



BELDING BUGLE

January-March 2021

Belding Housing

Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2021!

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.

For housing assistance, Belding Housing Commission offers income-based rental assistance within the City of Belding for one, two, three and four-bedroom units. Applications are available at the administrative office, located at 41 Belhaven Avenue. To inquire about availability, eligibility, and the application process, email

info@beldinghousing.org or contact the office by phone at 616-794-1740 Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Those wishing to visit the office may do so during window hours Monday through Friday 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. 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.



Dial-A-Ride

With winter weather approaching, the demands on our bus system will increase. Please allow extra time for the bus to arrive, plan your trips to appointments well in advance. The bus could take up to ½ 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!

Currently, masks are **REQUIRED** on the busses. If you do not have a mask on you, you will be asked to return into your home to grab one. Please social distance as much as possible. Do not sit directly next to another passenger on the bus. Please help us to keep you, our other riders, and our staff safe and healthy.

As always information about our bus service is available by calling the dispatch office weekdays from 6:30 am until 5:30 pm, and Saturdays from 9:00 am until 1:30 pm. We can also mail a brochure about our services upon request.

Tickets are available for purchase at the Depot between the hours of 6:30 am and 5:30 pm. If purchased, you will get 10 rides and the 11th for FREE!

Dept. of Public Works

Brush pick-up for 2021: April 26, May 24, June 21, July 26, August 23, September 30 and October 25

All brush needs to be at the street by 7:00 a.m. on dates above but not before the 18th of the month.

Leaf bag pick-up will start April 23, 2021, and will continue every Friday.

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.

Address numbers

We still have many locations with no number on their properties. All properties must have address numbers on the house or place of business located on the address side of the structure. Numbers on your mailbox may help, but numbers on your house or place of business are required. They need to be a contrasting color and visible from the roadway and in number form like 123 (not in lettering form, like one two three). Please keep clear of any landscaping. Not having these numbers will delay response to your emergency.

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.

Finance Department

The 2020 winter property taxes were sent December 1, 2020 and are due by Monday, February 15, 2021. After this date a 3% penalty will be added to the property tax bill. Any unpaid 2020 taxes will be sent to the Ionia County Treasurer's office at the beginning of March 2021 and must then be paid directly to the County.

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 the address will be placed on the shut-off listing and a \$75.00 fee is added to the bill. The total balance is required to be paid in full before the water service is restored.

You can make payment for taxes or water/sewer bills by mail, using the drop box outside City Hall, or stopping in the office during our business hours. Acceptable forms of payment are cash, check, money order and credit/debit cards at the City Hall Counter. **When writing a check for payments, please make separate checks for taxes and water/sewer bills.** 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 794-1900 ext. 217 and we will be happy to help.

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Belding, MI

120 S. Pleasant St.
Belding, MI 48809

Phone: 616-794-1900, Ext. 210

City Hall Office Hours:

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

REGULAR MEETINGS

- *City Council—1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 7 p.m.*
- *Rec Board—2nd Monday at 6:30 p.m.*
- *Planning Commission— 4th Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.*
- *Downtown Development Authority— 1st Wednesday at 4 p.m., quarterly (February, May, August and November)*
- *Zoning Board of Appeals— Meets as needed*

Due to the Governor's orders on meeting restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please contact City Hall at the number listed above or visit us on the web at:

www.belding.mi.us

to view meeting locations (if applicable) or for instructions on how to attend virtually. A computer or smartphone is not required to attend meetings virtually—you simply need a regular phone!

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

BELDING, MI 48809

Police Department

Take some time to keep from becoming a victim of crime and the best way is to AVOID IT by NOT giving a criminal the opportunity to commit crimes against you. Do not let yourself be a target.

—Eliminate the opportunity for the thief to steal your property.

—Lock your car doors and keep valuables out of sight

—Properly secure your personal property.

—Properly mark your valuables for identification.

—Make it hard for the criminal to commit a crime.

—Report suspicious activity in your neighborhood. Suspicious activity can be best described as a person(s) conduct or actions that does not fit the norm for your neighborhood.

If it looks suspicious, don't wait. Report it to the police!

If you're going away for an extended period of time please contact the police department directly or visit us on the web www.belding.mi.us click on police department for vacation house check form. Once the form is completed bring it to the police department or city hall.

WINTER DRIVING

Preventive maintenance before the winter season is the best way to ensure safe travel. Check your fluid levels. Use a winter blend washer fluid containing anti-freeze. Plan for extra travel time and drive slowly when it is foggy, raining, or snowing and conditions are hazardous. 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 and remove accumulation within 24 hours of the ice storm or snowfall.

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)

Depositing Snow in the roadway:

The Michigan Vehicle Code 257.677a prohibits "the obstruction of safety vision by removal or deposit of snow, ice, or slush." This includes the end of driveways, where banked snow can reduce visibility for vehicles trying to enter the roadway. **Snow shall not be pushed into the roadway or across the roadway!**