



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.

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Featured in this issue:

~Belding Master Plan – Survey Inside!!!



&

~Important information about the
November 5th Presidential Election!!!



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BELDING, MI 48809

City Email Bulletins and/or Text Alerts

We are excited to announce that we have expanded our communication abilities! You now have the option(s) to receive emails and/or text messages directly from Belding City Offices regarding City event information, meeting reminders, notifications, special alerts and more, direct from Belding City Offices! Use your smart phone to scan this QR Code: or visit www.belding.mi.us and complete the Get



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We won't share your Email or Phone with anyone.
Never spam, just City News from our office.

Sign Up

City of Belding News "Sign Up" just beneath the Quick Link buttons. Help us to communicate more effectively with you by signing up for City Email Bulletins and/or Text Message Alerts today!



Safety Concern
No Jumping From Bridges
As the warm weather may continue into October, we want to remind everyone that jumping from bridges is prohibited.
Often times we cannot see what lies below the surface. Changes in the current and/or water levels fluctuate daily—what was safe one day may be deadly the next day!
Please remind your children of the dangers of jumping from bridges—not only is it unsafe, it is illegal and may result in misdemeanor charges.

Department of Public Works

Yard waste pickup is every Monday and will be collected through the end of September. Bags must be biodegradable, must not exceed 35 pounds, and cannot contain other materials such as rocks, shingles, garbage, sticks or brush. Please place bags at the curb no earlier than 6:00 p.m. on Sunday or by 7:00 a.m. on Monday.

Loose leaf pickup will start the first week of October and will continue as weather permits.

Water or Sewer Emergency Contact Information

During regular business hours please call 616-794-1900 extension 217.

After hours or holidays please call Ionia County Central Dispatch at 616-527-0400. An on-duty DPW employee will be contacted to assist you.

Happy
HALLOTHANKSMAS

Belding Bugle

October, November & December 2024

HALLOTHANKSMAS

Survey Enclosed

The City of Belding is in the process of updating its Master Plan. The plan serves as a guide for growth and development in the City. Participating in the survey is one way the City is gathering feedback to help make Belding a better place to live, work and play! The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. You can complete the survey online by entering the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6DTFVB6>,

by scanning this QR Code  with your smart phone, or by completing the enclosed copy and returning it to City Hall
no later than November 1, 2024.

A Message from the Assessor

Assessors in the State of Michigan are responsible to maintain the State Equalized Value (SEV) and Taxable Value (TV). First, let's make sure you understand the difference.

The SEV should be 50% of the property's True Cash Value or Market Value. This value is determined by the physical attributes of the property and studies of recent sales (2-year sale studies are the most common). The TV is determined by the Consumers Price Index (CPI), not to exceed 5%.

The last decade has seen residential sale studies with increases between 5 to 20% , while the Consumer Price Index only exceeded 5% twice, this year and 2023.

Towards the end of February, you will get an Assessment Change Notice from me. This change notice will identify the proposed Taxable Value and State Equalized Value (SEV) for each parcel that you own.

The link to the Assessor's Web Page is <https://belding.mi.us/assessor.php>. This link shows sale studies, and you may find answers to other questions or links to forms you're looking for.

If you have other questions or concerns, please email me at: assessor@ci.belding.mi.us or call me at 616-794-1900 Extension 201.

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! During regular business hours, calls will be answered by one of our dedicated staff and not by an automated service. Our website and Facebook page provide a vast array of information, answering most of your questions—or you can always email or text us.

For your convenience, you can also make payments online with a debit or credit card. Please note that a nominal fee is assessed when using this option.

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!

Merry
Hallowthanksmas!



Three months of fun rolled into one!

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's website, www.belding.mi.us or you may contact the City Clerk.

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.

Police Department

The Belding Police Department would like to remind you that school is back in session. If the red lights are flashing on the school bus you must **STOP**. If you are a parent or guardian picking your child up from school or you are attending an after-school activity, please be mindful not to use or park in emergency fire lanes.

As a reminder, starting November 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025 the city police will be enforcing the No Parking Ordinance. No parking is allowed on city streets from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.

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.

