

BELDING BUGLE

January—March 2023
"First Responder Facts" Edition

City Manager

Celebrating "Firsts"

January marks the **first** month the new year! This is the city's **first** newsletter of the year! I am completing my **first** year here as City Manager! Therefore, I'm dedicating this edition of the Belding Bugle to the **First** Responders in our community with some interesting facts about their jobs!
~Jon Stoppels, City Manager

Dial-A-Ride

With winter weather approaching, 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 1/2 hour or more from the time of your call to arrive during peak hours between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Our hours of operation are Monday-Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Fares are as follows:

- Adults - \$3.00
- Students (4 and up) - \$2.50
- Seniors (Ages 65 and up) - \$1.50
- Persons with Disabilities - \$1.50
- Children ages 3 and under accompanied by an adult ride for FREE

10 Ride passes are available on the buses and at City Hall, 120 S. Pleasant Street.

Ticket prices are as follows:

- Adult - \$30.00
 - Student - \$25.00
 - Seniors/Persons with Disabilities - \$15.00
- Each ticket gets you 10 paid rides and the 11th ride is **FREE!**

Connecting Routes

We connect with both Greenville and Ionia buses Monday through Friday. Please call at least 45 minutes ahead of time and advise the dispatcher whether you need a wheelchair or walker lift and where you are going. The dispatcher will set up your ride for you.

The schedules and are as follows:

Greenville:

9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 1:30 p.m.

Ionia:

8:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

This ride is free and stops at DHS, MI Works, and the Ionia Depot.

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

2023

Happy
New Year

First
responders

To become a certified police officer it takes more than 900 hours of training to include book work, tactics, firearms, and physical agility.

Finance Department

Happy New Year from the Finance Department

Taxes:

The 2022 winter property tax bills were mailed December 1, 2022, and are due by Tuesday, February 14, 2023. After this date a 3% late penalty will be added to the remaining property tax balance. Any unpaid 2022 summer or winter taxes will be sent to the Ionia County Treasurer's office at the beginning of March 2023 and must then be paid directly to the county.

Water/Sewer:

Water and/or sewer bills are mailed quarterly in January, April, July, and October. The January bill will be mailed prior to January 1st, 2023. Below are the dates of each billing and the cycle dates that each bill covers.

Billing Cycle Dates and Month Billed:

January 1st Bill – 9/1-11/30 cycle dates – Due by 1/30 without a 10% late fee
April 1st Bill – 12/1-2/28(29) cycle dates – Due by 4/30 without a 10% late fee
July 1st Bill – 3/1-5/31 cycle dates - Due by 7/30 without a 10% late fee
October 1st Bill – 6/1-8/31 cycle dates – Due by 10/30 without a 10% late fee
—If unpaid by the 30th of the billed month, a ten percent (10%) late penalty on the unpaid balance is added to the bill. If the bill continues to be unpaid a "shut-off notice" is issued, and a fifteen (15) day grace period is instituted. If unpaid by the 16th day, a \$75.00 shut-off listing charge is added to the bill and the water service discontinued. Services so discontinued shall not be restored until payment is made in full, including penalties and late fees. Partial payment does not cancel the shut-off action (Section 86-291b).

—You can make payments for taxes or water/sewer bills with cash, checks, or money order at the City Hall office during business hours or via the drop box outside city hall or the USPS mail.

If you are planning to pay taxes and water/sewer bills at the same time, please make sure that tax payments are on separate checks or money orders from payments for water/sewer bills, as they are deposited into separate banks and the payment will need to be returned to be separated if they are combined.

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, do not hesitate to contact us at 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.

First
responders

Public Works Employees have some of the highest worker's compensation insurance rates because of the danger associated with their duties!

Clerk

Thank you to everyone who responded to the survey in the last newsletter! We received well over 300 surveys back! Your opinions are valued and appreciated!

Belding Housing

Best wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2023!

mi211.org in partnership with Michigan Association of United Ways holds information on thousands of health and human service agencies and programs across Michigan. Persons needing assistance with bill paying, food, transportation, health care, housing, crisis or other services may visit the website at <https://www.mi211.org> or **dial 211** - 24 hours per day, 7 days per week to get fast, free and confidential help.

With the pandemic largely in the rearview mirror and in-person gatherings resuming, activities for community members occur in the Belhaven Community room several days per week. The Nutrition Lunch Program hosted by the Commission on Aging takes place Tuesday and Thursday at noon, and the euchre club gathers on Monday afternoons. The facility is available for use by community and civic members with a need for meeting, networking, or gathering space.

Inquiries about availability of the space or for eligibility and the application process for income-based housing may be made by email info@beldinghousing.org or by contacting Belding Housing Commission administrative office at 616-794-1740. Those wishing to visit the office may do so during window hours Monday through Friday 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. excluding holidays. Contact information is also available on request for all other Michigan housing commissions offering rental assistance. Belding Housing Commission is an Equal Housing Opportunity Agency.



