



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.

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Belding, MI



Scan this QR Code
to receive City-
related texts and/
or emails today!

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

BELDING, MI 48809



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Taxes

The 2024 winter property tax bills were mailed December 1, 2024, which are due in office by Wednesday February 14, 2025. After this date a 3% late penalty will be added to the remaining winter property tax balance. If you are paying taxes between 2/15/2025 to 2/29/2025 please call the office at 616-794-1900 ext. 203, to inquire the exact amount of any outstanding taxes to ensure you are paying the full total owing. Any unpaid 2024 summer or winter taxes, including late fees, will be sent to the Ionia County Treasurer's office at the beginning of March 2025 and must then be paid directly to the county.

Water/Sewer

The January 2025 water/sewer bills were mailed at the end of December. If you have not received your bill by the end of the first week of January, contact the office at 616-794-1900 ext. 217 to receive the total amount owing.

Payment can be made anytime between the 1st and 30th of the month, but must be received **in office BY the 30th** to avoid late fees. 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 is discontinued. Discontinued services shall not be restored until payment is made in full, including penalties and late fees. Partial payment does not cancel the shut-off action.

If you are mailing your payments or utilizing bill pay through your bank account, we recommend planning ahead and scheduling those payments or mailing them at least 7-10 business days prior to the due date to ensure we receive them on time. Payments are applied the day they are received in office. We cannot accept postmark or check dates as date of payment (Section 86-291b).

Water and/or sewer bills are invoiced and 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



REMINDER:

Payment for taxes **MUST** be on a separate check or money order from water/sewer payments. Payment will be returned to be separated if they are combined.

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



Belding Bugle

January, February, March 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE 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 Homeowners 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, whichever is less. Last year the Cost of Living was 5.1% so everyone's TV increased by 5%. This year the Cost of Living is 3.1% so everyone's TV will increase 3.1%. 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 3.1% is if you purchased your house in 2024. 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, 2022, till March 31, 2024, will provide me with the necessary data to establish the 2025 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 is located at the bottom 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, and John Niemela. Richard Outman serves as an alternate. Again, you can expect to receive the Assessment Change Notice towards the end of February or beginning of March.

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.

BELDING HOUSING COMMISSION

As we begin 2025 looking forward to what the community has to offer with its many events, festivals and celebrations, Belding Housing Commission begins its 75th year of operation in the community. Established in December 1950, the foresight of the city council has allowed the provision of safe and stable affordable housing for hundreds of eligible citizens and their families. Many members of the community have been instrumental or know someone who shared responsibility for the creation and oversight of operations of the agency and its developments through the years. Belding Housing Commission appreciates the relationship with the city, its council, and all outstanding department personnel who support the critical role the housing commission fills in meetings its obligations to the community.

While we endure the cold winter months, those needing assistance with food, transportation, health care, paying bills, crisis services or housing are encouraged to reach out to mi211.org to get fast, free and confidential help. Dial **211** – 24 hours per day, 7 days per week or visit the website at <https://www.mi211.org>.

Persons interested in obtaining income-based rental housing may visit the administrative office located at 41 Belhaven, inquire by phone (616) 794-1740 or email info@beldinghousing.org for more information. Belding Housing Commission is an Equal Housing Opportunity agency.



BELDING DIAL-A-RIDE

Please be advised that Belding Dial-A-Ride has a "No Charge Policy." Payment is expected at the time of service for all rides.

Hours:

Monday – Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with last call occurring by 4:15 p.m. Call 616-794-3278.

Rates:

Rates are for one-way travel only.

Punch cards are available for purchase through Dial-A-Ride and are good for 10 rides, with the 11th ride FREE.

Adult (18 years and older): \$3.00 per ride or \$30.00 for a punch card.

Student (3–17 years): \$2.50 per ride or \$25.00 for a punch card.

Seniors/Disabled (62+ years): \$1.50 per ride or \$15.00 for a punch card.

Disabled Reduced Fare \$1.50 (Must have form on file and previously ridden at this rate)



Thank you for your continued patronage of Belding Dial-A-Ride.

