

Bucklin Community Better Life Foundation – A Year in Review!

2024 was a busy year for BCBLF! We're excited to share a brief update and hope you'll consider joining in on our 2025 efforts!

From an organizational standpoint we updated our very old bylaws. While at times painstakingly tedious, we felt this was necessary for the Foundation to help modernize and keep in balance the needs of the community while maintaining the rules of a private foundation. We also adopted several documents and policies modeled from larger organizations in the area to add efficiency and structure. While these organizational accomplishments don't seem super exciting, they will help ensure the longevity of Foundation while solidifying much needed processes.

Maybe a bit more exciting is that we've 'rebranded,' or more accurately said, 'branded.' We created a logo and thanks to the skills of current Vice President, Bob Tucker, have a website! Both were crucial in our efforts to modernize and get more information out to the community!

Our two main projects we have been working with the City of Bucklin are the updates to the older playground pieces at the park and then the main entry doors on the east side of the Community Building, more well known as 'The Legion'. These projects have been made possible through various sources of funding; the 2024 BCBLF cash raffle, donations received from individuals and businesses, grant money applied for and awarded, and other BCBLF funds. The door project, including the main entrance now being ADA, has just recently been completed and the playground will see a few more pieces redone soon. These transformations have been amazing to see!

We've continued to support other organizations in our community through donations and sponsorships. A new donation/ask was to help with school supply needs that our local students and teachers had and we continued to support the Rec Commission's Easter Egg Hunt and Santa Day events! Lastly, we were excited to have a few members at the Trunk or Treat event on Halloween hosted by the BHS Cheerleaders.

A new activity to help promote local businesses and give Bucklin citizens something fun to do around the holidays was the Bucklin Rudolph Hunt accompanied by receiving Bucklin Bucks to spend at participating local businesses. This was so fun to see the community engagement and to encourage keeping dollars local! Thanks to all of those who played along. We're hoping to do more fun activities like this in the future.

To plan better throughout the year, we introduced our first official grant cycle and held it this past November. This allowed any community group that had funding or sponsorship needs for the upcoming year to apply for part of the proceeds from the next cash raffle. This provided a way for the community to communicate the current needs that exist and direct where that money is used. We were stoked to have six different applications and were able to commit to fully or partially funding four of the projects with the projected proceeds; new sidewalk from

the school's south entrance to Grace Street, as well as some concrete work done around the concession/grill area at the football field and a new food warmer for the kitchen; the library's summer reading program; new liner for the city pool. This will be the most diversified spend of the cash raffle proceeds in recent history.

We're excited to see what 2025 must hold for the Foundation. A successful cash raffle on February 8th is our first goal! It's going to be 'all about Bucklin' between the projects mentioned above, the meal is going to be provided by Bucklin native, Curtis McClure, and entertainment provided by Bucklin's own Mr. Mike Brummet and jazz band! We have goals of doing more new activities and potential fundraisers to extend our reach even more. We always have room for more to come and join and ways to get plugged in. Be on the lookout for future meetings.