

BELDING BUGLE

July - September 2023

Summer Activities Edition

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! Recommendations for appointment are made by the respective board/commission to the City Council, with City Council making the *formal* appointment. A description of the focus of each board/commission is available on the city website, www.belding.mi.us or contact the City Clerk. 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.

Currently there are vacancies on the Building Authority, Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), Museum Board and Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) – 1 vacancy. Meets as needed; serving a 3-year term. Alternate positions are needed as well.

Building Authority— 1 vacancy. Meets as needed; serving a 3-year term.

Museum Board— 2 vacancies; Meets the 4th Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.; serving a 3-year term.

Downtown Development Authority (DDA) — 4 vacancies—restrictions apply. Meets quarterly on the first Wednesdays in February, May, August and November at 4:15 p.m.; serving a 4-year term.

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



Zippy Days at Central Riverside Park



Brought to you by Belding Parks & Rec, Zippy Days at Central Riverside Park provides FREE supervised activities to children ages 5-12. Leppink's will provide daily snacks to all participants. No RSVP necessary. Watch Facebook for rain cancellations. For more information, please contact Mike Brady at 616-894-1266 or bradym64@gmail.com.

Date	Theme	Activity	Sponsor
July 19	Meet a Friend	Kickball	BC Pizza
July 20	Arts & Crafts	Potato Sack Races	Harmful Roester
July 21	Police/Fire	Local Meets	City of Belding
July 24	Board Games	Play Games	Wesco
July 25	Gus Macker	Basketball	Gus Macker
July 26	Plant a Seed	Face Painting	Johnson Feuerstein Funeral Homes and Oasis
July 27	Decorate Bikes	Ride Your Bike	Candlestone
July 28	Field Day	Games Galore	Horse's Mouth

The summer season consists of 92 days!



City Clerk

Upcoming Election: There will be a countywide Special Election on August 8, 2023. Registered voters in the City of Belding will be considering a countywide road millage. Sample ballots may be viewed/obtained at the City Clerk's Office, the County Clerk's Office or online at: <https://mvlc.sos.state.mi.us>.

Absentee ballot applications have been mailed out to voters who have opted to be on the permanent absentee voter list. (Please note that the appearance of the application you will be receiving/have received has changed.) With the passage of Proposal 22-2, voters now have the option to request that an absentee ballot be automatically sent out for all elections. Prior to this change, being on the permanent absent voter list prompted an application to request an absentee ballot to be sent out.

If you want your ballot to be sent to an address other than where you are registered to vote (for example, if you live in Florida for the winter, or are in a rehabilitation facility for an extended amount of time) you must make that indication on your application to vote or notify the Clerk's office in writing of this temporary change. It is your responsibility as a voter to inform the clerk of where to send your ballot, including the time frame in which you will be residing at the alternate address, as the United States Postal Service WILL NOT forward absentee ballots.

Nine (9) days of early voting do not pertain to this election.

The City Clerks Office will be open on Saturday, August 5th from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. **ONLY** for the purposes of registering voters and/or issuing absentee ballots.



NOTICE TO REGISTERED VOTERS TEMPORARY PRECINCT CONSOLIDATION AND RELOCATION FOR AUGUST 8, 2023 SPECIAL ELECTION

The ballot for the August 8, 2023 Special Election in the City of Belding will consist of one (1) proposition for consideration. Due to the short length of the ballot, anticipated voter turn-out, and the City's desire to be financially responsible with taxpayer money, Precincts 1, 2, and 3 will be consolidated into one (1) polling location. The polling location for Precinct 1 and Precinct 2 in the City of Belding will be temporarily re-located **FROM** St. Joseph Catholic Church, 409 S. Bridge Street **TO** the Belding Community Center, 108 Hanover Street. For questions, please contact the City Clerk at 616-794-1900, extension 210 or by emailing j.ortego@ci.belding.mi.us.



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

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The odds of hitting a hole-in-one is about 1 in 12,500!

