

Belding Bugle

Welcome to 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 are proud, hard working people and we love our community nestled into the banks of the Flat River and we hope that you will too!

We hope that you will take advantage of the many offers and read through the information provided in this Welcome Packet. We have included information regarding all of our City Services, Event Information, Ministerial Association and the Belding Area School District. Also, many of our

local business owners have inserted special offers and information. Please take advantage and get out and discover Belding!

We would also like to extend an invitation to you to visit us at the Belding City Council. We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. Our meetings are held at one of our many historic buildings, the Pere Marquette Depot and we would love to see you there! If at anytime you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact City Hall at 794-1900 or any of us Council Members by accessing the City Council page on the City website at www.ci.belding.mi.us

Thank you again for choosing to call Belding Home!

Mayor Roger D. Wills

Mayor Pro Tem Andrea R. Belding

Jon Bunce

Mike Scheid

Robert Thompson

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Message from the City Manager

On behalf of the City staff, I 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, its abundant natural areas within and around the city, its proximity to the large Grand Rapids metropolitan area, and its first-class services provided to the residents by our staff.

The small-town charm where people know each other, take the time to talk to each other, and help each other shows forth 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, we have five parks, of which four are situated along the beautiful Flat River which is known for its canoeing, kayaking, and tubing. One of

these four parks is Lightning Bend Park, which is a ninety-acre nature preserve along the Flat River with walking trails throughout the park. 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 abundance of natural areas continues with the Flat River State Game Area, which starts in the northeastern part of the city and goes north to almost the City of Greenville. Hunting, fishing, and recreation opportunities abound on this stretch of land.

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 but yet have the benefits of a large city such as cultural attractions, restaurants, and a large employment base.

As city staff, we believe you will be impressed by the services we provide. We are a full-service community providing full-time police and fire services. The Fire Department has achieved an Insurance Service Organization (ISO) rating of four, which is excellent for cities of our size. In addition, we have a bus service

which provides transportation anywhere within the city and also to Greenville and Ionia. The Library is an amazingly beautiful facility comprised of an historic 1917 building along with an addition completed in 2007. The basics are provided by the Department of Public Works such as water, sewer, street maintenance, park maintenance, brush and leaf pickup, and many other functions which improve the quality of life within the city. Another asset is the Belding Housing Commission which provides over one-hundred twenty-five affordable housing units.

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.ci.belding.mi.us for more information about the City of Belding. Also, please feel free to stop by or give us a call if you have any questions. Thank you very much and we hope that you enjoy living in the City of Belding.

Sincerely,

Randall S. DeBruine, City Manager



Belding Bugle

Dial-A-Ride



Take advantage of the Dial-A-Ride system for your transportation needs.

Hours of Service

Mon.-Fri. 6:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Passenger fares in-town routes

Adults 19-61 yrs. \$2.00
Senior 62+ & disabled \$1.00
Students 3-18 yrs. \$1.50
3 yrs. and under with an adult ride at no charge.

Greenville Route Fares

Same as listed above
Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Ionia Route

No charge on this route
Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Transit Tips

Please allow 30 minutes from the time of call for the bus to arrive, although the bus may arrive sooner. Please be ready, as the driver is only allowed to wait two minutes.

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

Recreational trips should be

scheduled during non peak hours of 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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

Lift equipped buses are available for customers who use wheel-chairs.

For those needing assistance, the aide will ride at no charge.

Phone 616-794-3278 for more information or email: dialaride@ci.belding.mi.us

Contact the Belding Housing Commission for information on rental housing for eligible individuals and families.

Belding Housing Commission

The City of 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.

Contact Numbers

City Clerk	794-1900 *210
City Manager	794-1900 *216
Dial-A-Ride	794-3278
DPW Garage	794-1340
Finance Director	794-1900 *203
Fire Chief	794-1900 *208
Housing Comm.	794-1740
Grants Admin.	794-1900 *213
Library	794-1450
Police Chief	794-1900 *222
Water Dept.	794-1900 *217



Belding is recognized as a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation

Billing Schedule/Credit Card Payments

Utility bills are issued on January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1. Tax bills are issued on July 1 and December 1.

The City of Belding is now accepting credit card payment (American Express, Discover and MasterCard) for utility billing and current taxes through Official Payments.

Official Payment charges a 3% convenience fee.

Pay online at: www.officialpayments.com or call 1-800-272-9829. At the prompt, enter Jurisdiction Code 7090.

