

# Races Are Underway For Council

Belle Plaine voters will have to make decisions in the Nov. 3 election. Although Mayor Ray Wiese is running unopposed, all council seats are up for grabs.

Roger Pyburn and Charles Weaver are contending for the first ward post.

The second ward representative will be either Dave Bauman or James Daily.

A possibility of a run-off election exists in the third ward where three candidates are vying for one post. Incumbent David Fish meets Betty Clark and Vernon Blomme on the ballot.

According to Benton county auditor Florence Rippel, one of the three will need 51 percent of the vote cast to guarantee the seat. If none meets the 51 percent requirement, a run off election will be held between the top two vote getters Nov. 24.

Four candidates filed papers for councilman-at-large, Jerry McIntire, Pat Dreibelbis, Jean Wright and incumbent Curt Homire. Two councilmen-at-large are elected to complete the five-person council, so there will be no need for a run off, according to the auditor. The two highest vote getters will be the council members.

Also on the Nov. 3 ballot is the park board position which incumbent Dave Hrabak seeks unopposed.



**HOMECOMING ROYALTY** — King Paul Muench and Queen Dawn Spading (center front) represented the Plainsmen Spirit at the homecoming dance Friday. Directly behind the 1981 king and queen are past royalty.

Jean Daily and Cory Conway. Also pictured are flower girl Jenny Fisher and crown bearer Danny Ealy. They are flanked by attendants, on the left, sophomores Lyle Morrow and Kris Carl and seniors Ron Spading and Kay

DeMeulenaere, and on the right, freshmen Dana Mann and Jon Muench and juniors Ellen Coover and Rod Van Scoyoc.

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## THE BELLE PLAINE

# UNION

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## Vote On Parking Ordinance Is Postponed

The third reading of an ordinance prohibiting parking on certain streets was postponed because of the absence of two city council members Monday. The third reading of an ordinance prohibiting truck parking on all city streets was passed, however.

Councilmen Ken Kaiser had indicated he would not vote for the parking ordinance and he voted against it when it was on its second reading.

Kaiser, referring to the number of parking ordinances in the city code, and calling for uniformity, commented, "Somehow, it looks to me that until somebody gets perturbed and complains about it we don't really do anything. If we're having this problem, and evidently we are, maybe we should have a blanket ordinance ... instead of picking out a few streets here and there."

The proposed ordinance would prohibit parking at the crest of a hill between signs on Sixteenth street between Eleventh and Twelfth avenues and parking on the east side

of the street between Sixth and Seventh streets on Fifth avenue.

Councilman Dave Fish pointed out that many of those no parking ordinances were at the request of the fire department because firetrucks couldn't get through.

Curt Homire, the third councilman at the meeting, also pointed out that many of the parking problems were brought about by street improvements, that curb and guttering narrowed the streets.

The council adopted a resolution for the mayor and city clerk to sign an agreement with Mr. and Mrs. Roger Langford regarding voluntary acquisition of property under the HUD grant. They had offered to sell the property to the city for \$4,000. Fred Dean of the East Central Iowa Council of Governments pointed out that the purchase was within the target area identified in the HUD application.

Following a public hearing, the city council accepted an offer of \$500 from East Side Body Shop be

accepted and the vacated alley east of the body shop be transferred to owners of the body shop.

An alley in Bailey and Snyder's addition was transferred to adjacent property owners following a public hearing.

Council accepted revised rehabilitation housing policies and procedures. Dean pointed out that the major change was the scoring system was revised so "hopefully" more families would participate in the program.

The gun club lease was renewed.

Garling Furniture was granted permission to block Thirteenth street between Ninth and Tenth avenues for an auction Oct. 4, subject to approval by the fire chief.

Representatives of Carleton Beh and Greene Engineering, who were scheduled to address the council about funding for the wastewater treatment facility, will be at the Oct. 12 meeting. They were advised not to attend Monday's meeting because two of the council members would be absent.

## Enrollment Is Down 52

Enrollment in the Belle Plaine schools is down 52 from last year, according to superintendent Clem Bodensteiner.

Last year's enrollment was 807 compared to 755 this year.

Bodensteiner said, "It looks like 20 or 21 are at the Christian school."

