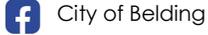


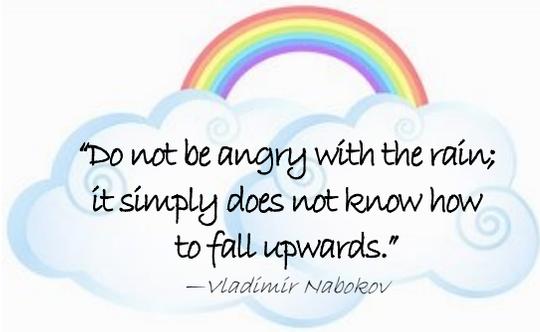


120 S. Pleasant St.
Belding, MI 48809
Phone: 616-794-1900, Ext. 210
Website: www.belding.mi.us



City Hall Administrative Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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Belding, MI



LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

BELDING, MI 48809

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS & SERVICES

City Hall Administrative offices are open Monday through Thursday (excluding holidays/observed holidays) from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. offering our citizens the unique opportunity to conduct business face-to-face before or after work! In most instances, calls are answered by one of our dedicated staff, not by an automated service where it is near impossible to ever get to speak with a live person. Payments can be made online, with the credit card vendor assessing a nominal fee. Our website and Facebook page provide a vast array of information, answering most of your questions—or you can always email us. We are proud to be a business that continues to offer a mix of old-fashioned personal service along with modern-day technology to our residents!



CITY HALL HOLIDAY CLOSING

Monday, May 27, 2024: Memorial Day



MEET THE MAYOR

Mayor Bruce Meyers holds monthly meetings welcoming citizens to sit down with him to openly discuss any topic of interest regarding local issues. There is no set agenda. The meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month, April 13; May 11; and June 8; from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Pere Marquette Depot located at 100 Depot Street.



BOARD/COMMISSION VACANCIES

Serving on one or more of the City of Belding's boards and/or commissions is a great way to actively shape the future of our community! A description of the focus of each board/commission is available on the city website, www.belding.mi.us or you may contact the City Clerk. Currently there are one or more vacancies on the following boards/commissions:



- Building Authority – 1
- Construction Board of Appeals - 1
- DDA (Downtown Development Authority) – 4
- Property Maintenance Code Board of Appeals – 1

Please note that some boards/commissions may strongly suggest and/or require training and/or certification, which is offered to you at no cost upon your appointment. **It is not necessary for there to be a vacancy to apply as applications will be kept on file for one (1) year from the date of filing and are considered for appointment as positions become available.** An application is available on the city's website – www.belding.mi.us, or at City Hall – 120 S. Pleasant Street, during regular business hours. Please contact the City Clerk at 616-794-1900, ext. 210, or by emailing i.ortego@ci.belding.mi.us for additional information. Please submit applications to the City Clerk.



Belding Bugle



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Brush Pick-up 2024

Brush pick-up will be the last full week of each month as follows:
April, June, August and September.

TO ENSURE PICKUP:

Please place brush at the curb by 7:00 a.m., no earlier than the 18th of the month (April, June, August and September).

The total amount of brush or limbs per household shall not exceed 10 cubic yards per month.

Brush must be in line with the street at the curb but not in the road.

All cut ends must face the same direction.

Branches must not exceed 6 feet in length and 3 inches in diameter.

Brush must be located in a clear area, at least 4 feet away from any obstructions, including but not limited to: Consumers poles and guide wires, telephone poles, overhead wires, walls, fences, mailboxes or any other obstacles that could prevent a safe and efficient pickup for staff and equipment.

FAILURE TO FOLLOW ALL OF THE ABOVE INSTRUCTIONS WILL RESULT IN NON-REMOVAL.

Yard Waste Pick-up 2024

Yard waste pick-up will begin the last full week in April and will continue every Monday until the last week of September.

Bags must be biodegradable.

Bags must not exceed 35 pounds.

Bags must not contain any other materials, including but not limited to rocks, sand, soil, shingles, garbage, sticks, or brush.

Bags must be at the curb by 7:00 a.m. but no earlier than 6:00 p.m. the night before.

