

BELDING BUGLE

April—June 2022

City Manager

New City Manager

Belding's new city manager, Jon Stoppels, started on January 3rd.

Mr. Stoppels comes to Belding after serving five years as City Manager of nearby St. Johns in Clinton County. Mr. Stoppels has over 45 years of experience in local government, including city management, public works, planning and code enforcement. He also served as a city commissioner in Brighton for 16 years.

Jon is a native of Grand Rapids and graduated from Michigan State University. He cites the historic aspects of Belding as just one reason for accepting the position as city manager, and sees a lot of opportunities for growth in the community, as well as, revitalization of the downtown.

Since coming to Belding, Jon has noticed how friendly the community is, and truly enjoys working with the other city employees, who he says are like a family.

City Hall Closings

Memorial Day—
Monday, May 30th



Belding Housing

Belding Housing Commission offers one, two, three and four-bedroom units, handicap accessible units, and ADA compliant units, for eligible individuals and families. Income limits apply and rent is based on income.

Applications for Taft and Hilltop Courts, Belhaven I, II and Woodhaven may be obtained as follows:

Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, at the administrative office located at 41 Belhaven:

Phone – 616-794-1740 8am to 5pm
Window hours - 1pm to 4:30pm



Belding Housing Commission is an Equal Housing Opportunity agency.

City Clerk

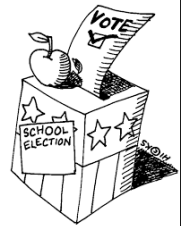
There will be three elections in the City of Belding this year:

- May 3rd - Special Election (School Bond Proposal)
- August 2nd - Primary Election
- November 8th - General Election

REGISTERING TO VOTE

You can register at one of the following locations:

- Online at Michigan.gov/VoterRegistration
- At a Secretary of State branch office
- At the city clerk's office
- At any state agency that provides public assistance or services to people with disabilities
- Through a voter registration drive
- By mailing in a completed voter registration application, postmarked at least 15 days before the election.
- 14 days or less before the election, all applications must be submitted **in person** to the city clerk



REQUESTING AN ABSENT VOTER BALLOT

All registered voters in Michigan are eligible to request an absentee ballot without providing a reason. Voters may request an absent voter ballot by:

- Completing an online application at Michigan.gov/Vote
- By submitting an application, letter, or postcard to the City Clerk
- Requests for absent voter ballots may be delivered by hand, via postal mail, fax or email, **as long as a signature is visible**
- Online and mail requests for an absent voter ballot must be received by the city clerk no later than 5 p.m. the Friday before the election
- If you're already registered at your current address, you can request an absent voter ballot, **in person**, at the city clerk's office anytime up to 4 p.m. on the day prior to the election

Absentee ballot applications for the May 2nd Special Election have been sent out to voters who are on the permanent AV list. Absentee ballots will be sent out once they are received from the County.

Absentee Ballot Applications will be sent out again, prior to the Primary Election and General Elections.

IF YOU ARE VOTING ABSENTEE

- Remember that you **MUST** sign the back of the return envelope in which your absentee ballot is contained
- Seal the envelope
- Return your completed ballot **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**. If it is not received by 8 p.m. on election day, your vote will not be counted.

VOTING IN PERSON

- You may vote in the polls from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day. Please bring valid ID with you. Precincts 1 & 2 vote at St. Joseph's Church and Precinct 3 vote at the Belrockton.



CITY of BELDING

live. grow. naturally.

120 S. Pleasant St.
Belding, MI 48809

Phone: 616-794-1900, Ext. 210
Fax: 616-794-0091

City Hall Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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BELDING, MI 48809



Finance Department

Summer Taxes: The 2022 summer property taxes will be issued July 1, 2022 with a due date of August 15, 2022 without penalty. After this date, a 3% penalty will be added to the property tax bill.

Water and Sewer bills are sent quarterly in January, April, July, and October. These bills are due in the office by the 30th of the month they are billed in, if not paid within the 30 days, a 10% penalty will be added to the bill and a second notice will be mailed out. If not paid within the next fifteen days, a \$75.00 shut off listing fee is added to the bill and the address will be placed on the shut-off list. The total balance, including all fees and penalties, is required to be paid in full before the water service is restored.

Water and Sewer emergencies?

Please call 616-794-1900 ext. 217 – Monday - Thursday 7:00am—6:00pm.

After hours, please call Central Dispatch at 616-527-0400 and they will call the on duty DPW employee.

REMINDER—PLEASE REMIT SEPARATE CHECKS FOR WATER & SEWER PAYMENTS AND TAX PAYMENTS. CHECKS WILL BE RETURNED IF THE AMOUNTS ARE COMBINED.

Fire Department

During the spring we all like to clean up. Please dispose of your yard waste appropriately. You may not burn yard waste, including leaves, in your fire pit. You may also need to renew your bonfire permit, which expires each calendar year. Simply come to the fire department to receive your renewal. If you have never had one, your fire pit must be inspected before use to make sure it meets certain requirements. Please contact the Fire Department at 616-794-1900, ext. 212 or email t.lubitz@ci.belding.mi.us to inquire about the requirements. Pit inspections and permits are free.

With the spring, comes high water in our river. Please take caution when around the river. The water flow is very strong and can take you down the river without warning.

Hazardous waste pick up will be from 8am to noon on August 13th. It will remain at the old hospital lot next to Subway on M44. Watch the city website and/or Facebook for more information.

Music in the Park

We are working on plans for Music in the Park. We will provide updates as they become available. Please refer to our website, www.belding.mi.us and the City of Belding Facebook page for updates and information.

