



218-354-2224
209 FRONT STREET SOUTH
BARNESVILLE, MN 56514

AUTOBODY PAINT & REPAIR

- Expert Refinishing • Glasswork
- Quality Auto Body Repair and Paint
- Insurance Work • FREE Estimates

Barnesville, MN

Designs by Becky

Becky Kava-Eggiman

Your Hometown Full Service Florist

Unique Floral Designs • Fresh Floral
Candy & Balloon Bouquets • Fruit Baskets
Green And Blooming Plants • Gift Baskets
All Occasions • Funerals, Weddings, Prom

Delivery to surrounding areas

218 354-7217 • Cell 701 540-1525
102 4th St SW • Barnesville

Barnesville Area

HELPERS

Providing Assistance to Area Seniors

Transportation • Information
Companionship • Social Events
Shopping Assistance • Family Support

218-354-7090

BPD Brings An Extra Layer Of Protection

By Michael Stein

In reflecting on the past year, Barnesville Police Chief Dean Ernst had no complaints. In what Ernst termed a pretty routine year, law enforcement as well as the city’s residents benefited from the additional coverage.

“After Jeff Tharaldson took the school resource officer position, he went part-time with the department; we replaced that slot with a full-time position in Jesse Atteberry,” Ernst said. “So that’s been a win-win for the department and for the school district.”

Ernst said the additional officer gives everyone a little more flexibility in their scheduling, as well as provide better service to city residents.

“Our statistics indicate we haven’t experienced any real trends, upward or downward,” Ernst said. “We’ve been more available to our residents with things like lockouts, fingerprinting, background checks on potential renters for our local landlords and a number of other things.”

Fingerprinting is becoming more prevalent for things like employment, travel, passports, adoption applications and other security-related reasons.

“We’ve always looked for ways to be more proactive and come up with activities that may possibly avoid problems down the road.”

Ernst cited how the city has been consistent over the years with things like junked vehicles and other property maintenance issues on commercial and residential lots.

“From a law enforcement standpoint, I believe that keeping things up can actually reduce illegal activity,” Ernst said.

Citing a popular book on crime prevention, “Fixing Broken Windows: Restoring Order And Reducing Crime In Our Communities,” Ernst said the theory is that one broken window leads to another.

“Before you know it, the entire



Community activities, such as running a bike rodeo, are an important role of the Barnesville PD.

neighborhood is blighted,” he said. “So the concept is to fix the problem on the front end to avoid greater problems on the back end. I’ve been very proud of how this community keeps up appearances. Keeping a

clean environment is good for the city as a whole and for real estate owners in maintaining value of their property.”

Ernst is part of a city committee that addresses property issues.

“We’ve found that we’re getting to a point where things are in pretty good shape around town, and that makes our job a little easier.”

Knocking on wood, Ernst said there were no major issues over the course of 2018.

“Looking at our statistics for days and hours of the week,” he said. “It’s been pretty consistent with the calls. There’s always something but nothing in particular. Something I’ve consistently tried to convey to our citizens is that we are here and we are a service department. Give us a call and we’ll try to help.”

“I still hear from some people that they’re not sure who to call.

If that’s the case, call us, we can at least we can point them in the right direction. If you’re having issues with your utilities, it may not be our department, but we can help find the right one to contact.”

A long winter can have all kinds of effects on first responders like law officers, who work with other city departments on issues such as keeping hydrants clear and streets as safe to drive on as possible.

Ernst said his department has not seen any major increases in traffic incidents in the city limits. Most of those have been in the interstate and area highways.

“We have all-wheel drive vehicles, which gives us an edge,” Ernst said. “That’s also true with the public. On the flip side, people go out on the road knowing they have a cell phone and thinking that will protect them, so they get over-confident with their driving. When we have these poor conditions and you don’t need to travel, the best thing to do is stay home. Driving in town might be okay, but if you take that risk and go into a ditch you’re causing emergency responders to put themselves at risk.”