NOTE: NO BAGS WILL BE PICKED UP DURING LOOSE LEAF PICKUP.

Loose Leaf Pick-up 2024

Loose leaf pick-up will start the first week of October and will continue, weather permitting.

Fire Hydrant Flushing 2024

Fire hydrant flushing will take place the week of April 15 through April 19, from 12:00 a.m. (midnight) to 7:00 a.m. If you experience discolored water, flush the cold water faucet closest to the water meter until the water runs clear.

Hazardous Items

Do not flush syringes, even if they claim to be disposable or flushable. They can potentially contaminate the water, injure wastewater workers, injure pets or spread disease.

These items do not break down and can block sewer lines and can cause expensive repairs to your water/sewer system or even the public wastewater system.

Syringes, hypodermic needles, lancets and epi pens should only be disposed of in a Sharps container (puncture-resistant, leak-proof and either red or labeled as hazardous). Corewell Health, located at 1527 W. State Road in Belding accepts sharps for disposal as long as they are in a sharp's container or talk to your prescribing physician or your pharmacy for how and where to dispose of these items, as well as any other medication(s) that need to be disposed of. Despite what the packaging may recommend, the ONLY things that should be flushed are human waste and toilet paper.

SPRING



DIAL-A-RIDE

As the Transit Director of Dial-A-Ride, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the wonderful driving and dispatch staff at Belding Dial-A-Ride for both their work ethics and their commitment to our residents!

We are experiencing a growing demand for our services. If you or someone you know would be interested in joining our team as a part-time transit driver, please contact me at 616-794-3278 or t.mccracken@ci.belding.mi.us to discuss this opportunity in greater detail.

Thank you for your continued patronage.

-Tammy McCracken, Transit Director,
Belding Dial-A-Ride



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The City is seeking qualified applicants for the following positions:

Part-Time Custodian
Part-Time Dial-A-Ride Drivers
Reserve Police Officers



Please visit www.belding.mi.us for a detailed description of each position and how to apply. The City of Belding is an equal opportunity employer.



"No rain, no flowers."

-Karakí Murakami



POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Belding Police Department would like to remind you that Spring is a time for an increase in pedestrian traffic. Residents will be out walking, bicycling or just enjoying the spring weather. With pedestrians out it is time to **slow down**. The speed limit in the city is 25 miles per hour unless posted otherwise. Slowing down will allow you time to react to a pedestrian entering the street.



Parking

Vehicles parked on any street must park with the passenger side wheels to the curb or the road edge. Parking between sidewalk and curb is prohibited. For persons that enjoy a good walk or run please use the sidewalks when provided or enjoy the public trail system.

Bicyclists on the roadway must obey the same laws as a person driving a motor vehicle. This means you must come to a complete stop at stop signs or stop light and signal your intent to turn or change lanes.

Parks

Park hours 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Bathrooms are open daily 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. from late spring through September, weather permitting. Bathrooms that are damaged or littered beyond regular use will be locked and not reopened until they are cleaned or repaired on regular business days. If we all do our part, they will stay open daily.

Section 62-6 Domestic Animals

No domestic animals shall be permitted in any public park or on a public pathway unless on a leash, not exceeding 6 feet in length and controlled by the owner at all times. Owners shall remove all animal fecal discharges from the park or the pathway property immediately. No dangerous or vicious animals shall be permitted in any public park or on a public pathway.

Vacation House Checks

If you are going to be away from your residence on vacation, please make arrangements to stop the mail and newspaper. Make your home look lived in with the use of light timers. Have trusted friends and neighbors watch the house and help it look lived in by picking up weekly newspapers and flyers left at the door. For extended vacations, have someone mow the lawn. Contact the police department and request a vacation check on your home. The form is available on the City of Belding website.—Dion Sower,

Chief of Police

ANIMAL CONTROL/CODE ENFORCEMENT/BLIGHT

Animal Control

Spring and Summer bring an increase of animal complaints and it is important for residents to remember to keep their dogs and cats confined to their yard. City ordinance stipulates that there are to be no more than two dogs and two cats per residence without a special permit. Animals walked in the City Park areas must be on a leash.

