

# BELDING BUGLE

## Finance Department

### Summer 2020

#### Upcoming Events

- Belding Beatnik Bazaar Farmer's Market in downtown Belding at the Gathering Place, Saturdays - July 11, August 8, September 12 and October 10 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

#### Tentative Special Events

- September 4 - September 7 Belding Labor Day Celebration

#### Special Event Cancellations

- Gus Macker 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament
- Music in the Park

### City Offices Closed

City offices will be closed on the following date(s):

Labor Day: Monday, September 7, 2020

### Adopt A Spot

We would like to thank the many volunteers currently involved with the beautification program this year. Your contributions do so much to enhance the appearance of the downtown area and are truly appreciated!

Please contact Janae Cooper at 616-794-1900, Ext. 210 to view the spot that is currently available for adoption.

#### 2020 Summer Taxes

The 2020 summer property taxes go out on July 1, 2020 and are due by Monday, August 17, 2020. The tax payment must be in the office by 6 p.m. After this date, a 3% penalty will be added to the property tax bill.

Application for deferment of Summer Taxes may be made if one of the following requirements are met: 62+ years of age, Paraplegic, Hemiplegic, Quadriplegic, Eligible Serviceperson, Eligible Veteran, Eligible Widow, Widower,

Blind Person, Totally and Permanently Disabled. The application for deferment of summer taxes must be applied for before August 17, 2020.

#### Water Billing

Water charges are billed quarterly to the property owner on the first of January, April, July and October. Payment is due by the 30th day of the month in which it is billed. If the bill is not paid by the 30th, a ten percent (10%) 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 charge is added to the bill and the water service is discontinued. Services so discontinued shall not be restored until all sums then due and owing, including penalties and fees, are paid in full. Partial payment does not cancel the shut-off action (Section 86-291b).

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The collection will be held on Saturday, August 15, 2020 from 8:00 a.m. to noon at the old hospital parking lot next to Subway in Belding. Household Hazardous Waste includes: gasoline, motor oil, auto batteries, anti-freeze, cleaners, windshield wiper fluid, car wax, brake fluid, transmission fluid, auto paint, mercury switches, oil-based paint, varnish, stain, paint thinner, paint stripper, caulk, adhesives, fluorescent light bulbs, insecticide and insect repellent, weed killer,

rat/mouse poison, pet spray/dip, flea collars, moth balls, disinfectant, wood preserve, fly traps, chlorine/bromine tablets, shock treatments, water balancers, household cleaners, furniture polish and wax, oven cleaner, ammonia, drain opener, tub and tile cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, scouring powders, upholstery/carpet cleaners, fever thermometers, spot and stain removers, bleach, dyes, dry cleaning solvents and hobby supplies. This year we will also be picking

up passenger vehicle tires for a fee of \$1.00 per tire, limit of 10. No electronics will be picked up this year. If you are not sure, contact the Belding Fire Department at 616-794-1900, ext. 212. Wastes not accepted: explosives, ammunition, latex paint, appliances, computers, tires (other than passenger vehicle tires), medications and needles, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, 20 lb. propane tanks (1 & 2 lb cylinders are OK)

### City Council

There are two 4-year City Council Member terms up for reelection in November, 2020. Please contact the City Clerk, Janae Cooper at 616-794-1900, ext. 210 or by email at [j.cooper@ci.belding.mi.us](mailto:j.cooper@ci.belding.mi.us) for more information if you are interested in running for a City Council seat.

### City Clerk

The Primary Election will be held on August 4, 2020. All polling locations in the City of Belding will be open on Election Day, however for the health and safety of yourself and others, voting by absentee ballot is encouraged. With the passing of Proposal 18-3 in

November, 2018 you no longer need a reason to vote by absentee ballot. To request an Application to Vote or to register to vote, please contact the City Clerk, Janae Cooper at 616-794-1900, ext. 210 or by email at [j.cooper@ci.belding.mi.us](mailto:j.cooper@ci.belding.mi.us) for more information.

## Code Enforcement

Ordinance stipulates that there are to be no more than two dogs and two cats per residence without a special permit. Keep dogs and cats confined to their yard. Animals walked in the city park areas must be on a leash and waste must be collected and disposed of.

