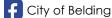


120 S. Pleasant St. Belding, MI 48809

Phone: 616-794-1900, Ext. 210 Website: www.belding.mi.us



City Hall Administrative Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. PAID Belding, MI

PRSRT STD

U.S. Postage

Dog Days of Summer



Remember to keep your pets calm and make them feel safe during fireworks!

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER BELDING, MI 48809

What Are the Dog Days of Summer? The term "Dog Days" traditionally refers to a period of particularly hot and humid weather occurring during the summer months of July and August in the Northern Hemisphere. This period of sweltering weather coincides with the year's rising of Sirius, the Dog Star, which is part of the constellation Canis Majoris. Sirius is the brightest star in the sky, with the exception of the sun. In ancient Greece, Egypt, and Rome, the "combined heat" of super-bright Sirius and the sun was thought to be the cause of summer's sweltering temperatures. The name "Sirius" even stems from the Ancient Greek seirios, meaning "scorching."



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS & SERVICES:

City Hall Administrative offices are open Monday through Thursday (excluding holidays/observed holidays) from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 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. Our website and Facebook page provide a vast array of information, answering most of your questions—or you can always email or text us. As a convenience, payments can be made online, with the credit card vendor assessing a nominal fee. 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!

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! A description of the focus of each board/commission is available on the city website, www.belding.mi.us or you may contact the City Clerk. Currently there are one or more vacancies on the following boards/commissions:

- Building Authority 2
- Property Maintenance Code Board of Appeals 1

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 and are considered for appointment as positions become available. An application is available on the city's website—www.belding.mi.us, or at City Hall — 120 S. Pleasant Street, during regular business hours. Please contact the City Clerk at 616-794-1900, extension 210, or by emailing j.ortego@ci.belding.mi.us for additional information. Please submit applications to the City Clerk.

MEET THE MAYOR: Mayor Bruce Meyers invites you to join him on the second Saturday of every month to openly discuss any topic of interest regarding local issues. There is no set agenda. Meetings are held from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Pere Marquette Depot located at 100 Depot Street. Meeting dates this quarter are July 13th, August 10th and September 14th.

NEW!!!

CITY EMAIL BULLETINS AND/OR TEXT ALERTS: We are excited to announce that we are expanding our communication abilities! You now

have the option(s) to receive emails and/or text messages directly from Belding City Offices regarding event information, meeting reminders, notifications, special alerts and more, direct from Belding City Offices.

Scan the QR Code at the right with your smart phone or visit www.belding.mi.us and complete the Get City of Belding



News "Sign Up" just beneath the Quick Link buttons. (See sample screenshot to the right.) We will never share your name, email or phone number with anyone, nor will we send spam—just quick, concise City-related information. Help us to communicate more effectively with

	City of Belding News
	Timely Information From City of Belding Offices.
☑ Get E	mail News Bulletins
Get To	ext Message Alerts
Your Nar	ne
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Text Pho	ne ligits (3 digit area code + 7 digit phone number). No
Text Pho 10 digits Must be 10 di	iglts (3 digit area code + 7 digit phone number). No aces.
Text Pho 10 digits Must be 10 digits dashes or spi	iglts (3 digit area code + 7 digit phone number). No aces.

you—sign up for City Email Bulletins and/or Text Message Alerts today!

CITY HALL HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

Thursday, July 4 Independence Day Monday, September 2 Labor Day



PARKS & RECREATION
DEPARTMENT: Dance/
Fitness classes with Instructor Tammy Youngs will resume in mid-August. Watch for updates on City of Belding .

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS:

Music by the River:

See back cover of the Belding Bugle for dates; 7 p.m., at East Riverside Park

Silk City Market:

July 13, August 10 & September 14, 9 a.m.—1 p.m. at the Gathering Place

Gus Macker 50th Anniversary:

August 3 & 4

Hazardous Materials Disposal:

August 17

8 a.m.—noon; Behind the Fire Station

Labor Day Celebration:

August 30 & 31 and September 1 & 2

Labor Day Fireworks:

September 1 (Rain date September 2)



2023 WATER QUALITY REPORT: The City of Belding's 2023 Water Quality Report is available on the home page of the city's website, www.belding.mi.us, under the Water Quality Report heading. All city residents should have received one in the mail prior to July 1, 2024.



POLICE DEPARTMENT: Summer is here and that means increased vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Good times can come to a 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 for its 50th Anniversary on August 3rd and August 4th. 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 <u>tentatively</u> will take place starting Friday August 30th and run through Labor Day September 2nd. 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 as well as the fireworks.



ANIMAL CONTROL/ENFORCEMENT/BLIGHT: 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.

Grass clippings are no longer allowed to be loose or to be dumped curbside. Grass clippings MUST be placed in paper yard waste bags and set at the curb by 7:00 a.m. Monday. The bags MAY NOT be put out before Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m.

