



*Welcomes you to our community!*

### Welcome Message

We would like to welcome you as a new resident to the City of Belding. As a rural close-knit community, Belding has a lot to offer through its small-town charm, abundant natural areas within and around the city, and its proximity to the Grand Rapids metropolitan area. We are proud to offer first-class services to the residents by our staff.

The small-town charm shows when people know each other, take the time to talk to each other, and help each other time after time. The pace of life is a little slower and more meaningful. It is easy to make friends and to get involved through one of the community groups, clubs, city boards and commissions, churches, or through the local school system. A strong willingness to help those in need also exists throughout the community through the churches and non-profit organizations.

An abundance of natural areas surround the City of Belding. Within the city, there are five parks, four being situated along the beautiful Flat River which is known for canoeing, kayaking, and tubing. Lightning Bend Park, a 128-acre nature preserve along the Flat River, has walking trails throughout and is the home to SMASH Park Disc Golf course. The one park not along the Flat River is Demorest Field, which is one of the best Little League ball fields in West Michigan.

The Flat River State Game Area starts in the northeastern part of the city and goes north, almost to the City of Greenville. Hunting, fishing, and recreation opportunities abound in this area.

Although Belding is a small town set in a beautiful rural area, the close proximity to the Grand Rapids area enables one to live in a small town while having the benefits of a large city, such as cultural attractions, restaurants, and a large employment base.

We believe you will be impressed by the services provided by the city. As a full-service community we provide full-time police and fire services. The Fire Department has achieved an Insurance Service Organization (ISO) rating of 4, which is excellent for cities of our size. We have a Dial-A-Ride bus service which provides transportation anywhere within the city and to Greenville and Ionia. The Department of Public Works provides services including, but not limited to, water, sewer, street and park maintenance, brush and leaf pickup, and many others which improve the quality of life in the city.

The library is an amazingly beautiful facility comprised of a historic 1917 building, along with an addition completed in 2007.

The Belding Museum is a treasure, with three floors of artifacts, including the BEL, an interactive children's museum.

The Belding Housing Commission provides over one-hundred twenty-five affordable housing units.

Our Veterans Memorial at Central Riverside Park is second to none!

Prompt, courteous, and individual attention is our goal as city staff. We are here to serve you and assist in improving the quality of life for the residents of the City of Belding. Please visit our website at [www.belding.mi.us](http://www.belding.mi.us) for more information about the City of Belding. Also, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. Thank you very much and we hope that you enjoy living in the City of Belding.

120 S. Pleasant Street  
Belding, MI 48809  
Phone: 616-794-1900, Ext. 210  
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.**  
**Closed Friday through Sunday**  
[www.belding.mi.us](http://www.belding.mi.us)

 City of Belding

### Message from the City Council

The Belding City Council and the residents of the City of Belding would like to thank you for choosing our City as the place you will call home. The residents of Belding love our community nestled into the banks of the Flat River and we hope that you will too!

We would like to extend an invitation for you to attend the Belding City Council meetings which are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. We would love for you to attend!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact City Hall at 794-1900 or any of the Council Members by accessing the City Council page on the City website at [www.belding.mi.us](http://www.belding.mi.us). Thank you again for choosing to call Belding home!

### Keeping You Informed

The City of Belding works very hard to keep our residents informed. Please visit our website at [www.belding.mi.us](http://www.belding.mi.us) or subscribe to our Facebook page, *City of Belding*. We additionally publish a quarterly newsletter, the *Belding Bugle* which is mailed directly to your residence. Our website provides a quick link to the Belding Bugle as it contains beneficial information for you to reference throughout the year. It also contains some fun things as well! These three informational tools will keep you informed of dates, events, meetings and much, much more!

### Park or Community Center Rentals and Special Events

Need space to host a family reunion, a bridal shower or some other special event? Contact City Hall at 616-794-1900, extension 100, to inquire on date and time availability.

**Note: Alcohol is strictly prohibited in the parks, Pavilions, and both in or around the Belrockton Community Center.**

### Unique to Belding

- Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament
- Beatnik Bazaar
- Annual Labor Day Celebration
- Home for the Holidays

## Dial-A-Ride

We are open Monday – Friday, **6:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.**

Please allow up to 30 minutes for pick-up.

Fares are as follows:

- Adults - \$3.00
- Students (4 and up) - \$2.50
- Seniors (Ages 65 and up) - \$1.50
- Persons with Disabilities - \$1.50
- Children ages 3 and under accompanied by an adult ride for FREE
- Ride passes are available on the buses and at City Hall, 120 S. Pleasant Street.

Ticket prices are as follows:

- Adult - \$30.00
- Student - \$25.00
- Seniors/Persons with Disabilities - \$15.00

Each ticket gets you 10 paid rides and the 11<sup>th</sup> ride is **FREE!**

Lift-equipped buses are available.

Food, beverages and smoking are not allowed on the bus.

Drivers do not carry change, so please have your exact fare ready.

## **CONNECTING ROUTES**

We connect with both Greenville and Ionia buses.

The schedules and are as follows:

### Greenville:

Call ahead 45 minutes to schedule

9:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

1:30 p.m.

When calling to schedule, please tell the dispatcher whether you need a wheelchair or walker lift, and where in Greenville you will be going. The dispatcher will set up your ride for you. Please be prepared to leave no later.

### Ionia:

Call ahead 45 minutes to schedule

8:30 a.m.

1:00 p.m.

This ride is FREE and stops at DHS, MI Works, and the Ionia Depot. The driver will pick up 15-20 minutes before leaving for Ionia. Please call our office at 616-794-3278 for more information!