EVERY THURSDAY, June 1st—August 31st!
7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
MUSIC in the Park
at East Riverside Park 2023

DATE	BAND	MUSIC STYLE
June 1	Tachyon-Groove	Folk Rock
June 8	Marty Miller	Variety
June 15	Flashback	Oldies
June 22	Twister	Variety
June 29	Woody Black & Co.	Variety
July 6	Fred & Friends	Variety
July 13	Tequila Roze Chilled	Rock
July 20	Vernon Potts	Rock
July 27	Hagen/Hudson Trio	Pop/Swing
August 3	Silverado Express	Country
August 10	Down Trodden	Rock
August 17	B-Side Growlers	Acoustic
August 24	Country Green	Classic Country
August 31	Belding High School	Variety

Proudly brought to you by the City of Belding and the following generous sponsors!

- Whole Note Sponsors: \$500+**
- Heffron Farms
- Belco
- Fleis & Vandenberg
- Mercantile Bank
- Bonita Steele, City Council Member
- Burgrabe Masonry
- Dr. Charles R. Barker, Jr., D.O., Family Practice
- Half Note Sponsors: \$300-\$499**
- Leppinks
- The Horse's Mouth
- Williams & Works
- Independent Bank
- Johnson-Feuerstein Funeral Home
- Free Methodist Church
- Quarter Note Sponsors: \$200-\$299**
- Nature's Needs Landscape Construction & Design
- Eighth Note Sponsors: \$1-\$199**

Office Hours and Services

City Hall Administrative offices are open Monday through Thursday (excluding holidays/observed holidays) from 7 a.m. to 6 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 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!



The hottest day recorded in Michigan was on July 13, 1936 at 112°F!



Fire Department

A few reminders of some of the rules as it relates to fireworks:

An individual shall not discharge, ignite, or use consumer fireworks or low-impact fireworks while under the influence (at any level) of alcoholic liquor, a controlled substance, or a combination of alcoholic liquor and a controlled substance.

A person shall not ignite, discharge, or use consumer fireworks on public property, school property, church property, or the property of another person without that organization's or person's express permission to use those fireworks on those premises.

Fireworks must be launched from private property, and also land on the same private property. You must have written permission if it is not your property. You must be 18 years old or older to use consumer grade fireworks or low-impact fireworks.

Know your local ordinances and state laws regarding the dates and times when you can use fireworks. Fines can be up to \$1,000.00 for your first offense.

Hazardous Materials Pick Up: The Hazardous Materials pick up will be from 8 a.m. until noon on Saturday, August 12th at the old hospital lot next to Subway on M-44. This is provided by the county at no cost, however, donations help to continue to provide this service in our local area. Please see the City's website for what items can be brought.



Water Safety: Water safety is critical during this time of year. Please be vigilant while participating in water activities and making sure access is restricted to pools while not in use.

The beach ball was invented in 1938!

Police Department

Summer is here and that means increased vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Good times can come to screeching halt if you drive under the influence of alcohol or marijuana so use a designated, sober driver.

Bicyclists must follow the same rule; almost one quarter of all bicyclists killed have a blood alcohol content of .08 and higher. If you plan to drink or use marijuana, get a safe ride home.

Obey all traffic laws as you drive our city streets. You must share the road with bicyclists and pedestrians. Always expect the unexpected and be a defensive driver!

Bicycles, roller skates, and skateboards must yield the right of way to all pedestrians, and give an audible signal to pass a pedestrian (walker). Passing must be done in single file. Careless or reckless use of a skateboard will be strictly enforced.

Be sure to safely enjoy Belding's parks, pathways and river. While in the parks if you observe something illegal or suspicious contact Ionia County Central Dispatch immediately to report it. The **non-emergency** telephone number for Central Dispatch is (616) 527-0400 or for an emergency, call 911.

The Gus Macker 3 on 3 Basketball tournament returns to Belding on August 5th and August 6th. The event is expected to be well attended again this year. The downtown area will have street closures during the event.