Code Enforcement

Brush must be placed at the curb, parallel to the roadway, with all cut ends facing the same direction, be no longer than 6 feet long (84 inches), and must be free of obstructions. Please remember that no brush can be placed at the curb until the 18th of the month. *After it is removed, no brush can be put to the curb until the 18th of the next month that brush pick-up is scheduled for removal.

***Please refer to the Department of Public Works article in this issue of the Belding Bugle for clarification on obstructions and the dates that brush pick-up will be conducted.**

GRASS CLIPPINGS ARE NO LONGER ALLOWED LOOSE or DUMPED AT CURBSIDE.

Grass clippings MUST be placed in paper yard waste bags and set at the curb by 7:00 a.m. Monday. The bags MAY NOT be put out before Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m. and must be at curbside by 7:00 a.m. on Monday for pick up. Garbage and trash bags or receptacles may not be put to the curb earlier than 24 hours before pick up day. Emptied containers MUST NOT remain at curb and MUST be removed within 24 hours of pick-up.

Blight

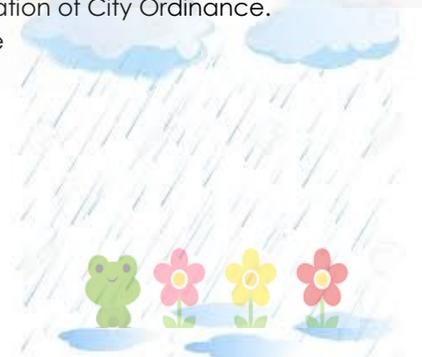
Grass can be no longer than 10 inches and leaves must be raked.

No unlicensed or inoperable vehicles are allowed within the city limits, unless stored within a four-sided enclosed building.

The storage of building materials outside of an enclosed building is prohibited without a building permit.

Any chemical containers (oil, gas, coolant, etc.) must be disposed of in an environmentally safe manner. Outside storage of these chemicals is a violation of City Ordinance.

-Dion Sower, Chief of Police



FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Pits

During the spring we all like to clean up. Please dispose of your yard waste appropriately. You cannot burn yard waste in your fire pit. You also may need to renew your permit, which renews every calendar year. Simply come on down to the fire department and get your renewal. If you have never had one, your pit will need to be inspected to make sure it meets the requirements. Feel free to call 794-1900 x212 if you are going to put one in to find out what the requirements are. Pit inspections and permits are free.

Hazardous Waste Pick-up

Mark your calendars! Hazardous waste pick up will be from 8:00 a.m. until noon on August 17th. This year it will be located on the north side of the Fire Station. Watch for more information coming soon.

Car Seats

Did you know that 93% of all car seats are installed with something wrong? All of the fulltime firefighters are National Child Passenger Safety Certified car seat installers. We can help you to install your car seats if you are having problems or simply would like them looked at. —Fire Chief, Tim Lubitz



FINANCE DEPARTMENT



Taxes:

All unpaid 2023 summer or winter taxes were sent to the Ionia County Treasurer's Office at the beginning of March 2024 and must now be paid directly to the county. Please contact the Ionia County Treasurer's Office at 616-527-5329 to arrange payment.

2024 summer property taxes will be issued July 1, 2024 and payment is due IN OFFICE by August 15, 2024 without penalty. After this date, a 3% penalty will be added to the property tax bill balance.

Water/Sewer:

Water and/or sewer bills are mailed quarterly. Below is the billing schedule:

January 1st Bill: (September 1 through November 30 cycle dates) **Due by January 30th**

April 1st Bill: (December 1 through February 28/29 cycle dates) **Due by April 30th**

July 1st Bill: (March 1 through May 31 cycle dates) **Due by July 30th**

October 1st Bill: (June 1 through August 31 cycle dates) **Due by October 30th**



Did you know that you do not have to wait until you receive your bill to make payment to your water/sewer account? Several residents take advantage of sending in smaller payments bi-weekly or monthly PRIOR to when the bills are mailed to build a credit on their account. A total of any payments made prior to the bills being printed will appear as a credit on the bill, leaving a smaller balance to be paid at that time.