Fire Department

It's going to be getting colder. Please verify that your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working and have good batteries. If you have any questions, call 616-794-1900, extension 212. We hope to see you on Halloween at the Fire Department. We will have popcorn and drinks as usual and the police will be checking candy.

Belding Housing Commission

Residents and the Board of Commissioners thank The Belding Gardeners once again for lending their expertise in judging the annual garden contest held among residents. Resident creativity and talent never fail in adding to curb appeal in the developments. First, second and third place winners were selected, and all who participated were awarded gift cards during an ice cream social held August 9.

Although Belding Housing Commission does not offer emergency housing, the agency continues to have an open waiting list for all developments. Inquiries about availability of affordable rental housing may be made by contacting the administrative office Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. The office is located at 41 Belhaven. The window is open daily from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. or the office may be reached at 616-794-1740 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. or by email anytime at 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.



Belding Dial-A-Ride

Hours: Monday - Friday, 6:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. The last call for pick-up must be received no later than 4:15 p.m.

Fares: We accept cash, personal checks, tokens or punch cards. Purchase a punch card good for 10 rides and get your 11th ride FREE! Tokens and punch cards can be purchased at Dial-A-Ride located at 100 Depot Street or through any of our drivers.

Adults (18 years and older): \$3.00 (one way) or purchase a punch card for \$30.00.

Student (3-17 years): \$2.50 (one way) or purchase a punch card for \$25.00.

Seniors/*Disabled (62+ years): \$1.50 (one way) or purchase a punch card for \$15.00.

*To qualify for a reduced fare due to a disability, you must have your physician complete a *Certificate of Eligibility for ADA Paratransit Services* on file with Dial-A-Ride.

For more information on any of our services or if you just need a ride, call 616-794-3278.



Music by the River

We had a great season!

We wish to thank everyone who helped to make this event better every year!

Food Trucks: Grumpy's, Juicy This Food & Taqueria El Azteca Wesco of Belding

Girl Scout Troop 4304

Church Youth Group

Volunteers: Windy Hartuniewicz, Jeannine Leary, Ron Devereaux

& Belding Wesco Employees

Belding DPW

City Manager Jon Stoppels

City Clerk Janae Ortego

And last but not least, the **generous** sponsors who make this weekly summer event possible!

\$500+

Dr. Charles Barker, Jr. D.O.

Family Practice

Bonita Steele, City Council Member

Pitsch Recycling & Disposal

Fleis & Vandenbrink

Belco

\$300 - \$499

B.C. Pizza of Belding

\$200—\$299

Ron & Catherine Devereaux

Williams & Works

Mercantile Bank

Leppinks

\$1—\$199

Nature's Needs Landscape Construction & Design

Johnson Feuerstein Funeral Home

Kassouni Manufacturing, Inc.

City Clerk

MI VOTE, MI WAY Your voting options



ABSENTEE VOTING

ALL registered voters in Michigan have the right to vote an absentee ballot either in person at the City Clerk's office or by mail.

➡ Absentee ballots will be available at the City Clerk's Office in late September.

➡ Registered voters in the City of Belding may request an **APPLICATION** to receive an absentee ballot **for a specific election** - OR to 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 **NEW ABSENTEE BALLOT DROP BOX** outside of City Hall.

The new drop box is for election use only. Please continue to use the other drop box for water bills, tax payments and all other correspondence.

Expect long lines in the polls on Election Day! Avoid the lines by utilizing other safe and secure options available to you.



NEW!!! BALLOT DROP BOX OUTSIDE OF CITY HALL. IT'S ALSO ACCESSIBLE!!!



PRESIDENTAL ELECTION



Michigan Election Law now allows for nine (9) days of **early in-person voting**. This means that you

will vote your ballot and feed it into the tabulator **BEFORE** Election Day. **VOTES ARE NOT TALLIED UNTIL THE POLLS CLOSE ON ELECTION DAY.**

ALL 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 location) starting **Saturday, October 26** through **Sunday, November 3** from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



All in-person Election Day voting for registered voters in the City of Belding will take place at the Belrockton, 108 Hanover Street from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



TO MAINTAIN ORDER IN THE POLLS AND FOR SECURITY PURPOSES, ALL VOTERS* MUST ENTER THE POLLING LOCATION THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR AND AFTER CASTING YOUR BALLOT, MUST IMMEDIATELY EXIT THROUGH THE BACK DOOR.