Police Department

The Belding Police Department would like to remind you that Spring is a time for an increase in pedestrian traffic. After our long winter this year, our 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 to react to the pedestrian entering the street, from behind a parked car, or the ball thrown into the street being chased by a child.

PARKING

- Vehicles parked on any street must park with the right wheels to the curb or the road edge
- Parking between sidewalk and curb is prohibited

For persons that walk - **Please** use the sidewalks when provided...It's the law!

Bicyclists on the roadway are subject to all of the duties of a person driving a motor vehicle.

PARKS

Park hours: Dawn to dusk

The police department asks that if you observe illegal activity or malicious destruction of property to contact the police immediately.

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, 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 for an extended period of time 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. Have someone mow the lawn. Contact the police department and request a vacation check on your home. The form is available on the website, www.belding.mi.us.

Contact the police department any time you observe suspicious persons, activity or vehicles any place in the city.

Code Enforcement/

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.

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 7am **Monday**. The bags MAY NOT be put out before Sunday evening at 6pm and must be at curbside by 7am on **Monday** for pick up.

Garbage and Trash in 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 and bagged in biodegradable bags.

Unlicensed or inoperable vehicles are not allowed within the city limits, unless stored in 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.

If everyone does their part it will make Belding a cleaner, safer place to live, work, and play.

Department of Public Works

Brush Pickup—2022

Brush pick-up is scheduled for the last full week of each month, April through October, starting on the following dates:

April 25, May 23, June 20, July 25, August 22, September 26 and October 24

Please place brush at the street by 7am on the dates listed above but no earlier than the 18th of each month. The total amount of brush and limbs per household shall not exceed 10 cubic yards per month. Brush must be less than 10' (ft.) in length and must be placed parallel to the edge of the road, but not in the road. To ensure pick-up, please locate brush in a clear area, at least 4' (ft.) away from any Consumers poles and guy cables, telephone poles, walls, fences, mailbox, overhead wires, or any other obstacles that will prevent a safe and efficient pick-up for the staff and equipment.

Yard Waste Pickup—2022

*****NEW PICK-UP DATE*****

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*****NEW PICK-UP DATE*****

Yard waste pickup will start on **MONDAY** April 25th and will continue every **MONDAY**. Bags must be biodegradable and must not exceed 35 pounds, and cannot contain other materials such as rocks, shingles, garbage, sticks or brush. Please place bags at the curb by **MONDAY** at 7am but no earlier than 6pm on Sunday, April 24th. All brush needs to be at the street by 7am on dates above, but not before the 18th of the month. There is no loose-leaf pick-up in the Spring.



Fire Hydrant Flushing—2022

Fire hydrant flushing will take place on April 17, 18, 19 and 20. We will be starting at 12am (midnight) to 7am. If you experience discolored water, flush the cold water faucet closest to the water meter until the water runs clear.

Assessor

Michigan Law requires assessors to maintain a property record card for every parcel. The card is required to include information such as, ownership, sales, land values, building values, property characteristics, etc. We use the characteristics of your property in connection with our analysis of the real estate market to estimate a market value. The Assessed Value, SEV (State Equalized Value) will be 50% of the indicated market value. It is important to understand that Assessors are using a mass appraisal process to value your property fairly and similarly to other properties in the city. The results of the studies, that are done every year, are reflected in the Assessment Change Notice that each property owner receives in late February.

The Taxable Value of your property (as of 1994) can only increase by 5% or the Cost of Living, whichever is less. This year the Taxable Value increased by 3.3%.

If you own the property, and the house is your primary residence, you are eligible for a 'Principal Residence Exemption' (this does not apply to renters). Check the upper left-hand corner of your Assessment Change Notice to make sure you have this exemption if you qualify. If you have questions or concerns give me a call at 616-794-1900 ext. 201 or email me at: assessor@ci.belding.mi.us

Museum

Spring has sprung in Belding!

Just a friendly reminder that the museum is open the first Sunday of each month from 1pm—4pm. You may tour at your leisure or you may request a guided tour with one of our docents. There is so much to see and learn about Belding when you take a step back in time with a visit.

Please remember to check our Facebook page for any updates and special events. Hope to see you soon!

Beatnik Bazaar

The first Beatnik Bazaar of the season will be held on Saturday, June 11 from 9:00am—1:00pm at the Gathering Place. More monthly dates to follow!

Dial-A-Ride

As warmer weather approaches, let us get you out and about on Dial-A-Ride!

We are open Monday–Friday, 6:30am—5:30pm and Saturday, 9am—1:30pm
Please allow up to 30 minutes for pick-up.

Tokens and tickets are available for purchase on busses.

Transportation available to Ionia and Greenville!!!

Below are the times that are available:

Ionia Transfer

8:30am, 1:30pm

Greenville Transfer

9:30am, 11:30am, 1:30pm

Please call our office at 616-794-3278 for more information!

Please remember masks are **REQUIRED** on all busses as public transportation. Please plan accordingly.

Vacancies

Applications are being accepted for the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). These volunteer positions are appointed by the City Council and offer an excellent opportunity to make a difference and serve our community.

Planning Commission – Meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm; serving a three-year term.

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) – Meets as needed; serving a three-year term.

A description of the focus of each board is available on the city website – www.belding.mi.us

An application is available on the city website – www.belding.mi.us, or at City Hall – 120 S. Pleasant Street, during regular business hours.

Please contact Janae Cooper at 616-794-1900, ext. 210, or by emailing j.cooper@ci.belding.mi.us for additional information. Please submit applications to the City Clerk.