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 be removed within 24 hours of pick-up.

BLIGHT:

Grass shall be no longer than 10 inches.

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.

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 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.

Address numbers:

It would be appreciated if everyone would double check your address numbers on your house. They should be a distinct color that contrast with the surrounding color so they are noticeable. They should be located on the side of your house that faces the road that your address is on. They should also be clear of vegetation and large enough to see from the road.

House Access (driveways):

It is your responsibility to provide proper access to your residence for fire trucks and the ambulance. We never expect to use them, but it is best to plan ahead. Our trucks are big. We need the following clearances:

- Height: 14' clear
- Drive width: 12' of solid surface capable of supporting 70,000#
- Vegetation width at drive: 20' wide (4' beyond the drive on each side)

Hazardous Materials Pick Up:

Note the new location. The Hazardous Materials pick up will be from 8 a.m. until noon on August 17th behind the Fire Station. This is provided by the county at no cost, but donations do help the county to continue to provide this service in our local area.

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. Watch the little ones. **Enjoy your Summer!**

CITY COUNCIL: At the November 5, 2024 General Election there will be two (2) open seats for the office of Belding City Council Member. The two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes at the General Election will each serve a four-(4) year term. Informational packets regarding the number of signatures required, filing deadlines, City/Township Non-Partisan Nominating Petitions and other necessary forms to file for candidacy, including notarization services, are available in the City Clerk's Office. In an attempt to alleviate any filing errors these forms are not available on the City website. The filing deadline is Tuesday, July 23, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in the City Clerk's Office. There are NO exceptions. You are urged to file early to allow ample time to correct any errors or signature deficiencies. For more information on becoming a candidate please contact the City Clerk at 616-794-1900, extension 210 or by email at j.ortego@ci.belding.mi.us.

<u>DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:</u> New Director—The City of Belding would like to announce that Alex Bannister was recently promoted to fill the position of the Director of Public Works. Bannister began his employment with the city in 2023, offering prior DPW knowledge and experience. Over the past year, he has excelled in his current role. We look forward to working with Bannister in his new capacity. Congratulations, Alex!

Brush Pick-up 2024—Brush pick-up will be the last full week of each month as follows: April, June, August and September. TO ENSURE PICKUP, please place brush at the curb by 7:00 a.m., no earlier than the 18th of the month (April, June, August and September). The total amount of brush or limbs per household shall not exceed 10 cubic yards per month. Brush must be in line with the street at the curb but not in the road. All cut ends must face the same direction. Branches must not exceed 6 feet in length and 3 inches in diameter. Brush must be located in a clear area, at least 4 feet away from any obstructions, including but not limited to: Consumers poles and guide wires, telephone poles, overhead wires, walls, fences, mailboxes or any other obstacles that could prevent a safe and efficient pickup for staff and equipment. FAILURE TO FOLLOW ALL OF THE ABOVE INSTRUC-TIONS WILL RESULT IN NON-REMOVAL. Yard Waste Pick-up 2024— Yard waste pick-up will begin the last full week in April and will continue every Monday until the last week of September. Bags must be biodegradable. Bags must not exceed 35 pounds. Bags must not contain any other materials, including but not limited to rocks, sand, soil, shingles, garbage, sticks, or brush. Bags must be at the curb by 7:00 a.m. but no earlier than 6:00 p.m. the night before. Loose Leaf Pick-up 2024—Loose leaf pick-up will start the first week of October and will continue, weather permitting. NOTE: NO BAGS WILL BE PICKED UP DURING LOOSE LEAF PICKUP. Fire Hydrant Flushing 2024— Fire hydrant flushing will take place the week of September 8 from 12:00 a.m. (midnight) to 7:00 a.m. If you experience discolored water, flush the cold water faucet closest to the water meter until the water runs clear. Hazardous Items—Do not flush syringes, even if they claim to be disposable or flushable. They can potentially contaminate the water, injure wastewater workers, injure pets or spread disease. These items do not break down and can block sewer lines and can cause expensive repairs to your water/sewer system or even the public wastewater system. Syringes, hypodermic needles, lancets and epi pens should only be disposed of in a Sharps container (puncture- resistant, leak-proof and either red or labeled as hazardous). Corewell Health, located at 1227 W. State Road in Belding accepts sharps for disposal as long as they are in a sharp's container or talk to your prescribing physician or your pharmacy for how and where to dispose of these items, as well as any other medication(s) that need to be disposed of. Despite what the packaging may recommend, the ONLY things that should be flushed are human waste and toilet paper.

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CITY CLERK

The State Primary Election is Tuesday, August 6, 2024.

All **in-person Election Day** voting for registered voters in the City of Belding will take place at the Belrockton, 108 Hanover Street.

