

BELDING BUGLE

January, 2017

Fire Department

Fireplaces, wood burning stoves, and space heaters are all acceptable methods of heating, but without the proper precautions, they can be a major contributing factor in residential fires.

- Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually.
- Keep the area around heating units free of combustible materials.
- Never use flammable liquids to start a fire.
- Soak ashes in water and place in metal container outside your home.

City residents are encouraged to assist fire department crews by shoveling out hydrants in their neighborhood and keeping them clear of snow. Keeping fire hydrants visible and accessible will save valuable firefighter time in an emergency.

Extension cords are a common cause of electrical fires.

- Use only extension cords which are rated for the power used by the device they are powering.
- Extension cords should not be used as a long-term solution.
- Extension cords should never run inside walls or under rugs or furniture.
- Do not use any cord that has become stiff or cracked.

Develop and practice a home fire escape plan with your family. Select a meeting place outside that everyone can get to. Once you are out of the house – **stay out!**

Dial-A-Ride

With winter weather, the demands on our bus system will increase. Please allow extra time for the bus to arrive and plan your trips to appointments well in advance. The bus could take up to one-half hour or slightly longer from the time of your call to arrive during peak hours. If you would like to schedule a ride, please call (616) 794-3278.

Information about the bus service is available by calling the dispatch office weekdays from 6:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. We can also mail a brochure about our services on request.

Tickets are available for purchase at city hall between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Tokens are available for purchase at the depot between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. If advance notice is given, tokens can also be purchased from any of the Dial-A-Ride drivers.

Belding Museum

The historical museum is open the first Sunday of each month from 1 - 4 p.m.

Children's Museum

The "BEL" (Belding Exploration Lab) is open the 1st Sunday and Wednesday of each month from 1 - 4 p.m.

Adopt a Spot

Thank you so much to everyone who adopted a landscaping area to maintain in the mall parking during 2016! Please contact Katherine Henry to let her know if you wish to maintain or discontinue maintaining the bed in 2017 at khenry4mi@gmail.com or 616-794-3334.

Additional spots are available for adoption for 2017. Your continued interest in this community project is greatly appreciated!

Finance Department

Water Bills

Water bills issued on January 1, 2017 are due on January 30, 2017. A 10% penalty will be added on January 31 and the bill must be paid by February 15. Per the Water Policy, a \$75.00 shut off fee will be added as soon as the shut off list is given to the DPW department, regardless of whether the water is turned off or not.

Winter Tax Deadlines

2016 winter property taxes are due by February 14, 2017. A 3% penalty is added after this date. Last day to pay all 2016 taxes at city hall is February 28, 2017. After this date, taxes will be payable through the Ionia County Treasurer. Please contact the office directly at (616) 527-5329 to obtain the current amount owing.

Postmarks are not accepted. Payments must be received by city hall on the due dates by 6 p.m.

Housing Commission

Belding Housing Commission administers rental units for eligible individuals and families within the City of Belding, under regulations set forth by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Questions regarding eligibility, available units, and the application process may be made by phone Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. - (616) 794-1740 or by visiting the office during window hours Monday through Friday 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The office is located at 41 Belhaven Avenue, Belding, MI.

Properties within the portfolio include 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom units, located at Taft Court, Belhaven I, Belhaven II, Hilltop Court, and Woodhaven. Rent is offered on a flat rent or income basis.

Belding Housing Commission is an Equal Housing Opportunity agency.

Police Department

The best way to avoid becoming a victim of crime is by not giving a criminal the opportunity to commit crimes against you.

- Eliminate the opportunity for the thief to steal property
- Lock car doors and keep valuables out of sight
- Properly secure personal property and mark valuables for identification
- Make it hard for the criminal to commit a crime
- Report suspicious activity in your neighborhood to the police immediately

If you are going away for an extended period of time, please contact the police department directly or visit us on the web at www.belding.mi.us for a vacation house check form. Please bring the completed form to the police department or city hall.

As a reminder, **NO PARKING on city streets from 2 - 6 a.m.** will be enforced thru March 31, 2017.

Front Yard Parking is prohibited under the Zoning Ordinance. Vehicles shall be parked in the driveway or garage.

Code Enforcement

Please keep sidewalks clear of ice and snow and remove accumulation with 24 hours of the ice storm or snowfall. When ice is formed on any sidewalk, owner or occupant shall, within 12 hours after the ice has formed, cause salt, chloride or sand to be strewn on the entire sidewalk to make travel reasonably safe.

Where there are no sidewalks, the owner shall clear a path free from snow and ice, when such a path will provide an extension of existing sidewalk on an adjacent property.



CITY of BELDING

live. grow. naturally.

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PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Belding, MI
Permit No. 77

City Hall Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER
BELDING, MI 48809



Library Happenings

January

- 9 Movie Night @ the Library 5:30 p.m.
- 9 Pick up Lego Boards for Lego Contest
- 10,17,24,31 Little Wiggles Storytime 10 a.m.
- 11 Pick up Bookmark entries for contest
- 11,18, 25 & Feb. 1 Wed. Storytime 10 a.m.
- 14 Lego Club 10 a.m. to Noon
- 16 Booked with Friends 7 p.m.
- 23 Juggling Club (More details soon)
- 23 Vote for your favorite Legos

February

- 6 Lego Awards (More details soon)
- 7,14,21,28 Little Wiggles Storytime 10 a.m.
- 8,11,22 Wednesday Storytime 10 a.m.
- 11 Lego Club 10 a.m. to Noon
- 11 Bookmark entries dues
- 13 Movie Night @ the Library 5:30 p.m.
- 20 Booked with Friends 7 p.m.
- 27 Nature Discovery Group 5:30 p.m.

March

- 7,14,21,28 Little Wiggles Storytime 10 a.m.
- 8,15,22,29 Wednesday Storytime 10 a.m.
- 9 Battle of Books @ Ionia Theatre 5-9 p.m.
- 11 Lego Club 10 a.m. to Noon
- 13 Movie Night @ the Library 5:30 p.m.
- 20 Booked with Friends 7 p.m.

Department of Public Works

Yard Waste/Leaves

There will be no loose leaf pick-up in the spring.

Yard waste and leaves must be placed in biodegradable bags and will be picked up every Friday, beginning April 21, 2017.

Bags must not exceed 35 pounds and cannot contain other materials. Please place bags at the curb on Friday by 7 a.m., but no earlier than 6 p.m. on Thursday.

Brush Pick-Up

April 24 - first date for 2017

Please place brush at the street by 7 a.m. on that date, but no earlier than the 18th of the month. The total amount of brush and limbs per household shall not exceed 10 cubic yards per month.

To ensure pick-up, please locate brush in a clear area, away from any obstacles and overhead wires.

Booked with Friends

Monday, January 16, 2017 7 p.m.

Essential Oils 101

Katie Slayton will talk about how essential oils can be used in the everyday household.

Monday, February 20, 2017 7 p.m.

Fraud Protection

Deb Nowicki will discuss how to protect yourself from credit card fraud and identity theft, and how to be a savvy observer for potential fraud dangers.

Monday, March 20, 2017 7 p.m.

Serving with a Purpose

Enola Brown will visit with her service dog, Hopi, and talk about the service dog program

All events will be held at the Alvah N. Belding Library.