The annual Belding Labor Day Homecoming Celebration tentatively will take place starting Friday, September 1st and run through Labor Day September 4th. Watch for brochures with event schedules coming in August. Be aware of street closures and detours for the event. Expanded street closures will take place during parades.

2022 Water Quality Report

The City of Belding 2022 Water Quality Report is now available at: <https://water.belding.us>. Call 616-794-1900, extension 100 to receive a paper copy.

Largemouth Bass are the most common fish in Michigan.



The record for the biggest largemouth bass caught in Michigan is 11.94 pounds & 27 inches long caught in 1934 in Big Pine Island Lake, which is just about 6 miles from Belding!

Recognitions of Achievements

The following city staff were recently recognized by the Belding City Council for achieving certifications in their respective lines of work.

Janae Ortego, City Clerk: Michigan Professional Municipal Clerk (MiPMC) Certification

Mercedes Rendall, Department of Public Works (DPW) Foreperson: S-2 Water Certification

Heather Merryweather, Department of Public Works (DPW) Staff: S-4 & D-4 Water Certifications

Joe Cooper, Department of Public Works (DPW) Staff: S-4 & D-4 Water Certifications

Congratulations on your achievements!



Belding Housing *There are over 650 golf courses in Michigan!* Library

2023 income limits to qualify for housing administered by Belding Housing Commission were published and effective May 15, 2023. Income limits are updated annually by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and are based on area Fair Market Rents (FMRs). Following the pandemic and resultant federal economic policy, FMRs dramatically increased nationwide. As a consequence, many jurisdictions have seen a substantial increase in families having to use larger portions of their income toward rent. Higher rents combined with an overall national shortage of affordable housing has led to increased homelessness. Finding solutions to the affordable housing crisis is a conversation that Belding Housing Commission continues to be actively engaged in with the national housing industry.

Income limits are applied based on family composition. For example, a family of one (1) must not exceed \$43,350 per year for income eligibility; a family of four (4) must not exceed \$61,900. Families of different sizes must meet different limits, which are based on Ionia County Area Median Income (AMI). Rent that families pay is based on family income and specific qualifying deductions. There is no specific rent by unit size.

For further information about income limits or other qualifying factors for eligibility, please contact the administrative office located at 41 Belhaven, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, as follows:
Phone: 616-794-1740 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Window hours: 1 to 4:30 p.m.

As part of its 2023 property improvement plan and following requests for bids, a qualified contractor will complete work on select door replacement in four developments over the remainder of the summer season. We look forward to these improvements to the Belhaven I, Woodhaven, Taft and Hilltop Court properties.

Belding Housing Commission is an Equal Housing Opportunity agency.



Museum

The Belding Museum is regularly open the first Sunday of each month from 1 to 4 p.m. (We will be closed July 2 in observance of Independence Day). Admission is free, however your donations are what allows the museum to offer various programs. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

During the Labor Day festivities, we will host special hours by being open Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 1 to 4 p.m.

The BEL—Belding Exploration Lab is a hands-on children's museum. Special summer hours will include each Tuesday (with the exception of Election Day, Tuesday, August 8) from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Wednesday from 1 to 4 p.m. We are also open the first Sunday of each month.

For more information, please email us at beldingmuseum@gmail.com or visit our Facebook pages: Belding Museum or BEL-Belding Exploration Lab.



Upcoming Events



Beatnik Bazaar: Saturday July 8, August 12 and September 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Music in the Park: EVERY Thursday through August 31, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Zippy Days: Wednesday, July 19 through Friday, July 28 (weekend excluded) 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Gus Macker: Saturday, August 5 and Sunday August 6

Labor Day Celebration: Friday, September 1 through Monday, September 4

Summer Reading is happening now thru July 29.

JULY

July 5, 19, 26 @ 10:30 a.m. **Story Time**

July 6 @ 3 p.m. **TWEEN**, Tie-Dye. Tweens meet Miss Barbara outside to tie-dye.