## Call "MISS DIG"

Remember to call MISS DIG at 1-800-482-7171 before doing any digging on your property!

This toll-free call alerts utility companies of your plans so they can stake the location of utilities on your property in order to prevent you from hitting or cutting them while digging. Utility companies can bill for damages if they are not notified.

## Police Department

The Belding Police Department is very proactive and provides 24-hour service to residents and visitors. The department performs routine patrol activities that include criminal investigations, traffic crash investigations, traffic enforcement, property inspections and code enforcement.

The Volunteer Police Reserve Unit is a valuable asset to the police department and community. They may accompany full time officers, and provide security for community events and high school football games.

If you plan to be away from home for an extended period of time, the police offer Vacation Property Checks. This service is FREE. Additional information, along with the request form for this service can be found on the City of Belding website at [www.belding.mi.us](http://www.belding.mi.us).

Please note a few of the city ordinances:

- There is *No Parking on City Streets* from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. from November 1st through March 31st. Signs are posted on the major streets entering the city.
- Please keep sidewalks clear of ice and snow and remove accumulation within 24 hours of an ice storm or snowfall.
- Vehicles must be parked with the right wheel to the curb or edge of the roadway.
- Unregistered or inoperative vehicles must not remain on public or private property for more than 48 hours.
- There is no front yard parking. Vehicles must be parked in the driveway.
- No motorized vehicles are allowed on any city park pathway.
- Two cats and two dogs are allowed per residence.
- Domestic animals may not run at large, except on owner's property. Dogs must be on a leash not exceeding six feet in length when in a public park or on a public pathway. Please collect all dog waste and dispose of properly.
- Grass can be no longer than 10 inches and leaves must be raked.

## Bon Fire Permits

City ordinance requires residents who wish to have recreational bon fires to first obtain a permit from the Fire Department. Please contact the Fire Department at 794-1900, extension 212 to discuss the requirements for a bon-fire pit or to schedule a bon-fire pit inspection. Burning garbage and/or yard waste or having a brush fire is prohibited within the city.

## Severe Weather

The City's weather warning sirens will be tested on the 1st Saturday of every month at 1 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 street numbers are critical to emergency service personnel when trying to locate the origin of an emergency call.

## Belding Housing Commission

The Belding Housing Commission, established in 1950, provides affordable rental housing within the city limits for eligible individuals and families. Apartments are available in five locations, offering from one to four-bedroom apartments, with rents based on income or a flat rent basis. Handicapped accessible apartments and parking are available, and routine maintenance is provided. The commission operates under regulations established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and is a Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Agency. Inquiries may be made at the management office, located at 41 Belhaven Street, or by calling (616) 794- 1740.



## Yard Waste/Leaves

Yard waste and leaves placed in biodegradable bags will be picked up every Monday from late April through mid-November. Please place bags at the curb on Friday at 7 a.m., but no earlier than 24 hours before pick-up. Bags must not exceed 35 pounds and cannot contain other materials, such as rocks, shingles, garbage, sticks or brush. Loose leaf pick-up will take place once the leaves fall to when the snow flies. Watch Facebook or the Belding Bugle for exact dates. A loose leaf pick-up is not held in the spring—all leaves must be bagged at that time.

## Brush Pick-Up

Brush pick up dates can be found on our website or in the Belding Bugle. The total amount of brush and limbs per household shall not exceed 10 cubic yards per month. This may be waived at the discretion of the Director of Public Works in cases of devastating storms. To ensure pick up, locate brush in a clear area, away from obstacles and wires. Brush may not be placed any earlier than the 18th of the month in the months pick up services are offered. (Typically the last full week of the month, April through October).

## Billing Schedule/Credit Card Payments

### **Water/Sewer Bills**

Billing Cycle Dates and Month Billed:

January 1st Bill – 9/1-11/30 cycle dates

– Due by 1/30 without 10% late fee

April 1st Bill – 12/1-2/28(29) cycle dates

– Due by 4/30 without 10% late fee

July 1st Bill – 3/1-5/31 cycle dates

– Due by 10/30 without 10% late fee

October 1st Bill – 6/1-8/31 cycle dates

– Due by 10/30 without 10% late fee

After the 30th of the month a 10% late fee is applied, a "Shut-Off Notice" is issued, and a 15-day grace period is instituted. If the bill remains unpaid at the end of the 15-day grace period, a \$75.00 shut-off charge is added to the bill and water services are discontinued. Services 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).

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](https://belding.mi.us/bill_pay.php). A 3% service fee is applied to all credit/debit card payments, both online and in the office. 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 616-794-1900 ext. 217 and we will be happy to help.

## Garbage Service

Vendors providing garbage pick-up services in the City of Belding must be licensed by the City. Please refer to the approved list on our website or contact the City Clerk as vendors are approved on a yearly basis and may change from time to time.

## Contact Numbers

Phone (616) 794-1900, followed by the extension number unless indicated otherwise.

Receptionist/General Inquiries	100
City Manager	216
City Clerk	210
City Treasurer/Finance Director	203
Chief of Police	222
Fire Chief	208
Code Enforcement/Zoning	209
Water Department/Cemetery	217
IT/Accounts Payable	202
City Assessor	201
Department of Public Works	616-794-1340
Housing Commission	616-794-1740
Library	616-794-1450
Dial-A-Ride	616-794-3278

## Tree City USA

Belding is proud to be recognized as a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation.

*Once again,  
Welcome to Belding!*