



BELDING BUGLE



October—December
2022



Library

Belding Housing

Best wishes for a Happy and Healthy Fall Season!

As authorized by the State of Michigan under Public Act 18 of 1933 and ordinance #274 on December 19, 1950, the City of Belding created the Belding Housing Commission to assist in providing decent, safe, and affordable housing within the city. As an instrumentality of the city, the agency is governed by a board of five Commissioners, each appointed by City Council for five-year terms. The Board of Commissioners is responsible for adopting policy provisions as required under Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations and in accordance with state and local law. Funding for operations and maintenance of properties and program is derived from rent revenue and subsidy provided through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. While no local or state funding is received, the federal government mandates a Cooperation Agreement as a requirement of receiving federal funding. The Cooperation Agreement outlines the relationship between the city and the housing commission. The Cooperation Agreement requires Belding Housing Commission to provide rental assistance to eligible families and requires the City of Belding to assist in support of efficient operations. Belding Housing Commission remits the maximum allowable PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) to the city on an annual basis in its support and commitment to the local community. Persons interested in obtaining income-based rental housing may visit the administrative office located at 41 Belhaven, inquire by phone at (616) 794-1740 extension 211, or email info@beldinghousing.org for more information. Belding Housing Commission is an Equal Opportunity Housing agency.



Dial-A-Ride

Parents, make sure to sign up your student to ride with Belding Dial-A-Ride this school year! Students ages 3 to 18 ride for \$2.50. Tickets are available at City Hall, 120 S. Pleasant Street. Tickets and/or tokens are available for purchase on our buses. Also, with winter weather quickly approaching the demands on our bussing 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. (2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.) Hours of operation have changed. We are open from 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday and the first and second Saturdays of the month from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

With the upcoming holidays, we will be closed on the following dates:

- November 24: Thanksgiving Day
- November 25: Day after Thanksgiving
- December 23: Christmas Eve (observed)
- December 26: Christmas Day (observed)
- December 30: New Year's Eve (observed)



You may also visit the city's website @ www.belding.mi.us for more information. Brochures about our services are available at the City of Belding.

Museum

FUN FALL FACTS
Cinnamon was once more valuable than gold!

BEL-Belding Exploration Lab

The hands-on children's museum is celebrating its tenth anniversary on October 2nd from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Various activities for the kiddos will be spread throughout the museum. Bring your littles and help us celebrate! (Children must be accompanied by an adult. Admission is free, but your donations support our programs.)

Other special events are in the works! For the most current information, please check our Facebook page: BEL-Belding Exploration Lab.

Belding Museum

Over its thirty-five years, the museum has seen many changes! We continue to add to our collection and displays. Spend an afternoon with us the first Sunday of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is free. Handicapped parking and an elevator are available for those needing assistance. Special upcoming events include:

November 6—Quilt Show

December 4—Museum 35th Anniversary Celebration

FUN FALL FACTS

There are 7,500 varieties of apples grown throughout the world and if you tried a new variety each day, it would take you 20 years to try them all!



Great things are happening at the Belding Library this Fall & Winter!

October 3 (All Ages) we invite the community to join us for our Harvest Party at 5:00 p.m. with pumpkin decorating, a costume party, crafts and snacks.

TEEN Night will be at 3:00 p.m. on October 6 (Haunted House Workshop)

November 3 (Window Painting)

TWEEN Night will be on October 20 at 3:00 p.m. (Window Painting)

November 17 at 3 pm (Enchanted Forest Workshop), come express your creativity.

Cooking with kids (Youth) is October 13 at 3 pm and November 10 at 3 pm.

Killer Crafts/True Crime Podcast (Adult) will be on October 7 at 3 pm, November 11 at 2 pm, and December 9 at 3 pm.

Join us for an interactive who done it Murder Mystery on October 24 at 5 pm (registration suggested) prize awarded at the end.

November 7 at 5 pm (All Ages) we will have our Grateful Gathering, please bring a dish to pass, meat, rolls, and dinnerware will be provided.

On November 14 at 4 pm we will have our first Monday Matinee of the year (All Ages), join us for a movie and popcorn. The movie is PG13.

Get in the holiday spirit and join us on November 21 (Adult) to paint a Buffalo Plaid Holiday Sign.

On December 19 at 5 pm (Adult) we will have our Ugly Sweater Gathering event, so wear that ugly sweater, drink some hot chocolate, and make an etched glass water bottle.

The first Wednesday of every month at 2 pm is our Senior Social Bingo (Senior Citizens), play BINGO on our big screen for prizes.

December 14 is our Holiday Party, there will be crafts, snacks, and Santa!

All this information as well as other programs, updated schedules, periodic giveaways, and monthly (Adult) take and make crafts can all be found by following us on Facebook or Instagram.