THIS PROCEDURE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.



➡ *ONLY VOTERS REQUIRING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS MAY ENTER THE POLLING LOCATION THROUGH THE BACK DOOR.

➡ Additional handicap parking spots will be designated in the parking lot behind the Belrockton. There is a ramp at the back of the building for those who may need this added convenience.

➡ Please bring your photo ID with you to the polls.

➡ No campaigning in any manner is allowed in the polls or within 100 feet of the polling location.

➡ You will be asked to remove or conceal anything that is or could be perceived as campaign-related. Refusal to do so may result in your removal from the polls by law enforcement and/or you may be prohibited from voting.

➡ You may park in the Masonic Lodge parking lot, the library parking lot, designated spots on Hanover Street or behind the Belrockton while voting.

REGISTER TO VOTE

You may register to vote up until 8 p.m. on Election Day, however it is recommended that you **DO NOT**

WAIT until the last minute to register to vote. Allow yourself time to rectify any issues that you may encounter. Visit www.Michigan.gov/vote for more information.

Michigan.gov/VOTE

Most voter needs can be met online including registering to vote, updating your voter registration, requesting an absentee ballot, as well as, checking the status of your absentee ballot.

Simply scan this QR Code with your smart phone or visit www.Michigan.gov/vote



The City Clerk's Office will be open on Sunday, November 3rd from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. **ONLY** for the purposes of registering voters and issuing/receiving absentee ballots.

Finance Department

NEW Billing System

We recently upgraded our billing system which includes customer- friendly enhancements.

NEW! We now offer the capability to look up your water/sewer bill account information by entering the *BS&A Online Pin Number* found on your utility bill.

NEW! Customers receiving separate water bills for domestic and irrigation meters will now receive one bill for both meters. For your convenience, the charges will still be broken down, however you will now only have one account number and will only need to remit one payment.

Hallothanksmas



Payment Information

We accept cash, personal checks, money orders, cashier's checks and credit/debit cards. Payments can be made in person, by mail, by using the drop box located outside of City Hall or online at https://belding.mi.us/bill_pay.php.

Online Payments

You can make online payments quickly and easily from any page on our website! Select the **Bill Pay Online** option from our **QUICK LINKS** Menu then select the appropriate link for what you are paying.

No more worries about weekend or holiday due dates! Unlike postmarks

or check dates, your payment is credited to your account the day it is received. Please note that the online payment vendor collects a nominal convenience fee which is collected at the time of payment.

Visit Online:

[Bill Pay for Property Taxes, Utility Billing and Invoices](#)

[Other Payments \(Parking Tickets, FOIA, Pavilion Rental, etc.\)](#)



\$ Saving Tip:

Be sure to unhook garden hoses from your house before the winter weather sets in! This will help to ensure that the water is not accidentally left on, possibly causing it to freeze and break and/or to prevent water running/leaking from the spigot without you noticing right away.

Water/Sewer Bills

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**

Please note that payment must be received **in office BY** the 30th to avoid late fees.

Taxes

Summer 2024 taxes were due by August 15. A 3% late fee has been added to any unpaid taxes. Please contact the City Treasurer at 616-794-1900, extension 203 for the amount now due.

Winter 2024 taxes will be mailed by December 1, 2024 and are due **IN OFFICE BY** February 14, 2025. This bill will not include the balance due for the summer taxes, if any.



Helpful Tips Regarding Payments

- ➡ All payments are processed on the day they are received **IN OFFICE**. Postmark dates or check dates will not be considered as the date of payment.
- ➡ Payment for taxes must be kept separate from payments for water/sewer bills. Combined payments will be returned to you to be separated which may result in a late fee.
- ➡ For our increased efficiency and accuracy, please include the barcoded portion of your water/sewer bill with your payment when paying through the mail or utilizing the drop box.
- ➡ When paying taxes in full, please remit payment only for the exact amount owed.