Sixty-four graduated from Belle Plaine community schools last year. The new kindergarten class numbers 55.

The remaining difference comes from families that have moved away, Bodensteiner reported.

Biggest drop in enrollment is at the high school where 237 students have classes this year, compared to 269 at the high school last year.

Enrollment at the junior high remains essentially the same. The number of students at the elementary centers is down from 395 to 361. Attendance at the Hartwick center is at 15, compared to seven last year.

## Give \$4,000 In Revenue Sharing

**VINTON:** The Benton County board of supervisors approved last Friday allotting \$4,000 in revenue sharing funds to the volunteer-ambulance services in the county.

In a motion by supervisors Ed Brecht and Russell Wyckoff, the money provided can be used for maintenance, training or equipment. The week before the supervisors had voted 2-1 to deny paying the unpaid claims the ambulance services incur.

The North Benton and Belle Plaine services will each receive \$1,250, and the Urbana and Blairstown services will each receive \$750.

The board also set Oct. 16 at 10 a.m. as the time to receive sealed bids the cash rent of 38.4 acres of land at the county care facility, and 33 acres at the landfill site south of Blairstown.

## EMTs Give Out Their Number

**CHELSEA:** The Chelsea Emergency Medical Technicians will mail stickers this week, giving the telephone numbers of the Chelsea Rescue Squad, Area Ambulance Service and the Chelsea Fire Department. The EMT's ask that Chelsea residents look for them in their mail

and place them near their telephone so they will be handy in an emergency.

There have been two memorials given to the Chelsea EMT's recently. One was a memorial to Kevin Prusha and the other was in memory of Emil Ledvina.



**HISTORY** — George Preston has always known that this sign, the first to point to Belle Plaine, had historical value, even when he pulled it from a ditch.

## Begins Antique Museum

George Preston has been planning to build a museum to house his antiques for the last 30 years.

It's finally underway and Preston is enjoying every minute of the work.

Preston predicts the four building museum will be open by April 1, 1982. As parts are completed they will be open to the public. Thus far, he has completed the outside of a building for wooden vehicles. These include a mail buggy, horse-drawn school bus, dray wagon and a doctor's carriage.

The second building will house radios, toys, a player piano, music boxes, pictures, cans and signs, the smaller items in his collection.

Farm machinery will be in the third building and the fourth will be exclusively for tractors.

The Belle Plaine man said he has received lots of support for his project from out of town which leads him to think it will be "quite a tourist attraction" when it's all done. "I think Belle Plaine people will enjoy it, too," he adds.

Preston has been collecting antiques for many, many years, often to the dismay of those about him. They just didn't see the potential value and the history he saw in

the items he gathered about his home and gas station, which he notes proudly is the oldest filling station on the Lincoln highway.

The misunderstanding is understandable, perhaps, when one learns even the briefest history of his collecting. Each item evokes a story.

Each rusty toy was once a cherished possession. The signs hanging from the rafters and covering the walls represent the daily routine of years gone by.

The 1919 horse-drawn school bus he now proudly displays was "rescued" from the top of a corn cob pile which was about to be burned. The sign he will use to identify his museum is one he pulled from the ditch where it had been thrown. It was the first sign put on highway 30 to point out Belle Plaine's location. To the people who threw it in the ditch and perhaps to others who saw it, broken, the little paint left peeling and with some of the reflectors missing, it was junk. To George, it was a sign of the time, history passing.

"Thirty years ago, people thought it was terrible, but it's the coming thing today," said Preston of his collecting.

Thirty years ago, Preston was getting letters. They weren't complimentary, in fact, some were downright uncomplimentary. But the wait has been worthwhile. Preston still gets letters. The difference is the tone. They are requests to see his antiques, thank yous by the hundreds for the time he has taken to show his collection and requests for the knowledge that came with the years of collecting. Preston used to talk to one

Belle Plaine class about the town's history, illustrating with this and that from his collection. Now he talks to five Belle Plaine classes and shows his wares to technical students from Waterloo and university students from Iowa City as well as collectors and history buffs from around the United States.

Reactions to Preston and his collecting have come full cycle. What local people once saw as junk as been examined and enjoyed by millions on a national television program.

Best of all, with the accolades to his foresight, is the dream of a museum becoming a reality.