CITY of BELDING
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Belding, MI

120 S. Pleasant St.
Belding, MI 48809
Phone: 616-794-1900, Ext. 210
Fax: 616-794-0091

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

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER
BELDING, MI 48809



City Manager

Survey

Inside this edition of the Belding Bugle you will find an insert that includes survey questions on two topics of interest to the city:

1. Bed & Breakfast and Airbnb Establishments
2. Marijuana Dispensaries (retail sales)

By answering the survey questions, it will help the decision makers of the city understand what direction the citizens would like for Belding.

A link to the blank survey is on the city website at www.belding.mi.us or may be picked up in person at City Hall during regular business hours.

Surveys can be returned by mail, by placing them in the water bill drop box located outside of City Hall, in person or by emailing a photograph or scanned copy of the completed survey to j.cooper@ci.belding.mi.us. The deadline for the survey is Monday, October 24th.

Your opinion matters and your participation is encouraged!

Newsletter

We hope you are enjoying the new "flavor" of the Belding Bugle! We have added a few **FUN FALL FACTS** to this edition for you to savor!



Upcoming Events

- October 8:** Beatnik Bazaar Farm Market
9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Gathering Place
- October 21:** B Foundation Glow Run/Walk
- October 31:** Trick-or-Treat hours 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- October 31:** Halloween Open House
6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Fire Station

City Hall Closings

- November 24:** Thanksgiving Day
- November 25:** Day after Thanksgiving
- November 28:** Day after Thanksgiving (observed)
- December 22:** Christmas Eve (observed)
- December 26:** Christmas Day (observed)
- December 29:** New Year's Eve (observed)

FUN FALL FACTS
Annually, the production of cinnamon is 27,500 to 35,000 tons!

Board/Commission Vacancies

Applications are being accepted for the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and the Museum Advisory Board. These volunteer positions are appointed by the City Council and offer an excellent opportunity to make a difference and serve our community. A description of the focus of each board is available on the city website – www.belding.mi.us.

- **Planning Commission** – Meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. serving a three-year term.
- **Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** – Meets as needed; serving a three-year term.
- **Museum Advisory Board** – Meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. serving a three-year term.

An application is available on the city website or at City Hall during regular business hours. Please contact Janae Cooper at 616-794-1900, ext. 210, or by emailing j.cooper@ci.belding.mi.us for additional information. Please submit applications to the City Clerk.



Assessor

SURPRISE! Most of us don't like to hear that word when it comes to our taxes.

Although, I am not responsible for your taxes, I am responsible for establishing your State Equalized Value, Capped Value and Taxable Value, which will determine your taxes.

If you go to the Assessor's Webpage (<https://belding.mi.us/assessor.php>) on the City of Belding Website, you will see a link at the bottom of the page that will allow you to look at your Record Card.

If the house you own in Belding is your primary residence, make sure you have the Primary Residence Exemption (PRE) at 100%.

If you recently purchased your home (January 2022- present) you may experience a significant increase on your Taxable Value in 2023 due to the uncapping of the value as required by law. I do try to identify properties that will see 30% or higher increases and send the new owners a letter to inform them of the increase in 2023. If you are a new homeowner, send me an email or give me a call and I can let you know what kind of increase you can expect.

Additionally, the Assessor's webpage can provide you with answers to other questions or links to forms you're looking for. Check it out at <https://belding.mi.us/assessor.php>.

If you have other questions or concerns, please give me a call at 616-497-1900, Ext 201, or email me at: assessor@ci.belding.mi.us.

Finance Department

****Please make out separate checks for taxes and water/sewer bills, as they are deposited at two different banks. Any checks that are combined will be returned to be separated. Thank you!****

Taxes:

Summer 2022 taxes were due by August 15, 2022, any unpaid taxes have now been assessed a 3% late fee. Please contact the treasurer at 616-794-1900 ext. 203 to find out the total amount owing before making out checks for payment.

Winter 2022 taxes will be mailed on December 1, 2022 and will be due, in office, by 2/14/2023 without a 3% late fee. This bill will NOT include any unpaid summer tax amounts.

Water/Sewer:

Water and/or sewer bills for the cycle dates of June 1 through August 31, 2022 are billed on October 1, 2022. Payment must be received in office between October 1st and 30th. Any unpaid accounts after October 30th will be assessed a 10% late fee and a second notice will be mailed. If the total amount, including late fee, is not paid by November 15, 2022, a \$75.00 shut-off listing fee is added to the account and the address will be placed on the shut-off list. The total balance, including all fees and penalties, is required to be paid in full before the water service is restored.

Water and Sewer emergencies?

Please call 616-794-1900, ext. 217, Monday - Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. After hours, please call Central Dispatch at 616-527-0400 and they will contact the on-duty DPW employee.

