College - 1920 Lee Blvd

#### **MOVIES IN THE PARK**

Friday, June 16th ma 00:8 **Spring Lake Park** 

#### **ARTSPLASH**

Saturday, June 17th 11:00 am - 3:00 pm South Central College - 1920 Lee Blvd

#### **LET'S POLLINATE!**

Saturday, June 24th 9:00 am - noon PENDING - Keep watch for more updates.

#### JULY

#### NORTH MANKATO FUN DAYS CELEBRATION

July 6th - 9th **Wheeler Park** 

#### **BLUES ON BELGRADE**

Saturday, July 29th 2:00 pm - 11:00 pm **Belgrade Ave** 

#### MUSIC IN THE PARK

Thursdays in July (July 13th, 20th, 27th) 5:30 - 7:30 pm **Wheeler Park** 

# **AUGUST**

#### **MOVIES IN THE PARK**

Friday, August 11th ma 00:8 **Benson Park** 

# **SEPTEMBER**

#### SYMPHONY ON THE PRAIRIE

Saturday, September 9th 6:00 pm **Benson Park** 

#### **BIER ON BELGRADE**

Saturday, September 16th 2:00 - 8:00 pm **Belgrade Ave** 

#### **MUSIC IN THE PARK**

Thursdays in September (September 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th) 5:30 - 7:30 pm **Wheeler Park** 









