

CITY OF BELOIT



THE BELOIT REPORT

CONTINUING ITS RESURGENCE AS THE GEM OF THE ROCK RIVER VALLEY

CURRENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

**DECEMBER 19,
2014**

*A weekly publication
from the Office of the
City Manager*

**Larry N. Arft
City Manager
City of Beloit
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Beloit, WI 53511**

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Special points of interest:

- **City Meetings and
Events (page 3)**

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR THE CITY OF BELOIT

City Schedule Throughout the Holidays

All City offices and the Beloit Public Library will be closed on December 24 and 25 in celebration of the Christmas holiday, and closed again the following week on December 31 and January 1, 2015 in celebration of the New Year's holiday.

City of Beloit residents are advised that trash and recycling will not be collected on Thursday, December 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday. Collection will be delayed by one day. Thursday collection will take place on Friday, December 26. Friday collection will take place on Saturday, December 27. The Recycling Drop Off Center at 2351 Springbrook Court will be closed Saturday, December 27.

City of Beloit residents are advised that trash and recycling will not be collected on Thursday, January 1 in observance of the New Year's holiday. Collection will be delayed by one day. Thursday collection will take place on Friday, January 2. Friday collection will take place on Saturday, January 3. The Recycling Drop Off Center at 2351 Springbrook Court will be closed Saturday, January 3.

Last "Beloit Report" of the Year

Because of the upcoming holiday schedule, please note that this will be the last "Beloit Report" for 2014. A report will be prepared and distributed on Friday, January 2, 2015 which will include a brief summary of each of the items appearing on the City Council's agenda for the January 5, 2015 City Council meeting.

COUNCIL HOLDS SPECIAL MEETING ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2014

The City Council will convene a special meeting (see [attached](#)) on **Monday, December 22, 2014 beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Room at the Beloit Public Library, 605 Eclipse Blvd.** This meeting will be jointly convened with the Board of Directors of the Greater Beloit Economic Development Corporation (GBEDC) to hear a presentation and consider yet another new development project for the City's Gateway development area. The company will be creating 140 new jobs in the Beloit area and selected the Gateway business area following a multi-state search. Following the presentation and questions, Council will be considering a Development Agreement to bring this project to Beloit, along with a resolution authorizing a grant application for a Transportation Economic Assistance (TEA) grant to cover part of the infrastructure costs needed to support this new development.

The Greater Beloit Economic Development Corporation Board will also need to approve the Development Agreement, along with a separate proposal authorizing a discretionary grant from the GBEDC which is a part of the incentive package put together to attract this new company to Beloit. The Governor's office distributed the [attached](#) press release regarding the project this afternoon.

Following those deliberations, the initial meeting will be adjourned and Council will then reconvene for a second session to go over the seven proposals received from executive recruiters for the purpose of helping the City with the search for a replacement City Manager. Hopefully by the conclusion of the meeting, Councilors will have selected from among the seven proposals the "finalists" that Council wishes to interview as a prelude to selecting the firm that will be assisting Council with the recruitment process.

ELECTION EQUIPMENT TRAINING AND MOCK ELECTION

Please find [attached](#) a press release from the City Clerk's office noting a number of training sessions scheduled for January, 2015 related to the rollout of new election equipment that will be used throughout Rock County for all of the elections scheduled for calendar year 2015. All of these training sessions will be open to the public and the media and interested residents are welcome to attend. For more information please see the attached release.

Schedule of training sessions (held on the 4th floor of Beloit City Hall, 100 State Street)

- Wednesday, January 7, 2015, at 2:00 p.m.
- Thursday, January 8, 2015, at 9:00 a.m.
- Friday, January 9, 2015, at 2:00 p.m.
- Monday, January 12, 2015, at 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 13, 2015, at 9:00 a.m.

MANAGER ATTENDS THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S LATEST ATTEMPT TO DEAL WITH TRUANCY ISSUES

The Beloit School District convened a meeting of community leaders today, Friday, December 19, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. to continue the dialogue on the search for solutions to the ever persistent truancy problems that impact student academic performance. Dr. Johnson led the discussion and numerous community members offered suggestions for the District's consideration. Efforts by the District to help improve school attendance will continue.

