

# CASA

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Court appointed advocates volunteer their time to make this a reality for abused and neglected children involved in the court system.

Four new CASA volunteers have been trained since last year, but approximately 30 more volunteers are needed to help serve every Child in Need of Care in the area. In 2024, 44 children were supported and advocated for through Forensic Interviewers that were provided at Hope’s Place CAC.

On Friday, April 4, 2025, National Wear Blue Day will be observed.

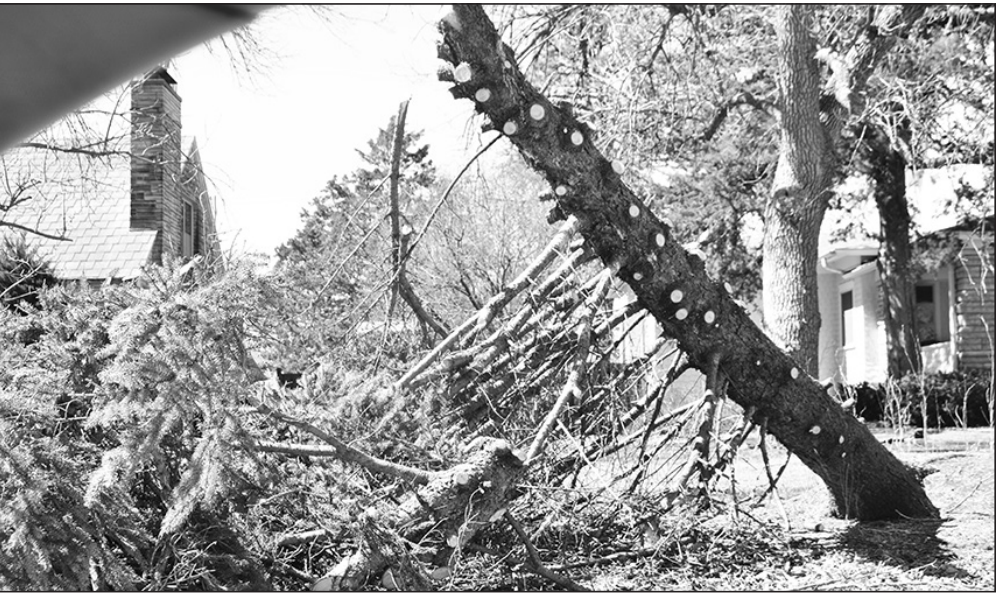
This year, a “Blue Day Shirt Design Contest” was held, and let the youth of

the area design their shirts, with voting taking place through events and online.

Joseph, an 11th grader at Clifton/Clyde High School, was the winner of the design contest, and will be worn on the Blue Day event.

If you wish to take it a step further—turn it into a fundraiser! Donate \$5 to Kansas CASA Association to participate and help provide advocacy for children in need. Make your donation here: [https://www.paypal.com/donate?campaign\\_id=X9HSGDFH9ZLVS](https://www.paypal.com/donate?campaign_id=X9HSGDFH9ZLVS)

Snap a photo of your group in blue on April 4, share it on social media, and tag us! Use the hashtags #WearBlueDay #CASADayofGiving #PreventChildAbuse



Some trees were fallen on Main and Mill streets after the blizzard visited Beloit on Wednesday, March 19, 2025.



Some rooftops at North Campus in Beloit felt the damage of high winds during the recent blizzard conditions in Beloit.



The Zachary’s Ace Hardware big chair off Independence Street was easily turned over during blizzard conditions.

ABOVE PHOTOS BY SHARON SAHLFELD



A semi flips over as a result of estimated wind gusts of 60-plus mph winds in Republic County.

FRED ARNOLD/ BELLEVILLE TELESCOPE COURTESY PHOTO

# EPA celebrates America’s Farmers and Ranchers on National Agriculture Day

LENEXA – On March 18, 2025, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) commemorated National Agriculture Day by celebrating America’s rich agricultural history, and the critical role farmers and ranchers play as stewards of our land and natural resources while providing Americans with a safe, abundant, and affordable food supply.

“Agriculture is the foundation of the American economy and embodies the core of our American values. Under President Trump’s leadership, we are affirming our commitment to common-sense policies, to clear and consistent rules for all states, farmers, and small businesses. EPA is proud to work alongside our nation’s great farmers to usher in the Golden Age of American Success,” said Administrator Zeldin.

As of 2022, over 45 percent of all U.S. land is dedicated to producing the food that feeds the nation’s families, making the agricultural sector one of the most important sectors in the U.S. economy. Under the Trump Administration, EPA is committed to working closer than ever with American farmers and ranchers, as well as the industries that support them, to provide certainty and regulatory clarity to the entire agricultural community.

Last week, EPA kicked off these efforts with Administrator Lee Zeldin announcing that the agency would review the definition of “waters of the United States.” EPA will move quickly through this rule making process to ensure that a revised definition follows the law, reduces red-tape, cuts overall permitting costs, and lowers the cost of doing business in communities across the country while protecting the nation’s navigable waters from pollution. Administrator Zeldin was joined by Senate Agriculture Chairman John Boozman (R-AR), Senator Kevin Cramer (R-ND), Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA), Senator Katie Britt (R-AL), Western Caucus Chairman Doug LaMalfa (R-CA-01), Representative Derrick Van Orden (R-WI-03), and Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall for the announcement.