Department of Public Works

- Last brush pick-up for 2022: Friday, October 28th
- Yard waste bag pick-up will be every Monday with the last pick-up date for 2022 being Friday, November 18th.
- Loose leaf pick-up will start in October and continue until the snow flies.



FUN FALL FACTS
It takes approximately 36 apples (or 16 pounds) to make 1 gallon of apple cider!



FUN FALL FACTS
There is no actual pumpkin in pumpkin spice!

City Clerk

UPCOMING ELECTION

- November 8th - General Election



REGISTERING TO VOTE

You can register at one of the following locations:

- Online at Michigan.gov/VoterRegistration
- At a Secretary of State branch office
- At the city clerk's office
- At any state agency that provides public assistance or services to people with disabilities
- Through a voter registration drive
- By mailing in a completed voter registration application, postmarked at least 15 days before the election.
- 14 days or less before the election, all applications must be submitted in person to the city clerk

REQUESTING AN ABSENT VOTER BALLOT

All registered voters in Michigan are eligible to request an absentee ballot without providing a reason. Voters may request an absentee voter ballot by:

- Completing an online application at Michigan.gov/Vote
- By submitting an application, letter, or postcard to the City Clerk
- Requests for absentee voter ballots may be delivered by hand, via postal mail, fax or email, **as long as a signature is visible**
- Online and mail requests for an absentee voter ballot must be received by the city clerk no later than 5 p.m. the Friday before the election
- If you're already registered at your current address, you can request an absentee voter ballot, **in person**, at the city clerk's office anytime up to 4 p.m. on the day prior to the election

Absentee ballot applications for the November 8th General Election have been sent out to voters who are on the permanent AV list. Absentee ballots will be sent out once they are received from the County.

IF YOU ARE VOTING ABSENTEE

- If you make a mistake, do not attempt to correct it on your ballot by using white-out or by making additional marks on the ballot—contact the City Clerk to discuss your options.
- Remember that you **MUST** sign the back of the return envelope in which your absentee ballot is contained
- Seal the envelope
- Return your completed ballot AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. If it is not received by 8 p.m. on election day, your vote will not be counted.

VOTING IN PERSON

- You may vote in the polls from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day. **Please bring valid ID with you.** Precincts 1 & 2 vote at St. Joseph's Church and Precinct 3 vote at the Belrockton.

FUN FALL FACTS

When leaves change color in the fall they are actually becoming their true color as in the summer the chlorophyll takes over and causes them to turn green and hide their color!

Police Department

- The Belding Police Department would like to remind you that school has started. It is very important for drivers to watch out for our students walking to and from school. They may dart into the street at any time or be walking in the street where there are no sidewalks available.
- Drivers need to observe the school bus flashing lights. If the red lights are flashing you must **STOP**.
- If you are a parent or guardian picking your child up from school or after school activity, please be mindful not to use or park in emergency fire lanes.
- Take some time to check the security of your home beginning with the locks on doors and windows.
- Trim bushes and shrubbery and place lights on timers.
- If you are going to be gone for an extended period of time, please contact the police department and request that your property be placed on the vacation property inspection list during your absence. Forms are available on the City website.
- While you are away it is recommended that a trusted neighbor, friend or family member also check the interior of your residence.
- You should stop mail delivery and have grass mowed or sidewalks / driveways shoveled if we receive snow.
- Check your tires for proper tread depth and air level.



As a reminder, the yearly **NO PARKING 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.** will be enforced starting November 1, 2022 thru March 31, 2023. Many of us do not want to think about it, but winter weather may start to appear as soon as October. Now is the time to start thinking about winter driving. Make sure that your vehicle is ready for inclement weather conditions.

- Check all fluid levels and the brakes.
- Make sure that the engine coolant is rated for below freezing temperatures and fresh enough to prevent rust.
- Give yourself extra time and drive more slowly when it is foggy, raining or snowing and conditions are hazardous.
- Increase your distance from the vehicle in front of you; stopping distances increase in inclement weather.
- Always drive with your lights on so that you may be more visible to others.
- Keep an emergency kit in your car that has a shovel, ice scraper, flashlight, jumper cables and flares or reflective triangles.
- Kitty litter or sand can be used for traction if you get stuck.
- A small tool kit that has screwdrivers, wrench and pliers.
- Blankets and warm weather clothing along with non-perishable food.
- Keep your gas tank full and do not let it get below a half tank. This will keep condensation to a minimum and avoid gas line freeze.



FUN FALL FACTS
Pumpkins are fruits!