After authorization of your payment, you will be given a confirmation number that you should keep for your records.

Park Reservations

Requests for reservations for the use of the pavilions at Central Riverside Park, East Riverside Park and Lightning Bend are accepted for the upcoming season beginning January 2nd each year. A reservation form is available at the front counter of City Hall or on the website at www.ci.belding.mi.us. Alcohol is prohibited. There is no fee for use of the city parks.

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.

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, Ext. 212 to discuss the requirements for a bon-fire pit, or to schedule a bon-fire pit inspection.

Brush fires or the burning of yard wastes is prohibited within the city.

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.



To discuss the requirements for a bon-fire pit, or to schedule a bon-fire pit inspection, please call the Fire Department at 794-1900, Ext. 212.

Brush Pick-up

March 22	July 26
April 26	August 23
May 24	September 20
June 21	October 25

Brush to be picked up must be placed at the curb by 7 a.m. on the above listed dates, but no earlier than the 18th of the month. 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 devastational storms.

Yard Waste/Leaves

Yard waste and leaves placed in biodegradable bags will be picked up every Friday beginning April 9, 2010. Please place bags at the curb on Friday at 7 a.m., but no earlier than 24 hours before pick-up.

Just a reminder that DEQ regulations prohibit disposing of leaves or yard waste in the river.

Loose leaf pick-up will take place from October 11 through November 24, 2010.

A loose leaf pick-up is not held in the spring.

Call "MISS DIG"

Please remember to call MISS DIG 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 in order that you do not hit them while digging. The utility companies can bill for damages if they are not notified.

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

Scheduled brush, yard waste and leaf pick-up is provided by the city for residents throughout the year.

Garbage Service

Please contact the following licensed companies to learn about garbage services and decide which is right for you:

Allied Waste
888-707-3867

Cart and recycling service avail-

able. Bags are available at City Hall front counter, ten bags for \$13.00.

Green Valley Disposal Service
877-977-3783

Cart service and curbside recycling available.

Jim's Pickup Service

800-572-5467

Cart service available

Sidney Sanitation

989-248-3404

Cart service available



Garbage Service is available through several companies licensed to operate within the city.



CITY of BELDING

live. grow. naturally.

120 S. Pleasant St.
Belding, MI 48809
Phone: 616-794-1900
Fax: 616-794-0091
E-mail: kthomas@ci.belding.mi.us

We're on the web!
www.ci.belding.mi.us

2010 Events

- First Sunday of month - Museum open from 1 - 4 p.m. at 108 Hanover St. What a treasure!
- Artbeat Gallery Exhibit open from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. at 100 W. Main St.
- April 17 Spring Clean-up at Pitsch Landfill from 8 a.m. - noon
- April 23 Arbor Day seedling giveaway from noon - 3 p.m. at the Depot, 100 Depot St.
- April 29 Community Showcase 5 - 8 p.m., Belding High School
- May 1-2 "Spring into the Past" 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Belding Museum, 108 Hanover St.
- May 8 B.H.S. Student Council / City of Belding "We Are Belding" silent auction and dinner at the Belrockton
- June 10 "Music in the Park" at East Riverside Park - Thursdays from 7 - 8:30 p.m.
Come enjoy the wonderful music and free popcorn throughout the summer!
- July 10 Belding Garden Walk 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- August 7-8 Gus Macker Tournament
- September 3-6 Annual Belding Homecoming
- November 29 Friends Candlelight Reception at the Library - 8 p.m.

Police Department Dial 911 if you have a Police, Fire or Medical EMERGENCY



Enjoy the beautiful pathways and parks throughout the city.

- Central Riverside Park
- Demorest Field
- East Riverside Park
- Lightning Bend Park
- Water Street Park

The Belding Police Dept. is very proactive and provides 24 hour service to residents and visitors. The department, comprised of seven fulltime and one part time sworn police officer, 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 perform many tasks for the community. In the spring they sponsor a bicycle rodeo and in January they have a senior citizen holiday luncheon. They also provide bicycle patrol for our city pathways.

A vacation property check form can be found on the City of Belding website at www.ci.belding.mi.us. Additional information is available on the Police Department page.

Please note the city ordinances:

There is **No Parking on City Streets** from 2 a.m. to 6 p.m. from November 1st through March 31st. The 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 the ice storm or snowfall.

Vehicles must be parked 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.