All water/sewer payments are due **in office by the 30th** of the month in which they are billed. A 10% late fee will be added to any unpaid balance after the 30th, at which time a "shut off notice" will be mailed out and a 15-day grace period is instituted. If not paid in full by the 16th day, a \$75 shut off listing fee is added to the account and the address is placed on the shut off list. Payment in full, including all fees and penalties must be paid. **Partial payment does not cancel the shut-off action.**

The April water and sewer bill was mailed prior to April 1, 2024. If you have not received your bill by the end of the first week of April, feel free to contact the City Water Department at 616-794-1900, extension 217 for the amount owing. You may make payments for taxes or water/sewer bills with cash, checks, or money order at the City Hall Front Office during regular business hours, via the drop box outside city hall or by USPS mail. If you are mailing your payments or utilizing bill pay through your bank account, we recommend planning ahead and mailing/scheduling those payments at least 7-10 business days prior to the due date to ensure they are received on time. Payments are applied the day they are received in office. We do not accept postmarks or check dates as the date of payment. You can also pay online by visiting the city's website at https://belding.mi.us/bill_pay.php. There are separate links for Taxes and Utilities (which refers to the water/sewer billing). If you have any questions regarding the payment website, please call 616-794-1900 ext. 217 and we will be happy to help. If you choose to pay with debit or credit card, whether in office or online through the City of Belding's website, there is a 3% service fee charged by the card processing company.



ASSESSOR

Property Tax Exemptions

The State of Michigan has seen a 5% increase in residential taxable values for both 2023 and 2024. I know that this 10% increase over the last two years has made it difficult for many homeowners financially. There are two programs that will help if you qualify, the 'Disabled Veterans Exemption' and the 'Poverty Exemption'.

For both programs you must own the property and make the residence your primary home. The Poverty Exemption is based on the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The Belding City Council adopted Guidelines for 2024 that will allow an exemption of 100%, 50% or 25% for an applicant that qualifies. If you earn less than \$16,308 and live in your house alone, you may qualify. A family of four may qualify if they have a combined income of less than \$33,000. A copy of the Poverty Exemption Guidelines and Application can be found on our website or obtained at the City Hall.

If you are a disabled Veteran, you may qualify for the 'Disabled Veteran Exemption'. A copy of this exemption is also available online and at City Hall. If you have questions or concerns please contact me at 616-497-1900, extension 201 or assessor@ci.belding.mi.us.

Bob Naumann, Assessor

WELCOME SPRING! WORD SEARCH



The words to the left can be found frontwards, backwards, up & down or diagonally. Think Spring and have fun!

M	Q	R	A	L	J	U	V	G	T	C	S
E	F	A	B	Y	U	T	B	L	R	L	N
S	J	L	S	E	N	P	L	T	I	O	D
L	S	S	O	N	E	D	K	Y	S	U	W
I	A	M	T	W	A	S	I	A	D	D	X
D	D	O	U	A	E	P	G	M	R	Y	A
O	S	O	M	S	G	R	J	U	I	T	W
F	U	L	B	R	Z	I	S	D	B	M	O
F	N	B	R	A	I	N	D	P	A	R	B
A	N	L	E	B	P	G	M	U	W	S	N
D	Y	R	L	I	O	R	K	D	L	C	I
E	J	F	L	O	A	C	I	D	F	A	A
R	N	U	A	W	T	L	C	L	R	L	R
I	T	J	N	H	P	G	N	E	I	I	K
M	T	H	U	N	D	E	R	S	P	L	W



- APRIL
- BEEES
- BIRDS
- BLOOMS
- BUGS
- CLOUDY
- DAFFODILS
- DAISY
- FLOWERS
- GROW
- JUNE
- KITE
- LILACS
- MAY
- MUDPUDDLES
- RAIN
- RAINBOW
- SPRING
- SUNNY
- THUNDER
- TULIP
- UMBRELLA
- WARM