First responders

Police officers are also trained for medical response, including first aid and life saving techniques

First responders

There are approximately 36,750,000 fire department responses per year in the U.S. including fire and medical emergencies!

Fire Department

Cold weather is coming . . .

—Please keep your driveway and sidewalks clear of ice and snow. If we have to clear the area, this will cause a delay in your treatment.

—If you have a fire hydrant in your yard, it is appreciated if you maintain a 3 foot circle around the hydrant and a clear path to the roadway.

—With the cold weather arriving, there are different methods of heating our houses. They all can create their own dangers.

—Take care when using a wood stove and disposing of the ashes. Make sure your chimneys are clear. Make sure your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are in working order.

Extension Cords

Just a reminder to keep the use of extension cords to a minimum. Make sure they are of sufficient size for the power load. Do not coil them up or place them under a rug. Any of these issues may cause overheating.

Roadway Safety

Take precautions with driving in the cold weather. Have spare coats and snacks in case you may get stuck or a long time. Be sure to have a set of jumper cables available for your use. Remember that we can have a hard time spotting ice. Use caution when the weather is around freezing or near melting areas. ~ Chief Lubitz

First responders

Becoming a firefighter requires in excess of 400 hours of training over a 9 month period of time.

Assessor

Towards the end of February, you will get an Assessment Change Notice from the City of Belding. On the right side of this notice, in the second box, you will see the heading 'Principal Residence Exemption'. If this property is your primary residence, you are entitled to a Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) and the % exempt shown should be 100%. If this is not the case, please call me so I can get this corrected.

The middle of the Assessment Change Notice will show the Taxable Value on the first line. The Taxable Value (TV) can only increase by 5% or the Cost of Living. Last year the Cost of Living was 3.3% so everyone's TV increased by 3.3%. This year the Cost of Living is 7.9% so everyone's TV will increase 5%, (the maximum allowed by the law). If you added value to your property, such as a new outbuilding, new concrete, or an addition to the house, 50% of the value of these improvements will be added to the Taxable Value as well. The only other factor that will result in the TV increasing more than the 5% is if you purchased your house in 2022. A transfer of ownership to a non-family member will result in what is called an 'uncapping', causing the Taxable Value to equal the State Equalized Value. Line 5 of the Assessment Change Notice indicates whether there was a transfer of ownership.

An accurate property record card and a study of sales in the City of Belding from April 1, 2020, until March 31, 2022, will provide me with the necessary data to establish the 2023 State Equalized Value (SEV). This amount should be half the True Cash Value (what you would expect to get for your property if you put it up for sale). This information is found on line 4 of the Assessment Change Notice. When you double this figure, it should be close to what you believe you could sell your property for. If the value listed is much higher than you believe you could sell it for, give me a call. If your phone call with me does not result in a value that you believe is fair, you are entitled to bring your concerns to the March Board of Review. The specific days and times that the March Board of Review meets will be located in the middle of the Assessment Change Notice.

The City Council appoints the Board of Review members each January. Currently the Board of Review consists of Douglas Lamborne, Marjorie Hansen, David Mierendorf and John Niemela as an alternate. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Review, give me a call or send me an email.

If you have other questions or concerns, please give me a call at 616-794-1900 Ext 201, or email me at: assessor@ci.belding.mi.us. Bob Naumann, Michigan Certified Assessing Officer



FIRST RESPONDERS

ALWAYS READY





Department of Public Works

- 2023 Brush Pick-Up will be the last full week of each month as follows:
April 24-28, June 26-30, August 21-25, September 25-29
 - 2023 Bagged yard waste pick-up will be on Mondays, beginning in April.
 - Spring fire hydrant flushing will be April 17, 18, 19 and 20
- Please mark your calendars with these dates!

First responders

There are over 4 million miles of roads in the U.S. that public works employees maintain!

Police Department

Take some simple preventative measures to deter crime:

- Lock your car doors and keep valuables out of sight
 - Keep your home, garage and outbuildings locked.
 - Make sure all of your home's outdoor lighting is working properly.
 - Report suspicious activity in your neighborhood. Suspicious activity can be best described as conduct that causes a reasonable person to believe a crime is occurring or will occur.
- If it looks suspicious, don't wait. Report it to the police by contacting Ionia County Central Dispatch at (616) 527-0400 or 911 for in-progress crimes.

First responders

The gear worn by firefighters weighs more than 50 pounds!

If you're 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. Click on the Police Department link for a Vacation House Check form. Once the form is completed return it to the police department.



Winter Driving

Preventive maintenance before the winter season is the best way ensure safe travel. Check your vehicle's tire tread and fluid levels. Use a winter blend windshield washer fluid. When traveling give yourself plenty of time. Drive slowly when it is foggy, raining or snowing and conditions are hazardous. Remember to turn your headlights on for safety!