EMPLOYEE HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS / RETIREMENT RECEPTIONS

As we approach the holiday season and with the year end in sight, a number of the departments and divisions held holiday receptions or luncheons this past week. We also have some employee retirements, both here and at the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, where I have maintained a long term affiliation. As City Manager, I have attended as many of those receptions as possible, thanking employees for their service and wishing them a happy and enjoyable holiday season. Retirees were also thanked for all of their years of service to the City of Beloit and we extended our very best wishes for a full and productive, along with enjoyable, retirement.

VACATION PLANS THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS

As we do with each year, many of the City's management team members, as well as other employees, have scheduled vacation through the holiday season. Although things have been very active this December, the holidays represent one of the slowest times of the year and managers are encouraged to schedule vacation during this period of reduced activity. As always, all emergency services will be manned 24/7 and incident commanders are available and will be deployed as needed.

I have scheduled vacation on Friday, December 26; a half day on Monday, December 29; and full vacation days on December 30 and January 2, 2015. I will return to the office on Monday, January 5, 2015.

CITY MEETING CALENDAR— DECEMBER 22–26, 2014

Monday, Dec. 22	Cancelled	Traffic Review Committee (D. Luebke)
Monday, Dec. 22	Cancelled	Police and Fire Commission
Monday, Dec. 22	5:00 p.m.	Joint City Council/GBEDC Meeting , Beloit Public Library Community Room (All City Councilors)
Monday, Dec. 22	6:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting , Beloit Public Library Community Room (All City Councilors)



NOTICE AND AGENDA
Special Joint Meeting of the Beloit City Council and the
Greater Beloit Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors

Monday, December 22, 2014 – 5:00 p.m.
Community Room – Beloit Public Library
605 Eclipse Boulevard
Beloit, WI 53511

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, in accordance with Section 2.02(3) of City Code, a Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Beloit, Rock County, Wisconsin, is being called.

1. Call to order and roll call – City Council (Spreitzer)
2. Call to order and roll call – GBEDC Board of Directors (Klett)
3. Resolution approving a **Development Agreement** between the City of Beloit, the Greater Beloit Economic Development Corporation and Pratt Industries, Inc. (Arft/Janke)
4. Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for a **Transportation Economic Assistance (TEA) Grant** from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (Janke)
5. GBEDC Resolution approving a **Grant Agreement** between the Greater Beloit Economic Development Corporation and Pratt Industries, Inc. (Janke)
6. Adjournment – City Council and GBEDC

NOTICE AND AGENDA
Special Meeting of the Beloit City Council

Monday, December 22, 2014 – 6:00 p.m.
Community Room – Beloit Public Library
605 Eclipse Boulevard
Beloit, WI 53511

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, in accordance with Section 2.02(3) of City Code, a Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Beloit, Rock County, Wisconsin, is being called.

1. Call to order and roll call
2. Review, consideration, and possible action regarding proposals from executive search firms to conduct an **Executive Recruitment for the City Manager Position** (Marshall)
3. Adjournment

Larry N. Arft, City Manager

Dated: December 19, 2014
Rebecca Houseman LeMire
City Clerk
www.beloitwi.gov

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**Please note that, upon reasonable notice, at least 24 hours in advance, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information to request this service, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 364-6680, 100 State Street, Beloit, WI 53511



SCOTT WALKER

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 19, 2014

Contact: Laurel Patrick, (608) 267-7303

Pratt Industries Selects Wisconsin for Midwest Expansion

New manufacturing facility to create 140 new jobs in Beloit

Madison – Pratt Industries, America's leading 100 percent recycled paper-packaging company, announced today it would begin construction on a new \$52 million corrugated box factory in Beloit next spring, a project expected to create 140 new jobs.

"I'm pleased that Pratt Industries—after seriously considering sites in three other Midwest states—has decided to locate the new facility in Wisconsin," said Governor Scott Walker. "This great news comes one day after new figures show Wisconsin added 16,500 private-sector jobs in November, and companies like Pratt are playing a key role in our state's continued economic success."

"This is a memorable day for our company," said Pratt Chairman Anthony Pratt. "This plant will be our first ever in the great state of Wisconsin and is a perfect fit with our aggressive growth strategy to increase our manufacturing footprint and capabilities in the Midwest. I'd like to thank Governor Walker as well as officials at the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and representatives of both Rock County and the City of Beloit for their can-do attitude and willingness to welcome and work with new businesses."