Did you know you can build a credit on your water/sewer bill account by making smaller payments **PRIOR** 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 accumulated.



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 with no set agenda. Meetings are held from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Pere Marquette Depot located at 100 Depot Street. Meeting dates for the remainder of the year are as follows: **October 12, November 9 & December 14.**



City Hall Holiday Closings

Thursday, November 28: Thanksgiving Day

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 25: Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 31: New Year's Eve



City & Other Upcoming Events

October 25: B Foundation Glow Run

October 31: Halloween Trick or Treat Hours & Halloween Open House at the Fire Station 6—8 p.m.

November 5: Election Day

November 1: New Cemetery Rules & Regulations go into effect

December 6 & 7: Home for the Holidays



Parks & Recreation Department

Dance/Fitness classes with Instructor Tammy Youngs will resume in November. Watch the City of Belding Facebook page for updates.



Children's Museum

The Belding Exploration Lab, a hands-on children's museum, is open the 1st Sunday and Wednesday of each month from 1-4 p.m. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Donations support the BEL and its programs. (For additional hours or events, check our Facebook page: BEL-Belding Exploration Lab.)

Belding Museum

The historical museum is open the first Sunday of each month from 1-4 p.m. Admission is by donation. (For details on these or other events check out our Facebook page: Belding Museum) Our upcoming special events include:

Sunday, November 3 : Belrockton & museum closed

Sunday, November 10 : Quilt Show

Wednesday, November 20:

Meet the Author!

Sunday, December 8: Sunday with Santa!



Library

OCTOBER

October 2,9,16,23,30 @ **10:30 AM** Storytime

October 2 @ **2 PM** Senior Social Bingo

October 4 @ **3 PM** ADULT, Halloween Garland
Registration required

October 7 @ **5 PM** EVERYONE, Harvest Party

October 10 (3rd to 6th Grade) @ **4:15 PM**

Adventure Club

October 17 @ **3 PM** TEEN, Franken Doll
Workshop

October 24 @ **3 PM** TWEEN, Zombie Barbie

October 23 @ **6 PM** (EVENING Book Club)

October 24 @ **10 AM** (MORNING Book Club)

NOVEMBER

November 1 "YOUTH-TEEN, Elf Boutique" It's coming back! The *Elf Boutique* will be returning this year. Activities begin November 1st.

November 4 @ **5 PM** ALL, Life Sized Chutes and Ladders

November 6,13, 20, 27 @ **10:30 AM** Story Time

November 6 @ **2 PM** Senior Social Bingo

November 7 (3rd to 6th Grade) @ **4:15 PM**

Adventure Club

November 14 @ **3 PM** TEEN, Crazy Art

November 18 @ **5 PM** ADULT, Holiday Ornaments. Registration required.

November 20 @ **6 PM** (EVENING Book Club)

November 21 @ **3 PM** TWEEN, Hack That Art

November 21 @ **10 AM** (MORNING Book Club)

November 25 YOUTH, Gingerbread House

Contest Begins

November 25 YOUTH, Belding Gardeneers

Trees Around Belding Contest begins

DECEMBER

December 2 *Friends of the Library Candlelight Fundraiser*

December 4,11,18 @ **10:30 AM** Story Time

December 4 @ **2 PM** Senior Social Bingo

December 18 @ **5 PM – 7:30 PM** EVERYONE,
Holiday Party

December 27 **9:30 AM – 4:30 PM** YOUTH

Activity Day, Laser Tag

December 30 **9:30 AM – 4:30 PM** TEEN, Activity
Day Laser Tag

The following background questions will help the Planning Commission better understand how the opinions of residents vary across the community.