LIBRARY

It's time to BLOOM

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

APRIL

- April 1 @ 6:00 p.m.** FAMILY NIGHT, Cookie Baking
April 3,10,17,24 @ 10:30 a.m. Story Time
April 3 @ 2:00 p.m. SENIOR Social Bingo
April 4 @ 3:45 p.m. TWEEN, SRP Decoration Class
April 5 @ 3:00 p.m. ADULT Journaling Class
REGISTRATION REQUIRED.
Registration begins March 15th.
April 15 @ 5:00 p.m. Belding Gardener's Planting Program



- April 18 @ 2:00 p.m.** TEEN Bridge Building Stem
April 30 @ 3:30 p.m. YOUTH Fiber Arts Night
April 24 @ 6:00 p.m. EVENING Book Club
April 25 @ 10:00 a.m. MORNING Book Club
April 26 @ 3-4:30 p.m. Sew and Tell

MAY

- May 1,8,15, 22, 29 @ 10:30 a.m.** Story Time
May 1 @ 2:00 p.m. SENIOR Social Bingo
May 13 @ 5:00 p.m. ADULT Beaded Sun Catcher
REGISTRATION REQUIRED.
Registration begins April 23rd.
May 22 @ 6:00 p.m. EVENING Book Club
May 23 @ 10:00 a.m. MORNING Book Club
No Sew & Tell in May



JUNE

- June 5,12, 26 @ 10:30 a.m.** Story Time
June 5 @ 2:00 p.m. Senior Social Bingo
June 8 SUMMER READING STARTS
Pick up your packets at the library.
June 10 @ 2-3:00 p.m. YOUTH Reading with Ritz
June 13 @ 1:00 p.m. YOUTH Drumming w/Dede
June 17 @ 5:00 p.m. ADULT Summer Reading Activity
ADULT Air Plant Magnets, while supplies last.
June 19 @ 10:30 a.m. Destination Story Time
June 24 @ 2-3 p.m. Lolly at the Library
June 27 @ 1:00 p.m. TWEENS, TEENS & ADULTS
Summer Reading Activity,
Nature Walk
June 28 @ 2-4:30 p.m. ADULT Summer Reading Activity
ADULT Watermelon
Coasters, while supplies last.



Dance for Fitness! Dance for Fun!

- Dates:** Every Monday and Thursday
April 15th through June 13th
Time: 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Location: Belrockton, 108 Hanover Street
Cost: Only \$10 per class!
Instructor: Tammy Youngs

*Alright
Do your
thing*

Wear shoes that easily slide on the floor such as cowboy boots or dress shoes. For more information contact the City Clerk at j.ortego@ci.belding.mi.us or 616-794-1900, extension 210.

MUSEUM

BEL-Belding Exploration Lab

The hands-on children's museum is open the first Sunday and Wednesday of each month from 1-4:00 p.m. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Admission is free, however donations are appreciated as they support our programs.

For the most current information, please check us out on  at BEL-Belding Exploration Lab.

Belding Museum

Spend an afternoon with us the first Sunday of each month from 1-4:00 p.m. Admission is free. Handicapped parking and an elevator are available for those needing assistance.

On April 16 at 7:00 p.m. we will host Pam Cameron. She will discuss her book, *Sport: Ship Dog of the Great Lakes*. All ages are welcome, with free admission.

The first weekend of May, we'll have common hours with other museums in the Tri-River Museum Network. Hours are: Saturday 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Sunday Noon- 5:00 p.m.

Find us on  Belding Museum, for the most current information.

GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD



Congratulations to Ms. Cherie Peabody for receiving the "Good Neighbor Award" from the Belding City Council at their February 20th Regular Meeting.

Ms. Peabody was nominated by Jim and Jill Mason, who cited Ms. Peabody's keen interest in city affairs by attending city council meetings on a regular basis to always be informed of city matters and for offering her opinion in a positive fashion. If you know of a local group or individual that deserves special recognition, please contact the City Clerk at j.ortego@ci.belding.mi.us or 616-794-1900, extension 210.

*"The sound of the rain needs no translation."
—Alan Watts*

"MUSIC IN THE PARK" IS NOW "MUSIC BY THE RIVER"

"Music in the Park" will continue to be held at East Riverside Park, however it is being rebranded to "Music by the River" to bring awareness to one of city's most valuable yet underutilized assets—the Flat River.