The proposed 350,000-square-foot manufacturing facility, which will be built on a 56-acre site in Beloit, will produce about 600 tons of recycled boxes a day at capacity, the equivalent of saving more than 10,000 trees every 24 hours. It is expected to be fully operational by January 2016.

To help secure the project, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) has agreed to provide the company with up to \$2.4 million in Jobs Tax Credits over the next four years and a \$1.75 million low-interest loan for equipment. The actual amount of tax credits are contingent upon the actual number of jobs created.

"WEDC is pleased to be able to play a key role in attracting this industry leader to Wisconsin," said Reed Hall, secretary and CEO of WEDC, the state's lead economic development organization. "The 140 family-supporting jobs that Pratt Industries is creating is a big win for Beloit and Rock County."

The company is also receiving about \$3.8 million in aggregate incentives from the City of Beloit and the Greater Beloit Economic Development Corporation (GBEDC). The Wisconsin Department of Transportation and Alliant Energy/WP&L also extended economic incentives to help attract the project.

Local officials said partnerships between state and local governments, and the private sector were key to bringing the project to Beloit.

“Due to the significant nature this project, the city put forth extra effort to provide an extremely aggressive incentive package to ensure the project would happen in Beloit,” said City Manager Larry Arft.

Andrew Janke, executive director of GBEDC, added: “The GBEDC’s willingness to provide a significant discretionary grant of \$200,000 to the company showed its commitment to the project and its significance to the Greater Beloit community.”

“This announcement underscores the necessity of having an efficient and effective economic development team”, said James Otterstein, Rock County’s Economic Development Manager. “Successfully facilitating projects of this scale requires technical, as well as complementary financial tools – which is exactly what Alliant Energy’s Economic Development Rider Rate provided.”

The new plant, to be built in the Beloit Gateway Business Park, will convert corrugated container board produced at Pratt’s recycled paper mills into sheets and convert those sheets into finished boxes for distribution throughout the Midwest and beyond.

Pratt said not only would the Beloit facility boast the most advanced technologies in the packaging industry, but it would also be a showcase for environmental responsibility.

Aside from using 100 percent recycled paper in its box-making process, the plant will use the latest in water reclamation technology, and will eventually reduce discharge into the local sewer system to zero. Further, all forklifts and grab trucks will operate on compressed natural gas instead of propane, further reducing harmful carbon emissions.

Georgia-Based Pratt Industries employs more than 4,400 people in the U.S. and has grown from the 46th largest box producer to the fifth largest, with facilities in more than 20 states.

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City Clerk's Office, City Hall
100 State Street
Beloit, WI 53511
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:
Rebecca Houseman LeMire, City Clerk
lemirer@beloitwi.gov
(608) 364-6680

**New Election Equipment Training and
Mock Election**

December 15, 2014 – Beloit, WI: Municipalities throughout Rock County have purchased new vote tabulating equipment that will be used for all elections starting in 2015. The City of Beloit Clerk's office will offer an introduction to the new equipment, training, and a mock election for election workers, the public, and any other interested parties per the schedule below. All sessions will be held in the training area on the 4th floor of Beloit City Hall, 100 State Street, Beloit, WI 53511.

Schedule of Training Sessions:

- Wednesday, January 7, 2015, at 2:00 p.m.
- Thursday, January 8, 2015, at 9:00 a.m.
- Friday, January 9, 2015, at 2:00 p.m.
- Monday, January 12, 2015, at 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 13, 2015, at 9:00 a.m.

The DS200 Ballot Tabulator and Scanner will replace the Eagle Optech tabulator, which was used for the last time at the November 4th Election. The DS200 takes a digital image of each ballot cast and tallies the votes on the ballot. It features a large touch screen that provides instructions and communicates over-votes or other voting errors to the voter in real time. The thermal paper eliminates the need for expensive ink cartridges. The DS200 also includes an internal modem which allows election results to be reported directly to Rock County from each polling place after the polls close. The Automark handicap accessible ballot-marking machine will still be available at each polling place to assist voters with marking their ballots.

All of these training sessions are open to the public, and the media is encouraged to attend.

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**Police and Fire Commission
Meeting CANCELLATION Notice
Monday, December 22, 2014 5:00 PM
City Hall Forum
Beloit WI 53511**

The Police & Fire Commission meeting scheduled for Monday, December 22, 2014 has been cancelled.

Martin Densch, President
Beloit Police & Fire Commission

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