July 7 @ 3 p.m. **ADULT** Craft, Mason Jar Cups. Registration is required and begins on June 16. Check Facebook for the link to be released.

July 10-15 **ADULT** Summer Reading Activity, Scavenger Hunt

July 10 @ 1 p.m. **YOUTH**, Reading with Ritz. Join Ritz the dog for a story.

July 12 @ 10:30 a.m. "**Destination Story Time**" @ Demorest Fields, *Sneaky Snacky*.

July 12 @ 2 p.m. **Senior Social Bingo** **Temporary NEW DATE FOR JULY ONLY.**

July 14 @ 1 p.m. **YOUTH**, John Ball Zoo visiting.

July 17 @ 5 p.m. **ADULT** Craft, Sea Turtle Picture. Registration is required and begins June 26. Check Facebook for the link to be released.

July 20 @ 3 p.m. **YOUTH**, Hydro Dipping

July 26 @ 6 p.m. **EVENING** Book Club. *The Alice Network*

July 27 @ 10 a.m. **MORNING** Book Club. *Sooley*

AUGUST

Aug. 2, 9, 23, 30 @ 10:30 a.m. **Story Time**

Aug. 2 @ 2 p.m. Senior Social Bingo

Aug. 3 @ 3 p.m. Summer Reading Final Party

Aug. 14 @ 1 p.m. **YOUTH**, Reading with Ritz. Join Ritz the dog for a story.

Aug. 14 @ 5 p.m. **ADULT**, Creative Bug Class. Registration is required and begins on July 24. Check Facebook for the link to be released.

Aug. 16 @ 10:30 a.m. **Destination Story Time** @ East Riverside Park, *Woodland Walk*.

Aug. 23 @ 6 p.m. **EVENING** Book Club *Circe*

Aug. 24 @ 10 a.m. **MORNING** Book Club *Horse*

Aug. 25 @ 3 p.m. **ADULT** Craft, Wine Cork Keychains. Registration required and begins Aug 4. Check Facebook for the link to be released.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 2-4 **The Library will be closed for the Labor Day holiday.**

Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27 @ 10:30 a.m. **Story Time**

Sept. 11 @ 5 p.m. **ADULT** Craft, Porch Signs. Registration is required and begins on August 21. Check Facebook for the link to be released.

Sept. 20-22 **Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale.** Operating during normal library hours.

Sept. 29 @ 3 p.m. **ADULT** Craft, Wine Cork Pumpkins. Registration is required and begins on September 8. Check Facebook for the link to be released.

Further events to be released, follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/AlvahNBeldingLibrary> for details.

June 21st is always the longest day of the year!

City Hall Holiday Closings

Independence Day: Tuesday, July 4

Labor Day: Monday, September 4





Assessor

There are over 62,500 lakes in Michigan!

I have started the field work necessary to begin updating property record card information for the City of Belding.

All properties must be re-inspected every 5 years to update property information and ensure more accurate and equitable assessments.

Every year my goal is to update 20% of the parcels' property card information. This includes updating photos/sketches and performing onsite property inspections for the City's commercial, industrial, and residential neighborhoods.

Before I visit your property, you will receive a postcard giving you a time frame when you can expect me to visit your property. If you do not want me to visit your property when you aren't home, please contact me so we can setup an appointment. For property owners not at home when I visit, I will leave a business card so you know that I stopped by.

The Assessor's web page has been updated and may provide you with an answer to a question you may have or a link to a form you are looking for—check it out! If you have questions or concerns, please give me a call at 616-497-1900 Ext 201 or email me at: assessor@ci.belding.mi.us.

Dial-A-Ride



Purchase your punch card today! Belding Dial-A-Ride would like to remind passengers of the value of purchasing punch cards. Once you've used all 10 pre-paid rides, use the fully punched ticket to receive the 11th ride for FREE!

Punch cards are available for purchase from Dial-A-Ride drivers and/or from the Pere Marquette Depot located at 100 Depot Street during regular business hours. Cash or check accepted.

