




# BELDING BUGLE

## Office of the City Manager



Spring, 2020

### Special Events

- Arbor Day - To be determined
- May 16 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection
- June 1 - August 17 "Music in the Park" on **Mondays** from 7 - 8:30 p.m. at East Riverside Park. Join us for free popcorn and the chance to win a door prize each week!

### Adopt-A-Spot

Volunteers are needed to care for the landscaping areas in the downtown area. The spots may simply be cleaned up and mulched, or new plants added. The landscaping mulch will be available at no cost from Nature's Needs at 8079 Storey Rd. The same mulch is used for all spots, to keep the beds looking uniform throughout the downtown. The mulch can be picked up at your convenience.

We would like to encourage participants to have the spots completed by the Memorial Day weekend, if possible, as there will be a Memorial Day event at the Veteran's Memorial Park that will bring many residents and guests into the downtown area.

We would like to thank the many volunteers currently involved with the beautification program again 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 spots that are currently available for adoption.

As a result of the impact the coronavirus (COVID 19) has had in the State of Michigan, on Monday March 23<sup>rd</sup> Governor Whitmer signed Executive Order ( E.O.) 2020-21 that requires residents to essentially shelter in place. It's actually being called "Stay Home Stay Safe". The order took effect on March 24 at 12:01am and continues through April 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm. If the Governor determines that additional time is necessary the order may be extended or a new one issued.

In signing the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order (EO 2020-21), Governor Whitmer is directing all Michigan businesses and operations to temporarily suspend in-person operations that are not necessary to sustain or protect life. The order also directs Michiganders to stay in their homes unless they're a part of that critical infrastructure workforce, engaged in an outdoor activity, or performing tasks necessary to the health and safety of themselves or their family, like going to the hospital or grocery store.

There are a number of exceptions though. Local governments are, for the most part, exempt from the E.O. allowing the City of Belding's police, fire/EMS, DPW, Water/Waste water, public transit and support staff to continue operations.

Beginning Monday, March 23, the City Hall lobby closed to the general public, initially, until April 6 but that is expected to continue consistent with the Governor's E.O. City Hall staff will continue to work, remotely where possible, and are available by phone, email or appointment.

Dial-A-Ride is running a limited schedule with schools being closed. They are running with as few riders as possible at a time and sanitizing surfaces often. We're advising people that rides should be limited to those activities as outlined in the Governor's E.O. such as going to the grocery store, (also, food distribution centers) pharmacies, doctor's appointments or to the bank (ATM).

DPW is running as usual but will avoid, as much as possible, entering any private property while practicing "social distancing".

Because of the concerns of the Corona virus, the Governor's E.O. to stay home as well as the need to practice social distancing, the City Council approved a change in the billing date for the water/sewer bill. The dates have been changed from April 1st to April 15th. Payments can be made by using the online payment option, mail or depositing it in the drop off box in front of City Hall. Payments can be made until May 17th without penalty.

Most city board and commission meeting have been cancelled as long as the Governor's E.O. is in place with the exception of city council. The city council will be conducting virtual meetings with limited agendas as provided for the E.O.

These are very challenging times so as you read through this newsletter please note that some of the activities that are listed are subject to change based on whether or not the Governor extends the "Stay Home Stay Safe" Executive Order.

### Summer Taxes

The 2020 summer property taxes will be issued on July 1, 2020 with a due date of August 17, 2020 without penalty. After this date, a 3% penalty will be added to the property tax bill.

### Water & Sewer Bills

Water and sewer bills will be sent out on April 15, 2020 with a due date of May 18, 2020.

## Code Enforcement/Animal Control

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.

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.

Brush placed at the curb must have all cut ends facing the same direction and can be no longer than 8 feet long (96 inches). It must be placed parallel to the roadway.

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.

**GRASS CLIPPINGS ARE NO LONGER ALLOWED LOOSE OR DUMPED AT CURBSIDE.** Grass clippings MUST be placed in paper yard waste bags and set by the curb by 7:00 a.m. Friday. The bags MAY NOT be put out before Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. and must be at curbside by 7:00 a.m. on Friday for pick-up.

**Blight:**

Grass can be no longer than 10 inches, and leaves must be raked.

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 Police Department

The Belding Police Department would like to remind you that Spring is a time for an increase in pedestrian traffic. After the long winter, residents will be out walking, bicycling or just enjoying the spring weather. With pedestrians out, it is time to slow down. The speed limit in the city is 25 mph unless posted otherwise. Slowing down will allow you to react to the pedestrian entering the street, from behind a parked car, or the ball thrown into the street being chased by a child.

### Parking:

Vehicles that are parked on curbed streets must park with the right wheels to the curb or the road edge. Parking between the sidewalk and curb and in front yards is prohibited. For people that walk, please use the sidewalks when provided ... it's the law! Each person riding a bicycle upon a roadway is subject to all the duties of a person driving a motor vehicle.