FOR SECURITY PURPOSES

- —*All voters should enter the polling location through the front door and, after casting your ballot, exit through the back door. An Election Official will direct you.
- Please bring your photo ID with you to the polls.
- You may park in the Masonic Lodge and library parking lots while voting.
- Additional handicap parking spots will be designated in the parking lot behind the Belrockton.



*Only voters requiring special accommodations may enter the polling location through the back door.

Michigan Election Law now allows for nine (9) days of **Early in-person voting**. <u>ALL</u> early in-person voting for registered voters in Ionia County takes place in downtown Ionia at 302 W. Main Street (the former Mercantile Bank/Ionia County National Bank Iocation) starting Saturday, July 27 through Sunday, August 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ALL registered voters in Michigan have the right to vote by mail. Registered voters in the City of Belding may request an APPLICATION to receive an absentee ballot for a specific election OR join a PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT list to automatically receive a ballot for EVERY election affecting the City of Belding.

Absentee ballots may be returned by US Mail in the postage paid envelope that is included with your ballot, in person at City Hall or in the drop box outside of City Hall.

To get an Absentee Ballot Application, to join the Permanent Absentee Ballot list or to find answers to many other election related questions, there are several resources available.

Visit www.belding.mi.us/city clerk.php, or scan the QR Code below. You may also contact the City Clerk, Janae Ortego, at j.ortego@ci.belding.mi.us or by calling 616-794-1900, extension 210. The City Clerk's Office will be open on Sunday, August 4th from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. ONLY for the purposes of registering voters and issuing/receiving absentee ballots.

REMEMBER that you can only vote for candidates under ONE PARTY in a Primary Election. Crossover votes are not allowed.





FINANCE DEPARTMENT: Taxes: The 2024 summer property taxes can be paid starting July 1, 2024 with payment due IN OFFICE by August 15, 2024 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 postmark or check dates as the date of payment.

Please note that when a property sells, the taxable value becomes uncapped at 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 will likely result in an increase to the property taxes, and in some cases, this can be a significant increase. If you have questions on this, feel free to call the Treasurer's Office at 616-794-1900 ext. 203 for assistance.

Water and/or sewer bills are invoiced and mailed quarterly. Below is the billing schedule: January 1st Bill: (September 1 through November 30 cycle dates) Due by January 30th April 1st Bill: (December 1 through February 28/29 cycle dates) Due by April 30th July 1st Bill: (March 1 through May 31 cycle dates) Due by July 30th October 1st Bill: (June 1 through August 31 cycle dates) Due by October 30th

Water/Sewer: Payment for quarterly bills 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 discontinued. Services so discontinued 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).

Point you know you can build a credit on your water/sewer bill account by making smaller payments PROIR to when the bills are mailed out? Several residents either drop off payments or set up Bill Pay with their bank to send a check for the average of their quarterly bill weekly, bi-weekly or monthly throughout the year to build a credit on their accounts. Any payment made before the bills have been printed will be reflected as a credit on the bill and you then would only owe the remaining balance, or could even have a credit remaining depending on how much of a credit you have built. If you have any questions on this call the office at 616-794-1900 ext. 217 and we will gladly help.

You can make 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 taxes, water/sewer bills and other city invoices online by visiting the city's website at https://belding.mi.us/bill_pay.php. When paying online for your water/sewer bill, you can now look up the account information by using the BS&A Online Pin number located on your water/sewer bill. 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. 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.

As a courtesy to our residents in the months of June, July and August, when children are cooling off on warm summer days by taking a dip in the pool or running through the sprinkler, and when people are more likely to be watering their lawns, gardens and plants, a sewer discount is calculated 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. The credit is applied to the sewer portion of the billing in October.

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 payment.



ASSESSOR: I have started the field work necessary to begin updating property record card information for the City of Belding. This year Ken Moran will also be working in the field. He will have a City of Belding ID and a magnetic sign on his vehicle identifying him as from the Assessing Department for the City of Belding.

The State Tax Commission recommends all properties 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 get 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 have or a link to a form you are looking for. Check it out! If you have questions or concerns, I can be reached at assessor@ci.belding.mi.us or 616-794-1900, extension 201. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

<u>DIAL-A-RIDE:</u> Just a reminder that **Senior Project Fresh Coupons** expire October 31st. Senior Project Fresh enables eligible lonia County residents, who are at least 60 years of age, to receive a coupon booklet during the summer months to redeem at Farmer's Markets throughout Michigan in exchange for fresh fruits and vegetables. Applications are available at the Ionia County Commission on Aging. This is an income-based program and is on a first-come-first-served basis. For questions regarding the Senior Project Fresh Program, please contact the Ionia County Commission on Aging at 616-527-5365. **Belding Dial-A-Ride** makes routine trips to Paulson's Farmer's Market. To arrange for transport, call us at 616-794-3278 during normal business hours.