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 the curb and **MUST** be removed within 24 hours

of pickup.

Grass can be no longer than 10 inches, and leaves must be raked. 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 7:00 a.m. on Friday for pick up, but no earlier than 6:00 p.m. on Thursday.

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.

Zoning permits are required but not limited to the following: fences, signs, accessory buildings, pools and decks. Applications are available at: [belding.mi.us/forms\\_publications.php](http://belding.mi.us/forms_publications.php)

## Belding Fire Department

### Bon Fire Permits

Bon fire pits are for recreational fires only and require an annual permit. The burning of yard waste, brush and trash is prohibited. While a recreational fire is burning an adult must be in attendance at all times. If the bon fire is not attended, it must be extinguished.

### Clarifications regarding a Bon Fire Pit/ Permit

Portable pit: You do not need a permit if you have a totally enclosed (with a lid, sides and bottom) portable steel fire pit.

Permanent pit: Your pit cannot be greater than 3 ft. in diameter. It must not be located closer than 15 ft. from any structure. It must not have any low hanging branches or service lines near or above the pit. It must have some of type of ring (Concrete, stone, brick or steel). You must obtain a permit from the fire department at no cost to you. You should have a water source close by just in case it gets away from you. Someone 18 years or older must always be in constant supervision of the fire. All permits expire on December 31st of each year. A new permit must be obtained every year by calling 616-794-1900, ext. 212.

### Severe Weather

The City's weather warning sirens will be tested on the 1st Saturday of every month at 12 p.m. throughout the severe weather season. The National Weather Service will issue a tornado watch when conditions are right for the formation of a tornado. This is the time to begin preparations. The weather siren will be sounded when a tornado warn-

ing has been issued for our area. A tornado warning means a tornado has been sighted and that persons should immediately take cover.

### House Numbers

If the numbers on your house are not visible or easy to read, it will take police, fire and EMS personnel longer to reach you. Those extra seconds or minutes spent trying to locate a property can mean the difference between life and death.

Making sure your address numbers are visible from the road, both day and night, is a crucial way that you can ensure that emergency responders will be able to find you.

The City of Belding Property Maintenance Code requires that all buildings have address identification. This address identification must be visible from the street fronting the property. Address numbers should be a minimum of 4" in height and must contrast with the background that they are mounted on.

### Basement Bedrooms

The Michigan Residential Building Code and the International Fire Code requires that basements with a sleeping room must have at least one openable emergency escape window or exterior door opening for emergency escape and rescue from that room. There must be at least 2 means of exit from every room.

### Fireworks

Below are 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 expressed permission to use the fireworks on those premises.

Fireworks must be launched from private property and also on the same private property where permission has been given.

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.

### The New UTV

The City of Belding, Otisco Township and a local resident have combined to purchase a new UTV and skid unit. This unit will provide medical service and fire protection to the local bicycle/walking trail from Greenville to Lowell. We purchased many different parts to complete this unit. Some of the Belding firefighters were asked to assemble these parts into a finished apparatus. I am very proud of what they have accomplished. Please feel free to stop by this summer when we have it out and look at it. My thanks to those who helped.—Chief Lubitz

## Dial-A-Ride

Dial-A-Ride’s regular hours have resumed and the Depot is now open! Now that summer is here, beat the heat by riding the air conditioned Dial-A-Ride bus to your next destination!

Fare rates are as follows:

Student (3-17)	\$2.00	(\$20.00 ticket)
Adult (18-61)	\$2.50	(\$25.00 ticket)
Seniors (62+)	\$1.25	(\$12.50 ticket)
Disabled	\$1.25	(\$12.50 ticket)

Tickets are available at the Depot. Buy a ticket (10 rides) and get the 11th ride

FREE by presenting your full ticket to the driver!

Our “Job Access” route to Ionia leaves at 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. from Belding.

Please keep in mind with things opening up that your wait time could be up to 30 minutes.

