

## City of Belle mayor establishes poet laureate

Belle Mayor Steve Vogt signed an executive order Dec. 14 establishing the procedure that will be used to select Belle's first and future poet laureates.

"In cooperation with the City of Belle and the Osage Arts Community, I am pleased to announce the appointment of John Dorsey as Belle's first official poet laureate.

The addition of a poet laureate will greatly enhance the cultural environment of the region," Vogt said. "By selecting a poet laureate, we hope to inspire the poets and authors of the future. I look forward to working closely with the selection committee to identify a poet laureate who reflects the great traditions, richness and diversity of our community and state, and will help fulfill this important educational mission."

Belle's poet laureate will serve a term of two years without compensation. Under the Mayor's

executive order, the poet laureate must be a resident of Missouri; be a published poet; be active in the poetry community; and be willing and able to promote poetry in Belle and in the state throughout the two-year term. The poet laureate will be responsible for promoting the arts by making appearances at public schools and libraries, and will compose an original poem in honor of Belle.

An advisory committee, including three representatives of the Belle community and two members appointed by the mayor, will solicit, publicize and encourage nominations for this post. The committee will be charged with developing additional selection criteria, reviewing and evaluating the nominations, and recommending candidates for appointment to the mayor. Members of the advisory committee must have expertise in poetry and shall serve at the pleasure of the mayor.