



SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION OF BELVIDERE

BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS - SCHWIEBERDINGEN, GERMANY - VAUX-LE-PENIL, FRANCE

Website: sister-cities.org; illinoissistercities.org; belvideresistercities.org

Letter from the President...



Greetings fellow members, What a full and eventful summer it has been. In this newsletter you'll find many photos of different events and announcements with captions. I want to highlight just a few for you. In May, Eileen Donhowe graciously accepted a vacant Delegate At Large seat on the board. Keeping people on the board is very important to this organization, as we continue to focus on our Boone County youths and our youth initiatives. Thank you Eileen. Also in May we welcomed a new Corporate Member, the Belvidere Dairy Queen. Neal Patel is the owner of our DQ. Please stop by and say hi and

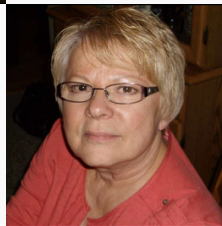
and have a Burger and a Blizzard. Two events that were highlights of the summer were the Heritage Day Parade and the Welcome Home Picnic. The Heritage Day Parade does not fail, when it comes to being one of the hottest days of the summer. But that was ok, because we had Neal Patel and his DQ Crew handing out their famous Dilly Bars to the parade crowds. German Youth Ambassador, Addie Whitlock joined us for the parade to represent our youth ambassadors. Although it was hot, it was always a fun time. Another Welcome Home Picnic is in the books once again. All I can say is, it was another success at the beautiful Grangette that Jim and Donna Beilfuss have continually allowed us share with our German and French friends. It was a perfect summer evening for much socializing with good food and great friends. Now that summer is coming to an end. We are looking forward to fall. Starting off with something new to Sister Cities, but not to Belvidere. On October 4th we will be having our first SC "Taste of Oktoberfest" being held at Coach's Corner from 2-7pm. With German food and Oktoberfest music by a DJ, German dancers and a beer stein holding contest. Bring your best German attire. PROST! November 13th will be the Annual Dinner Meeting. This year a change in venues was made and we will be at the American Legion on Chrysler Dr. We have a very nice menu selected with a cash bar and lots to discuss with the youth ambassadors sharing with us their experiences in German and France. Please "Save the Date" and I hope to see you all there.

-Linda

Sister Cities MISSION Statement
 To promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation- one individual, one community at a time.



BOARD MEMBERS



NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

In May Eileen Donhowe became our newest member on the Sister Cities Board. Eileen filled a Delegate-At-Large position that was vacated earlier this year upon Maureen Glickenger's retirement from the board, and accepted a higher position as Grandma and Grandma to be. Thank you Eileen for becoming part of the SC Board and thank you Maureen for your service, and congratulations to you both.

OUR BOARD

President: Linda Castro-Sebena
 1st Vice President: Brad Peters
 2nd Vice President: Kris Meek
 Treasurer: Donna Peters
 Membership Chairman: Liza Wolfe

Recording Secretary: Samantha Augustyn-Ott
 Corresponding Secretary: Judy Winter
 Delegates at Large: Naomi Schultz, Gary Tate, Joan Lund, Eileen Donhowe

Board Meetings - Third Tuesday each month, 10am at City Hall

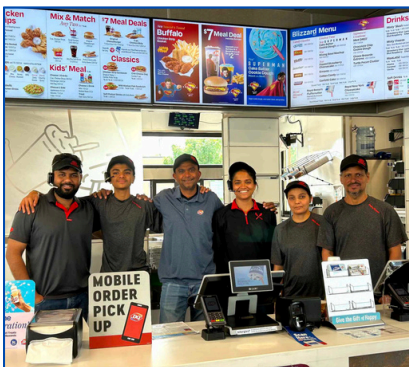


HERITAGE DAY PARADE

It was another HOT Heritage Day Parade. But that didn't stop us from having a whole lot of fun! Addie Whitlock was our youth ambassador that traveled to Germany and joined us in the parade this year. We had wonderful sponsorship as well. Joining us in the parade was our newest corporate member, Neal Patel and his DQ Crew handing out their famous Dilly Bars and coupons for delicious food and treats. Also, sponsoring our rides in the parade was Hammer Time Sports with 2 side by side vehicles for our youth ambassadors and participants in the parade. It's always a fun time.



NEWEST CORPORATE MEMBER



I would like to introduce you to our newest Corporate Member, Neal Patel, owner of the Belvidere Dairy Queen. Stop in and say hello and have a bite to eat and let him know that you're a Sister Cities Member as well.

Have you had your Blizzard today!



Bake sale!

Belvidere Central Middle School's National Honor Society graciously donated the proceeds from their very first bake sale to Sister Cities. We are so thankful for their generosity, hard work, and community spirit! A special thank you to Emily Augustyn-Ott for submitting Sister Cities as the recipient.



Going away party!