CODE ENFORCEMENT SIDEWALKS and SNOW

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



Sec. 74-128. Snow and ice removal.

(a) 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.

(b) Whenever any snow has fallen or accumulated, it shall be cleared from the entire sidewalk or pathway within 24 hours.

(c) 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.

(d) 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.

(e) 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.

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

(2) 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.

(3) 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.

(4) A person shall not deposit, or cause to be deposited, snow, ice or slush on any roadway or highway.

(5) 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.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS—2025 SCHEDULE

Brush Pick-up 2025

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, tele-phone 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 2025

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.

Loose Leaf Pick-up 2025

Loose leaf pick-up will start the first week of October and will continue till the last week in November.

BELDING 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 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.



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.



LIBRARY

January

January 5 @ 5:30 PM Family Adventure Night, Code Breaking
January 8,15,22,29 @ 10:30 AM Storytime “Bright Winter Night, Farm Boots, Outside In, How to Raise a Mom”
January 8 @ 2 PM Senior Social Bingo
January 9 @ 3 PM TWEEN/TEEN, Cooking with Barbara -Cherry Crumb
January 13 @ 6 PM Charcuterie Boards 101 Registration is not required.
January 16 @ 4:15 PM YOUTH, Cryptid Hunt
January 17 @ 3 PM Adult Craft, Miniature Bookshelf PART 1 Registration is required and begins December 27th.
January 18 @ 10 AM Adult Craft, Miniature Bookshelf PART 2 Registration is required and begins December 27th.
January 21 @ 3 PM Monthly Tech Help
January 22 @ 6 PM (EVENING Book Club) Book Club - *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life*
January 23 @ 3 PM TWEEN/TEEN, Cooking with Barbara - Fry Bread
January 23 @ 10 AM (MORNING Book Club) Book Club—*The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*

February

February 3 @ 5:30 PM Family Adventure Night, Map Making
February 5,12,19,26 @ 10:30 AM Storytime — Sylvia’s Bookshop, Crankenstein Valentine, Loud Mouse, Busy Betty
February 5 @ 2 PM Senior Social Bingo
February 6 @ 3 PM TWEEN/TEEN, Cooking with Barbara - Potato Candy
February 7 @ 3 PM Adult Drop-In Craft, Macrame Heart Keychain. Registration is not required.
February 13 @ 4:15 PM YOUTH, 3D Perler Beads
February 14 Adult Take and Make Craft, Yarn Garland (while supplies last.)
February 17 @ 5 PM ADULT Craft, Wooden Circle Door Sign. Registration is required and begins January 28th.
February 18 @ 3 PM Monthly Tech Help
February 20 @ 3 PM TWEEN/TEEN, Cooking with Barbara - Ham & Cheese Pockets
February 26 @ 6 PM (EVENING Book Club) Book Club, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*
February 27 @ 10 AM (MORNING Book Club) Book Club, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*

March

March 3 @ 5:30 PM Family Adventure Night - Make a Fossil
March 5,12,19,26 @ 10:30 AM Storytime “Sugar White Snow and Evergreens, Nothing Can Frighten a Bear, The River that Wolves Moved, Busy Betty and the Circus Surprise”
March 5 @ 2 PM Senior Social Bingo
March 13 @ 4:15 PM YOUTH, Flip Book Workshop
March 18 @ 3 PM Monthly Tech Help
March 26 @ 6 PM (EVENING Book Club) Book Club, *These Silent Woods*
March 27 @ 10 AM (MORNING Book Club) Book Club—*Lessons in Chemistry*

BEL-BELDING EXPLORATION LAB

The hands-on children’s museum is open the first Sunday and Wednesday of each month from 1-4 p.m. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Your kind donations support our programs. For the most current information, please check our Facebook page: BEL-Belding Exploration Lab or email us at: beldingmuseum@gmail.com.

BELDING MUSEUM

Spend an afternoon with us the first Sunday of each month from 1-4 p.m. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Your generous donations support our programs. Handicapped parking is available in the rear of the building. An elevator is available for those needing assistance. For the most current information, please check our Facebook page: Belding Museum or email us at: beldingmuseum@gmail.com.