Ernst is going on 29 years with the department, the last 17 years as chief.

Lots Of New Homes Built Over Last Couple Years

By Michael Stein

What a great year it was for housing in Barnesville in 2018! By the time the building season ground to a halt at the November freeze-up, there was a dozen new homes on the Barnesville tax roll.

Adams Development of Fargo was the biggest player in the Barnesville housing market last year. The company has had seven new homes under construction in the Del Acres Gilbertson 2nd Addition on the city’s east edge.

The Adams homes now on the market include several styles, including bi-levels, and three-level splits. Two of the spec homes have been sold and now have families residing in them.

Barnesville Homes is also active in the local housing market, including one pre-sold home in the new sub-division. The company has also broken ground on another home on the north side of the 2nd Addition.

If everything goes according to current plans, the homes will be completed this spring. Most of the homes are on the north edge of the sub-division with others on the north

side of 2nd Avenue NE and one just across the pavement on the south side of the street.

There was one new home constructed in Del Acres Gilbertson First Addition by Dave Meyer Construction. Almost all of those lots have been developed or sold. The only two lots remaining are on the northeast corner.

Two more lots in the addition have already been sold for construction beginning in the summer of 2019.

The 2nd Addition is in its second full year of development. When construction excavation closed out last fall, 19 of the 46 available lots will have been built on or sold for spring construction.

Two lots have been sold with anticipated construction to begin this summer. That leaves 28 lots left for development. The number of homes being built and the lots sold varies slightly because three of the new homes have used two lots.

The original Del Acres Gilbertson First Addition development was opened in 2006 and sold out in about 10 years. The 2nd Addition was constructed by the Barnesville Economic Development Authority,



As spring 2019 starts blooming, so will construction efforts in the Del Acres Gilbertson 2nd Addition subdivision.

which acquired the land in 2015 and is overseeing the project.

An additional strip of land on the south side of the development, running the length of both additions was also acquired for building lots.

A friendly annexation agreement with Humboldt Township was reached to bring new development into the city limits.

The first home in the 2nd Addition was completed the fall of 2016.

A total of 46 residential lots were included in the original plat. There were a dozen lots along the north side of the subdivision that were 61-feet wide at the curb. This allowed for a single family home to be built on the lot, or two lots could be merged to build a large rambler or twin homes, as was done in the First Addition.

Approximately one-third of the original lots have been sold in the past two years, and the north side of the development is completely sold out. There are 27 of the large lots still available for new home construction.

The only other lots available in the community are a few “in-fill” lots, owned by various individuals, and located in various parts of the city.

Long-range plans originally speculated on an approximately 10-year build-out on 2nd Addition. If the present rate of development continues at the same pace as last year, additional land may be necessary sooner than the 10-year projection. That situation is being monitored by the EDA.

Lots in the new addition are only \$12,000 and the specials are \$35,929.

Newly constructed homes will

benefit from a property tax deferral program. Currently, Clay County offers governmental jurisdictions, such as cities and school districts, an opportunity to participate in a two-year real estate tax rebate for new home construction.

The deferral program has been renewed and will remain in effect through at least 2020 on any new home built.

While the tax deferral is universal across the county, the details are not the same. Moorhead has a slightly different plan than Glyndon. Hawley’s plan is different than Barnesville’s. But each community has a plan. The biggest difference is that some communities cap the amount of deferral. Other communities, including Barnesville, do not cap the amount.

One of the new homes under construction in town is actually an existing home being refurbished by Paul Davis Restorations.

The Eggert home in the Holland Addition on the south end of the city was extensively damaged by fire in early 2018. The house has been gutted and will be nearly all brand new except for the foundation once the work is completed.



Sharon Eggert’s home at 1009 Fifth Street Southeast is being refurbished by Paul Davis Restorations. The home underwent fire damage in January 2018.