- Red ticket—Adult \$30.00
- White ticket—Student \$25.00
- Blue ticket—Senior/Disabled \$15.00

Belding Dial-A-Ride hours are Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. End of day trips must be dispatched by 4:15 p.m.



Michigan has more than 1,000 campgrounds!



Good Neighbor Awards

The Belding City Council likes to offer recognition to its residents who go above and beyond, giving their time, talent and energy to the City of Belding making it a better place for everyone! Recently, the following citizens have been recognized for their generous efforts: Eric & Mary Brown and Stuart & Jane Forth for thoroughly cleaning the Pere Marquette Depot for its reopening; Jim & Carol Carpenter for maintaining and painting picnic tables at East Riverside Park. Thank you for being Good Neighbors!

Finance Department



Payment for taxes MUST be on a separate check or money order from water/sewer payments as they are deposited into different banks. Payment will be returned to be separated if they are combined on one form of payment.

Taxes: The 2023 summer property taxes can be paid starting July 1, 2023 with payment due IN OFFICE by August 15, 2023 to avoid a 3% late penalty. After this date, please call the office before paying to receive the total amount owing, including the penalty. We cannot accept postmarks or check dates as the date of payment.

Please note that when a property sells the taxable value becomes uncapped at the time of purchase. This means that the taxable value will become equal to the state equalized value (SEV) which is based on the total assessed value of the property. The values will be reflected in the following year's taxes. This may likely result in an increase to the property taxes, and in some cases, this will be a significant increase. If you have questions on this, feel free to call the treasurer's office at 616-794-1900 ext. 203 and we will gladly help to explain.

Water/Sewer: As a courtesy to our residents a sewer discount is calculated in the summer months of June, July and August, when residents are watering their lawns, gardens and plants, and children are making summer memories by running through the sprinkler or enjoying a dip in the pool. The credit is applied to the billing in October for residential homes that do not already have a separate meter for irrigation. This discount is based on an average of the usage for the previous 3 quarters.

Quarterly 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
- Payment can be made between the 1st and 30th of the above months, 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 (Section 86-291b).

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.

You can make separate 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.

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. 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.

Michigan ranks 3rd in the nation for the highest recreational watercraft sales!



YARD WASTE COLLECTION AND BRUSH PICKUP RULES & REMINDER

Work crews will make one pass through town to collect bagged yard waste.

Bags put out after the crew passes through will not be picked up.

Bags that are not biodegradable or fail to comply with any other standards set forth in the City Ordinance regarding bagged yard waste will not be picked up.

Work crews will make one pass through town to collect brush.

Brush put out after the crew passes through will not be picked up.

Brush that fails to comply with the standards set forth in the City Ordinance regarding brush pickup will not be picked up.

Residents are responsible to remove bagged yard waste or brush that was not picked up for any reason until the next scheduled collection date.

Residents are responsible to modify the condition of yard waste or brush to comply with the city ordinances.

Please refer to the Code Enforcement and Department of Public Works sections of this newsletter for specific information.



The first slide was invented in 1922 and was made out of wood! It was claimed to be VERY uncomfortable!



Michigan is among the top 10 places in the United States to scuba dive in freshwater!



Fire Hydrant Flushing

Fire hydrant flushing will take place on August 21, 22 and 23 between the hours of 12 a.m. (midnight) to 7 a.m. If you experience discolored water, flush the cold water faucet closest to the water meter until the water runs clear.



The game of cornhole has only gained its popularity over the past 15 years!



Currently the most expensive lakefront home listed for sale in Michigan is in Petoskey, for \$18 million!

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.

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 pickup is scheduled.

Brush must be placed parallel at the curb and must have all cut ends facing the same direction. Branches can be no longer than 6 feet long and no larger than 3 inches in diameter.

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 a.m. Monday. The bags MAY NOT be put out before Sunday evening at 6 p.m. and must be at curbside by 7 a.m. 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.

Sand pails date back to the 1850's!



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