### Vacation House Checks:

If you are going to be away on vacation, please make arrangements to stop the mail and newspaper. Make your home look lived in with the use of light timers. Have trusted friends and neighbors watch the house and help it look lived in by picking up weekly newspapers and flyers left at the

door. For the extended vacations, have someone mow the lawn. Contact the police department or visit the website at [belding.mi.us/forms\\_publications.php](http://belding.mi.us/forms_publications.php) for a vacation request form.

### Parks:

Park hours are 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Due to the bathrooms being damaged and /or littered beyond regular use, they will remain closed. Port-a-johns will be installed in the park in the near future.

No domestic animals shall be permitted any public park or on a public pathway unless on a leash, not exceeding 6 ft. in length, controlled by the owner at all times. Owners shall remove all animal fecal discharges from the park or the pathway property immediately. No dangerous or vicious animals shall be permitted in any public park or on a public pathway.

## Dial A Ride

Spring is here and summer heat is around the corner! Beat the heat by riding the air conditioned Dial-A-Ride bus to your next destination!

Fare rates are as follows:

Student (4-17)	\$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.

Information about our transportation service is available at 616-794-3278 weekdays 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.

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

## Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The collection will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2020 from 8 a.m. to noon at the old hospital parking lot on M-44, 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, mothballs, disinfectant, wood preservative, 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, x212. Wastes not accepted: explosives, ammunition, latex paint, appliances, computers, tires, medications and needles, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, 20 lb. propane tanks (1 & 2 lb. cylinders are OK)

## Belding Housing

Happy Spring to all in the community from Belding Housing Commission! Information about available rental units for Taft or Hilltop Court, Belhaven I, II or Woodhaven is available through the administrative office Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, as follows:

Phone: 794-1740 8a.m. to 5 p.m. Window Hours: 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The administrative office is located at 41 Belhaven Avenue. Belding Housing Commission is a federally-regulated, Equal Housing Opportunity agency.

## Flushing Hydrants

Fire Hydrant flushing is delayed until August, 2020. Dates and times to be determined.

## Board Vacancies

Applications are being accepted for city boards and commissions. These volunteer positions are appointed by the City Council and offer an excellent opportunity to make a difference and serve our community.

**Board of Review** Meets in March, July and December, serving a one-year term. The Board revises and corrects assessments and authorizes changes, additions or corrections to the assessment roll. Alternates are needed.

**Zoning Board of Appeals** - Alternate member (which serves in the absence of a regular ZBA member) is needed - Meets as needed, three year appointment or have an interest in property located in the downtown district.

A description of the focus of each board is available on the city website - [www.belding.us](http://www.belding.us) An application is also available on the city website, at city hall - 120 S. Pleasant Street, or can be mailed to your residence. Please contact Janae Cooper at 794-1900, extension 210 or [j.cooper@ci.belding.mi.us](mailto:j.cooper@ci.belding.mi.us) for additional information. Please submit applications to the city clerk.

## Music In The Park

Sponsors are still needed for this event. The cost is \$250 per event and a door prize is suggested. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor please contact Mike Tefft, Program Coordinator, by phoning or texting 616-212-4956 (after 5 p.m.) or by email at [miketefft@gmail.com](mailto:miketefft@gmail.com) or by contacting the City Clerk, Janae Cooper, at 616-794-1900, extension 210 or by email at [j.cooper@ci.belding.mi.us](mailto:j.cooper@ci.belding.mi.us).



# CITY of BELDING

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### City Hall Office Hours:

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

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## Fire Department

### Bon Fire Permits

Bon fire permits are now available at no cost. Please contact the Fire Department at 794-1900, x212 for information on installing a fire pit or obtaining your permit. Brushfires or the burning of yard wastes is strictly prohibited within the city limits.

### Severe Weather

The City's weather warning sirens will be tested on the 1st Saturday of every month at 12 p.m. starting in April and continuing 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 warning has been issued for our area. A tornado warning means a tornado has been sighted and that persons should immediately take cover.

### House Numbers

City of Belding ordinance requires visible house numbers at or near the front entrance of all residences and businesses within the city limits. Visible house numbers are critical to emergency service personnel when trying to locate the origin of an emergency call.

### Smoke Detectors

City of Belding ordinance requires working smoke detectors in all existing residential occupancies, which include all one and two-family dwellings and apartment houses. Detectors must be located on the wall or ceiling in each room used for sleeping purposes, on the wall or ceiling outside of each separate sleeping area, and one on each floor of the dwelling unit. Installation information may be obtained by contacting the Fire Dept. Check regularly and

## Dept. Public Works

### Yard Waste/Leaves

There will be no loose leaf pick-up in the spring. Yard waste and leaves must be placed in biodegradable bags and will be picked up every Friday, beginning April 17, 2020. 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

April 20, May 26, June 22, 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, except for the first pick-up in April. 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.

To ensure pick-up, please locate brush in a clear area, away from any obstacles and overhead wires.