Don’t forget to sign your students up for the 2020-21 school year. Information about our transportation service is available at 616-794-3278 week-

days between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. You may also visit the city website - [www.belding.us](http://www.belding.us), or find us on Facebook for more information. Brochures are available at the Pere Marquette Depot, 100 Depot St.

## Fire Hydrant Flushing

Fire hydrants will be flushed on August 23 - 26 from midnight to 7 a.m. If you experience discolored water, please flush the cold water faucet closest to the water meter until the water runs clear.

## Museum

The historical museum plans to tentatively reopen on August 2nd from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Please check our Facebook Page (Belding Museum) for future updates.

## Children’s Museum

To ensure the well-being of our guests and volunteers, the children’s museum will remain closed until further notice. We will reopen based on guidelines from local, state and national agencies. For the latest info, please check our Facebook page:

BEL-Belding Exploration Lab

## Belding Police Department

The Belding Police Department advises that it’s the law that drivers and front seat passengers must be belted at all times. All passengers 16 and under must be belted anywhere in the vehicle.

Summer is here and it is time to hit the road. The most important thing to bring along is a sober driver. Good times can come to a screeching halt if you drive drunk. Bicyclists must follow the same rule. Almost one quarter of all bicyclists killed have a blood alcohol content of .08 or higher. If you plan to drink, 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 the pedestrian. Passing must be done in single file. Careless or reckless use of a skateboard will be strictly enforced.

If you are going to be away from the city for an extended period, please contact the Police Department to request a vacation property check. Application is available online at [www.belding.us](http://www.belding.us), click on Police Department.

Because of the Covid-19 Pandemic most community events in Ionia County have been cancelled this summer as reported by Ionia County Emergency Manager.

The Gus Macker 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament has been cancelled due to Covid-19 and the Governor’s restrictions on the

size of gatherings.

The Belding Labor Day Homecoming Celebration tentatively will take place starting Friday, September 4 running through Labor Day September 7. Because of the Covid-19 Pandemic some of the traditional Homecoming programs may not take place. Updates will be announced as information becomes available. Be aware of street closures and detours for the event. Expanded closures will take place during parades. Slow down and be aware of increased pedestrian and vehicle traffic during these events.

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



# CITY of BELDING

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E-mail: [j.cooper@ci.belding.mi.us](mailto:j.cooper@ci.belding.mi.us)

### City Hall Office Hours:

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

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

BELDING, MI 48809



## Belding Housing Commission

### Happy Summer from Belding Housing Commission!

The housing commission has completed a three-year process in converting from the historical conventional rent program to a multi-family model and as a result will soon begin work on needed improvements to rental units at all locations. Appreciation is extended to Belding City Council as the authorizing entity and to the City Manager for exhaustive efforts in assisting with this process. Local partners helping to make this possible include Independent Bank, Chemical Bank, Rode Insurance Agency and all residents who have provided valuable input and patient support. Extensive time and resources of the Board of Commissioners and staff has been devoted to ensure long-term viability of the agency and safe, affordable housing for the community and residents for the foreseeable future. Thank you to all!

Inquiries about these property improvements, available apartments, eligibility, and the application process may be made via email [in-fo@beldinghousing.org](mailto:info@beldinghousing.org) or by contacting the office by phone at 616-794-1740 Monday

through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or visiting during window hours Monday through Friday 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Those wishing to visit the office are asked to phone in advance due to continuing COVID-19 protocols that may impact normal window hours. 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.

## Dept. Public Works

### Yard Waste/Leaves

Yard waste and leaves must be placed in biodegradable bags and will be picked up every Friday. Bags 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 Friday at 7 a.m., but no earlier than 6 p.m. on Thursday.

### Brush Pick-Up

July 27, August 24, September 21 and October 26

Please place brush at the street by 7 a.m. on the above dates, but no earlier than the 18th of the month. After the brush is removed, please do not place more brush out until the 18th of the next month. The total amount of brush and limbs per household shall not exceed 10 cubic yards per month. Brush cannot be longer than 10' 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 four feet away from any Consumers or telephone poles, walls, fences, mailboxes, overhead wires, peds, guy wires or any other obstacles. Brush WILL NOT be picked up if the above instructions are not followed.