1. Do you live in the City of Belding?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, please specify the community in which you live: _____

2. How long have you lived in the Belding area?

- ☐ Less than 3 years ☐ 10 to 20 years
☐ 3 to 5 years ☐ More than 20 years
☐ 6 to 9 years ☐ I do not live in the Belding area

3. Which of the following best characterizes your connection to the City? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Resident ☐ Visitor ☐ Business Owner
☐ Commercial property owner ☐ Landlord ☐ Work in the City
☐ Resident in a nearby community ☐ Volunteer in the City ☐ Other: _____

4. What is your age?

- ☐ Under 18 ☐ 18 – 24 ☐ 25 - 34 ☐ 35 - 44 ☐ 45 - 54 ☐ 55 - 64 ☐ 65+

5. If you live in the City, do you own or rent your residence?

- ☐ Own ☐ Rent ☐ I do not live in the City ☐ Other (please specify) _____

6. If you live in the City, in what type of residence do you live?

- ☐ Single Family Home ☐ Two Family or Multi Family (duplex, apartments, condo, etc.)
☐ Retirement Community/Assisted Living ☐ Mixed-use Housing (apartment above retail, etc.)
☐ Mobile/Manufactured Home ☐ I do not live in the City
☐ Other (please specify) _____

Economic Development is the process of improving a community's quality of life through the creation of places that foster economic opportunity, prosperity, and stability. This can be accomplished through programs, policies, activities, and investments that support or attract business growth and innovation. The following questions ask you for your opinions about growth, development, and land use in the City of Belding.

7. What types of new businesses would you like to see within the City boundaries? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Arts and entertainment ☐ General retail
☐ Assembly and manufacturing ☐ Grocery
☐ Research and development ☐ Health care
☐ Financial, business, and professional services ☐ Personal services (salons, gyms, etc.)
☐ Hotels and accommodations ☐ Recreational or sports related businesses
☐ Sit down restaurants ☐ Other: _____
☐ Fast food restaurants ☐ No opinion
☐ I don't want new businesses

8. How do you think the City should repurpose underutilized or vacant industrial properties? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Attract new industries ☐ Mixed-use developments
☐ Commercial spaces ☐ Other (please specify): _____
☐ Community center/recreational facilities
☐ Technology or innovation hubs

9. What are your thoughts on the future of the Covered Village Mall site?

- ☐ I would like to see the whole area redeveloped with all new construction.
☐ I would like to see the whole area redeveloped with a mix of new construction and existing features retained.
☐ I would like to see existing buildings repurposed and reused.
☐ I would prefer no development.
☐ No strong opinion.
☐ Other (please specify): _____

10. What potential improvements or additions would you be interested in seeing in the downtown area? (Select all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Better maintenance of existing public facilities | ☐ Entertainment venues |
| ☐ Enhanced pedestrian walkways or streetscape | ☐ Retail stores/office spaces |
| ☐ Revitalized historic buildings | ☐ Local markets/food vendors |
| ☐ Mixed-use development (commercial & residential) | ☐ Speaker system for downtown (for music) |
| ☐ More sit-down restaurants | ☐ Other (please specify) _____ |

11. Please indicate how important each of the following issues are regarding economic development.

	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Neutral
Zoning regulations	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Access to the Labor Market	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Availability of Utilities and quality	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Infrastructure Supporting businesses through incentives & partnerships	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Policies promoting growth and development	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Long-term economic goals and investment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

12. Generally, what type of street improvements are most important to you (Select your TOP THREE)

- ☐ Inviting streetscape (trees, benches, decorative lighting, etc.)
- ☐ Walkable and connected sidewalk system
- ☐ Maintenance of existing streets
- ☐ More crosswalks
- ☐ More bike infrastructure (bike lanes, bike racks, multi-modal trails, etc.)
- ☐ Expanded trail networks
- ☐ Green infrastructure (rain gardens, permeable pavement, etc.)
- ☐ Indicate streets, intersections, or trail segments that need improvement : _____

13. In terms of improving river access, which of the following are your top priorities (Select your TOP THREE)

- ☐ Acquiring riverfront property for public use
- ☐ Expanding trails/boardwalks along the river
- ☐ Better maintenance of existing facilities
- ☐ Protecting natural areas along the river
- ☐ Providing/maintaining watercraft launches
- ☐ Adding picnic areas/designated fishing spots
- ☐ Installing scenic overlooks or observation decks
- ☐ Enhancing waterfront entertainment options
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

14. If there are other comments related to land use, growth, and development in the City of Belding that you would like to share, please write them below.