BELDING EXPLORATION LAB & HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The Belding Exploration Lab is a hands-on children's museum that is open each Wednesday in the summer from 1-4 p.m. We are also open on the first Sunday of the month along with the historical museum. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Admission is free. Donations are welcomed and appreciated as your generosity supports our programs.

Please note that we will be CLOSED from Wednesday, July 31 through Tuesday, August 7 due to the 50th Anniversary Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament and the Tuesday, August 6th State Primary Election.

During the Labor Day Celebration, we will be open Saturday, August 31, Sunday, September 1 and Monday, September 2 from 1-4 p.m. Look for our fun scavenger hunt as part of the "Welcome to the Jungle!" weekend!

For the most current information, please find us on BEL-Belding Exploration Lab or Belding Museum.

BELDING HOUSING COMMISSION

Spring and Summer offers opportunity to use our 'green thumbs', demonstrate gardening talents, and create pleasing curb appeal in our surrounding spaces. Residents who enjoy gardening have increased interest in this activity, and the result is beautiful. Following an annual contest to judge individual garden areas, an ice cream social is held, during which prizes are awarded to all residents who participate. The Belding Gardeneers are especially appreciated for lending their expertise in this process by judging and providing their selections for top prize winners. Efforts by residents to add to the beauty is appreciated and we look forward to the results!

Incentives offered by Consumers Energy and DTE Energy to reduce costs for agency operations and for residents continues. Replacement of lighting in all units, common spaces and perimeters is the most recently completed project. Beneficial rebates will also be obtained for annual equipment inspections, heating and water heater replacements. Every opportunity to reduce costs has a positive impact for residents and allows the agency to devote resources to other needs. The opportunity to work with these utilities has been very much appreciated.

The Belhaven Community room is available for use by community and civic members with a need for meeting, networking or gathering space. The room is used weekly by the Ionia County Nutrition Lunch Program, local card players, and a small coffee club who gather to socialize. Information on the lunch program may be obtained from the Commission on Aging (616-527-5365). Other inquiries regarding space availability, card playing or coffee club may be made by contacting the housing commission administrative office.

Applications and inquiries for safe and affordable rental housing with the housing commission is available by contacting the administrative office Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Location: 41 Belhaven, Belding, MI 48809 Phone: 794-1740,

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Window hours: 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Email: info@beldinghousing.org. 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.

LIBRARY:

JULY

July 3, 10, 24 @ 10:30 AM Storytime

July 3 @ 2 PM Senior Social Bingo

July 8 @ 2 PM-3 PM YOUTH, Reading with Ritz

July 10 @ 6 PM Author Visit, Ross Richardson from MICHIGANMYSTERIES.COM

July 11 @ 1 PM YOUTH, Nerf Capture the Flag

July 15 @ 5 PM ADULT, Mason Jar Luminary.

Registration required and begins June 25th

July 17 @ 10:30 AM Destination Storytime, Demorest fields.

July 18 @ 1 PM Mobile Petting Zoo

July 22 @ 2 PM-3 PM Youth, Lolly at the Library

July 22-26 During Library Hours Adult, Summer Reading activity Scavenger Hunt @ the library.

July 24 @ 6 PM (EVENING Book Club) This Tender Land

July 25 @ 10 AM (MORNING Book Club) The Dutch House

July 25 @ 1 PM TEEN, Bob Ross Paintings and Candy

July 27 Summer Reading Ends. All tickets for drawings must be turned in.

July 31 @ 10:30 AM Avery's Story Time, Ocean Meets Sky AUGUST

August 2 @ 3-4:30 PM ADULT Drop in craft Macramé Mermaid Keychain.

August 7, 14, 28 @ 10:30 AM Story Time

August 7 @ 2 PM Senior Social Bingo

August 8 @ 1 PM - 3 PM YOUTH Touch a Truck Event. End of Summer Reading finale.

August 10 @ 1 PM-3 PM TEEN end of Summer Reading. Library lock-in Nerf battle for finale.

August 14 @ 10:30 AM Destination Storytime at Lightning Bend Park.

August 19 @ 5 PM ADULT craft. Macramé Hanging Planter. **Registration required** and begins July 30th

August 22 @ 10 AM (MORNING Book Club) When Crickets
Cry

August 28 @ 6 PM (EVENING Book Club) Daisy Jones and the Six

SEPTEMBER

September 4, 11, 18, 25 @ 10:30 AM Story Time

September 4 @ 2 PM Senior Social Bingo

September 25 @ 6 PM (EVENING Book Club) A Gentleman in Moscow

September 26 @ 10 AM (MORNING Book Club) *The Lincoln Highway*