Parking

No Parking on City streets 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. November 1st through March 31st. The signs are posted on the major streets entering the city. There is no parking between the curb and the sidewalk. Front Yard Parking is prohibited under the Zoning Ordinance. Vehicles shall be parked in the driveway or garage.

Code Enforcement

SIDEWALKS and SNOW—Please keep sidewalks clear of ice and snow. Remove accumulated snow within 24 hours and ice within 12 hours.

First responders

There are over 1,115,000 firefighters in the United States!

Sec. 74-128. Snow and ice removal.

- No occupant of any premises or owner of premises or property shall fail to keep the sidewalks in front of or adjacent to such premises or property clear of ice and/or snow, so far as to facilitate pedestrians use. When there are no sidewalks, no such occupant or owner shall fail to clear a path free from snow and ice, when such a path will provide an extension of existing sidewalk on an adjacent property.
 - Whenever any snow has fallen or accumulated, it shall be cleared from the entire sidewalk or pathway within 24 hours.
 - When ice is formed on any sidewalk, such owner or occupant shall, within 12 hours after the ice has formed, cause salt, chloride or sand to be strewn on the entire sidewalk or pathway.
 - In the event that snow or ice on a sidewalk has become so hard that it cannot be removed without likelihood of damage to the sidewalk, the owner or occupant of such premises shall within 24 hours cause enough sand or abrasive to be strewn on the sidewalk as to make travel thereon reasonably safe, and shall as soon as weather permits, cause a path in said sidewalk to be cleared in its entirety.
 - A person who violates any provision of this section, is responsible for a municipal civil infraction, subject to payment of a civil fine, plus costs and other sanctions, for each violation as provided by section 1-19(c)(1). Repeat offenses shall be subject to increased fines as provided by section 1-19(c)(2).
- (Ord. No. 448, § 27, 6-16-98; Ord. No. 506, 12-16-08)

State law prohibits the deposit of snow onto or across a street so please keep this in mind while clearing your driveway and sidewalk.

First responders

Public Works Employees are to be available 24/7 to respond to a variety of emergencies!

257.677a Obstruction of safety vision by removal or deposit of snow, ice, or slush prohibited.

- A person shall not remove, or cause to be removed, snow, ice, or slush **onto** or **across** a roadway or the shoulder of the roadway in a manner which obstructs the safety vision of the driver of a motor vehicle other than off-road vehicles.
- A person shall not deposit, or cause to be deposited, snow, ice, or slush **onto** or **across** a roadway or the shoulder of the roadway in a manner which obstructs the safety vision of the driver of a motor vehicle.
- A person shall not deposit, or cause to be deposited, snow, ice or slush on any roadway or highway.
- A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction and shall be ordered to pay a civil fine of not more than \$100.00. ~ Chief Dion Sower

First responders

Police Officers are equally trained in diffusing a situation as they are trained in making an arrest



CITY of BELDING

live. grow. naturally.

PRESORT STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GREENVILLE, MI 48838
PERMIT NO. 373

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.



City Hall Closings

City Hall will be closed on Monday, January 2, 2023 in observance of the New Year's Day holiday.

Upcoming Events

We are still looking for a volunteer(s) to manage the Music in the Park program. If you are interested, please contact the Clerk at 616-794-1900, extension 210 or by email at j.cooper@ci.belding.mi.us.

First responders

There are approximately 18,000 police agencies in the U.S.!

Museum

The Belding Museum is open the first Sunday of each month from 1:00-4:00 p.m. (closed New Year's Day). Admission is by donation.

The BEL--Belding Exploration Lab, a hands-on children's museum, is open the first Sunday and Wednesday of each month from 1:00-4:00 p.m. (closed New Year's Day). Children must be accompanied by an adult. Our programs are made possible through your generosity! Check our Facebook page, Belding Museum, for these and other events!

The museums are located in the historic Belrockton at 108 Hanover Street in Belding. Please park in the lot on Hanover Street or surrounding streets unless handicap parking is needed, which is in the rear of the building. An elevator is available for those needing assistance.

First responders

Public Works Employees are First Responders, too! Imagine a fireman responding to a house fire and having no water at the hydrant or the road has not been plowed!



Board/Commission Applications for Appointment

The city is seeking applicants for volunteer positions on all of our boards/commissions. These positions are appointed by the City Council and offer an excellent opportunity to make a difference and serve our community. Applications are kept on file for one year and you may apply for multiple appointments. As terms expire and/or vacancies arise, not only are the positions advertised, but these applications receive consideration as well. Some boards allow for alternate positions, so if you are interested in serving but may not be able to make a regular commitment, this may be a great option for you! Community service looks great on resumes' as well!

A description of the focus of each board is available on the city website – www.belding.mi.us. You can find the application on the city website or at City Hall during regular business hours. Please contact the City Clerk, Janae Cooper at 616-794-1900, ext. 210, or by emailing j.cooper@ci.belding.mi.us for additional information.