Thank you to everyone who came out for Samantha Augustyn-Ott's going away party. She will be greatly missed throughout the community.

Stone added,

A tree has been planted, donated by Germany, and a commemorative stone was generously donated by Donna and Brad Peters. We are grateful for their thoughtful contribution, which will be cherished for years to come.



2025 Summer Youth Exchange Program

It's hard to believe that another summer youth exchange has come to an end! While in France and Germany, our local students were immersed in the culture of our sister cities while staying with their host families. This is a time of experiencing new perspectives and ways of living. The participating students have life-changing experiences that help them become more globally aware. Many develop life-long relationships with the other participants. Our visiting ambassadors from Germany and France also enjoyed experiencing life in the United States. Host families here and abroad stay very busy sharing our communities and going above and beyond to experience as much as possible in the short amount of time the students have. Here in Belvidere, the students were treated to "Belvidere Day" and welcome from Mayor Clint Morris, as well as a "Chicago Day" for the families. On August 6th, our members welcomed our 2025 youth exchange participants at the beautiful Beilfuss Granette. After enjoying the buffet picnic dinner and socializing, the ambassadors were introduced. It's always wonderful to have the students and families together for this event! We had a number of past year's ambassadors join the evening as well! Many of the picnic attendees enjoyed personal tours of the Granette. We sincerely appreciate Jim and Donna Beilfuss for hosting such a lovely evening! Thank you to our host families here and abroad and the tireless efforts of the volunteer sister cities membership that work to make these exchanges possible!

Applications for next year's summer exchange can be found online at www.belvideresistercities.org.

Interviews will take place at Belvidere City Hall on February 16, 2026.
Kris Meek Co-chair of the Youth Exchange Program with Brad Peters



Belvidere Day with Mayor Clint Morris. From left to right: Juan Mendoza (North Boone High School), Kayla Tootell (NBHS), Lilly Hammer (Rockford Lutheran High School), Maebis Huard (Vaux-le-Penil), Mayor Morris, Nils Kaiser (Schwieberdingen), Miriam Reath (Schwieberdingen), Addie Whitlock (NBHS), Brad Peters, Kris Meek.

Belvidere Day Included:
A welcome and proclamation at the Belvidere City Hall with Mayor Clint Morris
Viewing the sister cities flags, peace poles, and mural The Boone County Conservation District
Lunch at a local Mexican food restaurant - Quinta Carmina
Belvidere North High School
River's Edge Climbing Wall
Picnic at the Beilfuss Granette



Belvidere City Hall Welcome and Proclamation.



Belvidere Day - a stop to admire the new mural honoring Sister Cities.



2024 Ambassador Maci Kitchen welcomed back Zoe Vuillermoz this summer, as well as last Christmas with Zoe's twin brother Felix.



Beilfuss Granette - Welcome/Welcome Back Picnic



Belvidere Day - visiting Belvidere North High School and the athletic fields.



Chicago Day included a visit to the Bean in downtown Chicago.



Chicago Day included a visit to 360 Chicago to view the city from the observation decks.

Chicago Day Included:
Millineum Park and the Bean
Navy Pier, Skyline Lake Cruise, and Centennial Ferris Wheel
360 Chicago and Tilt Water Tower Place/Magnificent Mile



2023 Ambassador Olivia Luebbing surprised Louisa Althaus for her 18th birthday in Schwieberdingen this summer!





ISCA: A photo of the participants who attended this year's event on May 3rd. We are proud of everyone who represented our community!

More of our amazing board and committee members, hard at work planning new and exciting initiatives for the community!



Save the Date

Oktoberfest

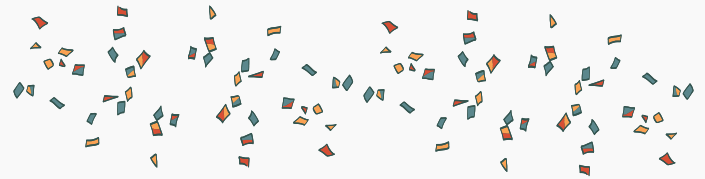
October 4th 2:00pm-7:00pm
Coach's Corner

Annual Members Dinner!

November 13th
5:00pm-Social Hour
6:00pm-Dinner

Hometown Christmas!

December 5th 5:00pm



Raffle Winners

Grand prize winner...\$500.00..Karen Manley Kahler
2nd prize.....250.00...Pamela Parisek
3rd place.....125.00...Dan Glickenberg
4th place.....125.00...Axel Rodriguez
Thank You to everyone who participated in our Raffle this year.

* Our club Historian Christine Kolk will archive news articles, pictures or other memorabilia regarding Belvidere Sister Cities Association into the club scrapbook.
Please call her if you have or see anything.

Corporate Membership:

(see your favorite company name in this spot, invite them to become a corporate member.)



Sister Cities Association of Belvidere
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Boone county, U.S.A.