We are proud to announce that for the second summer in a row, we have bands lined up to perform EVERY week, all summer long! Music by the River will be held every Thursday, June 6th through August 29th, with one performance being held on Wednesday, July 3rd. That's 13 weeks with a variety of musical entertainment!

If you have a kayak, canoe or small boat we encourage you to use our barrier-free boat launch and enjoy the music from the water—perhaps enjoy some fishing while you're at it!

This program is funded by the generosity of businesses and citizens. Monetary sponsorships are needed to keep the program viable. We offer varying levels of sponsorships to fit all budgets and give recognition to all donors, no matter the size of the contribution. If you are interested in contributing to this Belding summer favorite, contact the City Clerk at j.ortego@ci.belding.mi.us or 616-794-1900, extension 210.

WATER AND SEWER RATE INCREASE

Last year at this time, the City informed its residents, and approved water and sewer rate increases that would be forthcoming over the next four (4) years, 2023—2026, to help offset the cost of building the new Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), making improvements to the wastewater collection system, replacing lead water service lines and replacing undersized and aging water mains—all of which were mandated by the State of Michigan.

The second water rate increase of 6.5% and the second sewer increase of 35% will reflect on your June 30th billing.

The city is truly fortunate in that the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) stayed viable well past its design life. This avoided major capital improvements that would have significantly increased rates years ago.

Water and sewer bills are some of the cheapest utility rates facing families. Often times natural gas, electric and phone and cable/Wi-Fi are more expensive on a monthly basis. While higher water and sewer rates will increase a family's monthly budget, the good news is that practicing water conservation can greatly reduce the cost of bath water and sewer, since both are based on total water usage.

Here are a number of ways that families can reduce their water consumption:

- Test your home plumbing, making sure that there are no leaks (such as in toilets, remote sinks and outdoor plumbing)
- Reduce the number of loads of laundry or dishes done each week
- Reduce shower time
- Reduce or eliminate lawn irrigation
- Obtain a second water meter for irrigation to eliminate some sewer charges
- Use low flow toilets, shower heads and sink faucets
- Use newer, water efficient washing machines, dishwashers and appliances
- Do not allow the water to run while washing hands, brushing teeth or washing vehicles

City Officials, along with our Wastewater Treatment Plant vendor Fleis & Vandenbrink, continue to apply for Grants and to seek additional sources of funding.



BELDING HOUSING COMMISSION



Best wishes for a Happy Spring!

In managing ongoing maintenance and modernization efforts, Belding Housing Commission recently installed new entry doors in four properties in its portfolio. The housing commission is now working with Consumers Energy and DTE Energy to take advantage of available incentives to reduce costs for resident and agency-paid utilities. Every opportunity to reduce costs has a positive impact for residents and allows the agency to devote resources to other needs. The agency is pleased to have the opportunity to work with these utilities and looks forward to collaborating on the success with other housing commissions throughout Michigan.

Also on the near horizon will be much-needed attention to streets that accommodate Belhaven II and Taft Court. Both streets have been in place since these developments were constructed. Although they have needed minimal attention, patching has reached its end point. For residents, visitors, delivery, and emergency personnel we are happy to learn that the city is working toward remediating these very damaged streets.

The housing commission will reach its 75th year of operation in December, 2025. While no local tax revenue is received for operations or maintenance, the housing commission is able to effectively and efficiently continue its mission using rent collected from residents, federal subsidy based on unit sizes, and collaboration and cooperation with the city. The partnerships as outlined in the founding federal and state legislation, and originating local ordinance continues to be strong, needed and appreciated.

To obtain information about eligibility, availability and to apply for safe and affordable rental housing within the city, please contact the housing commission administrative office Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Location - 41 Belhaven, Belding, MI 48809

Phone - 794-1740 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Window hours - 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Email - info@beldinghousing.org

*"When life throws you
a rainy day,
PLAY IN THE PUDDLES!"*
-Pooh Bear



Belding Housing Commission is an Equal Housing Opportunity agency.