EPA’s actions, including the 31 deregulatory actions the agency recently announced, support Administrator Zeldin’s “Powering the Great American Comeback Initiative,” upholding the agency’s mission of protecting human health and the environment while energizing the greatness of the American economy. The plan outlines the agency’s priorities and

consists of five pillars that will guide EPA’s work over the first 100 days and beyond.

Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American

Farmers and ranchers are the foremost stewards of the environment, and their partnership is critical to ensuring clean air, land and water for all citizens.

Pillar 2: Restore American Energy Dominance

Pursuing energy independence and energy dominance will cut costs for everyday Americans including the farmers, ranchers, and businesses supporting them. American farmers power the nation’s families and workforce, forming a strong connection between the agriculture and power sectors. Together, EPA is working with farmers and ranchers to help support the production and development of clean, renewable fuels, while reducing dependence on imported oil.

Pillar 3: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership

It is vital for EPA to work with the agriculture industry, and our partners at the state and federal levels to ensure certainly and reduce burdens so agribusiness can continue to thrive, while safeguarding our environment, supporting our economy, and creating American jobs. EPA is working to improve the speed and efficiency of our review of new pesticides while protecting human health and the environment, to help our farmers grow more food and protect crops from pest damage, diseases, and weeds.

Pillar 4: Make the United States the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World

Agriculture is uniquely positioned to benefit tremendously from the advancements of AI. As we rapidly advance into the age of AI, it is important that the United States lead the world in this field which can be used to support technologies to advance agricultural production and environmental protection.

Pillar 5: Protecting and Bringing Back American Auto Jobs

Bringing back American auto jobs and investing in domestic manufacturing will help revitalize American industries. We will partner with industry leaders to explore ways to strengthen the connection between two powerhouses of the American economy: the auto industry and agriculture.

# City covers agenda items and approves street bond issuance

BY TERRY BAILEY

The Beloit City Council conducted its biweekly business meeting at City Hall on Wednesday, March 19, 2025. All councilors were present with the exception of Lee McMillan, who was absent. Also in attendance were Mayor Tom Naasz, City Administrator Halley Roberson, City Attorney Katie Schroeder, City Clerk Amanda Lomax and Chief of Police, Chad Lackey.

– Councilor Andrew Grabon extended thanks to Chief Lackey and the officers of the Beloit Police force for their on-the-spot assistance for directing traffic downtown when the electrical service was interrupted to the traffic lights.

– Two very important business items were approved by the council. Resolution 2025-16, Authorizing and Directing the sale and delivery of General Obligation bonds and Ordinance 2367 Authorizing and Providing for the Issuance of General Obligation bonds were both unanimously approved by the council. A total of \$3,000,000 of bonds will be issued for the upcoming North Walnut and East Eighth Street projects. The city received a favorable net interest rate of 3.72%. This favorable rate was made possible by high demand for the bonds, and the recent A+ rating of the city’s creditworthiness by Standard and Poor.

– In staff reports, City Manager Halley Roberson told the council that the Water Treatment Plant project is still out for bid and moving forward. She believes there are seven contractors interested in bidding on the project. One notable change is that the makeup of the pipeline material may change from PVC to Poly.

The Willow Springs Pocket Park project is moving along and waiting for more dirt work to be completed before moving on.

Request for Proposals for the Lift Station bids are being formalized.

KDOT is finalizing plans for bridge repairs on the K-14 bridge. The bridge will have a covered walkway. Work is expected this coming fall and winter.

Approval has been received for the building of eight moderate income residential structures at the North Campus.

– Chief Lackey reported that there were several fires in the city last week but they were extinguished quickly. The recent power outages in the city were quickly responded to by city crews and taken care of quickly.

Chief Lackey reported that there is increasing concern about substandard structures being rented to lower income families in Beloit. Lackey said this situation needs immediate attention because families’ safety is of concern.

Resolutions setting hearings on May 7, 2025 for the possible declaration of unfit structures at the following addresses were approved:

- 601 N. Woodland
- 627 E. Main
- 706 E. 2nd
- 309 N. Washington (garages)
- 512 E. Court (garages)

A public hearing was held with no comments regarding 617 N. Pine, and a resolution was approved declaring the house and garage at that property both unfit.

– The council quickly addressed the Welcome Signs at the approaches to Beloit. The issue was tabled until Emily Benedick could be present to lead the discussion.

– Two 10-minute executive sessions were conducted to discuss non-elected personnel. No decisions were made as a result of those closed sessions.

– The business meeting was adjourned and the work session was called to order.

The topic of hangars and loading pads for aerial applicators at the Moritz Airport generated the most discussion for the work session.

Airport Manager, Travis Lattin, was present for the exchange of information. Some points of interest have differing opinions. Previously, city and the council have informed aerial applicators that concrete loading pads and chemical containment are necessary at the airport. Now with the acquisition of land north of Landoll and the city’s plans to build a new hangar, the question is whether those loading pads will be required for the upcoming spray season. In addition, according to Lattin, there are currently seven open hanger spots at the airport.

*Thank You for Reading The Beloit Call!*