Code Enforcement

Property owners and residents are responsible for the maintenance of their property and the adjoining right of way. Please take the time to trim along the edge of the roadway, near sidewalks, around sign posts and fire hydrants. Sidewalks need to have the grass trimmed that grows over them. This process will define the edge of the sidewalk for walkers as well as promote drainage and maintain the integrity of the concrete.

Brush may be placed at the curb after the 18th of the month and will be picked up the last full week of the month. Remember that once your brush has been picked up there will not be another pickup. The last pickup is in October.

Yard waste must be placed in paper bags and at the curb **NO EARLIER** than 6:00 p.m. Sunday for pick up Monday.

Loose Leaf pickup will begin in Mid- October. Make sure that the leaves are raked to the curb for pickup. If you wait until spring they will have to be bagged. **THERE IS NO LOOSE-LEAF PICKUP IN THE SPRING.**

Solid Waste

All solid waste containers shall be placed curbside not later than 6:00 a.m. of the day regularly scheduled for collection, but no earlier than 24 hours prior to scheduled. Once the trash is collected the can must be taken back to the house or garage and cannot remain at the curb.

Winter weather and sidewalks: With the arrival of winter nearly upon us, please remember that **it is the responsibility of the owner/occupant to clear all snow and/or ice from any sidewalks adjacent to their residence WITHIN 12 hours of ice formation on sidewalks and WITHIN 24 hours of snowfall.** This will allow safe passage on sidewalks for all walkers throughout the winter weather months. If everyone does their part it will make Belding a safer place to live, work and play.

Fire Department

Clarifications regarding a Bon Fire Pit : It is a City ordinance that you have a permit for a bon fire within the city limits. It is against the city ordinance to burn anything except firewood in a bon fire pit. You cannot burn leaves or brush in a pit. Call the Fire Department at 794-1900 x212 if you have any questions.

Leaves can be bagged and placed at the curb for pick up. Brush can also be placed at the curb for pick up. See the City's website for dates and times for pick up service.

Address numbers: 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 delays response to your emergency.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors: October is the time to change your detector batteries, if they have them. If you have an alarm from one of your detectors, you can call the Fire Department for assistance.

B Foundation Glow Run

The B Foundation is pleased to celebrate the Glow Run tradition for the 12th year. The B Foundation serves members of the Belding Community affected by cancer. On Friday, October 21st, please show your support by turning on your porch light and adhering to the race route road closures before and during the race. The race begins at 10 p.m. and roads will be closed from 9:45 p.m. until the end of the event. Community volunteers and police officers will man all intersections in order to ensure safety. This event will only interrupt normal traffic for approximately 1 1/2—2 hours.

Affected streets include portions of Hall Street, E. Washington Street, Hanover Street, E. Congress Street, Broas Street, Depot Street, Bridge Street, and Ellis Avenue. Ellis Avenue (from Bridge Street) to M-91 will be closed to traffic during the race. This is a destination run (Rudness to Candlestone) and Belding Area Schools will provide a free shuttle to transport participants from Candlestone to Rudness Field prior to the start of the race. For more information about this event or about The B Foundation, visit Facebook or www.thebfoundation.org.





Survey Questions

Bed and Breakfast and Air BnB Establishments

The City of Belding is considering allowing Bed and Breakfast type establishments within the city limits. Currently, these types of facilities are not permitted. The City would like to know your opinions on this topic. Please answer the following questions and return your answers to city hall. You do not need to include your name or address.

Do you favor having bed and breakfast establishments in the city? ___Y ___N

If yes, in which zoning district(s) should they be allowed

___ Single family residential ___ Multi-family residential ___ Commercial districts

Do you favor certain restrictions being required of these establishments? ___ Y ___ N If yes, which of the following restrictions do you believe are necessary?

___ Months of Operation ___ Length of Stay ___ Number of Guests ___ Number of Rooms

___ Provisions for off-street parking ___ Building Maintenance Standards ___ Regular Inspections

Comments:

Marijuana Dispensaries (retail sales)

Currently, the City of Belding does not allow retail sales of recreational or medical marijuana. The City would like to know if residents are in favor of permitting retail sales of either, or both recreational and medical marijuana. Please answer the following questions and return your answers to city hall. Again, you do not need to include your name or address.

Do you favor allowing the sale of recreational and/or medical marijuana within the city limits? ___ Y ___ N

If Yes, which type of marijuana sales should be allowed?

___ Recreational ___ Medical ___ Both

If yes, in which zoning districts should sales be allowed?

___ Downtown ___ Commercial ___ Industrial

Do you favor certain restrictions being required of these establishments?

___ Days/Hours of Operation ___ Signage ___ Maximum Size of Facility

___ Location Within Distance of Schools, Day Cares and Churches (1000' required by Michigan law)

___ Drive Up Sales ___ Total number of Facilities Permitted within the City Limits

Comments:

PLACE
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HERE

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