

Belding Bugle

August 2009

City Manager's Office

Greetings,

The City was recently awarded a Homebuyer Purchase Rehabilitation grant from the State of Michigan. This is an excellent program if you are planning on buying a house. Please see the article in the Bugle on page 4 for more information on this program. Also, pass this information on to anyone you may know who may be interested, as this is an excellent opportunity to receive some assistance to purchase a home and fix it up. The hope with this program is to increase home ownership and to get some of the vacant foreclosed homes purchased and reoccupied.

The M-44 Corridor Enhancement Project will commence the middle part of August. Please see the April newsletter for full details on this project. If you do not have

the April newsletter, you may read this newsletter on our website at www.ci.belding.mi.us. This is an MDOT approved project and they are currently coordinating the bidding process.

The Bridge Street and Main Street intersection enhancement project will commence in early August. We received a \$180,000 grant to make improvements to this intersection, which will include about nine decorative lights on Bridge Street between Congress and Depot and another three lights going east down Main Street. Sidewalk improvements will also take place in this area. This grant, which covers 90% of the cost, was made possible due to the commitment of the owners of the Belding Brothers Café to provide new jobs in the downtown area. The Belding Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is assisting financially to cover a portion of the remaining costs.

We received a 100% grant

through MDOT to upgrade the heating and cooling system at the Depot, install a fire suppression system at the Dial-A-Ride bus garage, and install decorative lighting in the area of the Depot. This project will commence next year.

We applied for a grant to perform environmental and demolition work at the Gibson Building. Unfortunately, we did not receive this grant.

Next spring we will be milling and repaving Hall Street from M-44 to Center and also Alderman from Main to Washington. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Stimulus) funds will pay for 100% of the construction for this project. The City will pay for the engineering costs associated with this project.

Once the above projects are completed, we do not have any other major projects in the pipeline. We do have a few grants applications we are waiting to hear back on

such as reconstructing Merrick Street, reconstructing Water Street, and additional sewer system improvements.

However, City funds are drying up fast. The focus going forward will be to provide the basic services. When funds are available for capital projects, an emphasis will be put on local streets, which are the lesser traveled streets. Please see the April 2008 newsletter, which can be accessed on the City's website, for more information about major and local streets and the funding mechanisms for each.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you very much for the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,

Randall S. DeBruine

City Manager

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City Council Petitions

Petitions for the office of Council Person At-Large of the City of Belding are available in the office of the City Clerk. Three (3) positions are to be filled at the November 3, 2009 election for a term of four (4) years. Candidates must

be 21 years of age, a citizen of the United States, a resident of the State of Michigan and a resident of the City of Belding for a period of one year prior to, and a registered elector on the last day for filing nominating petitions. Filing

deadline is 4 p.m. on Tuesday, August 11, 2009 at the office of the City Clerk. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Belding Housing Commission

Contracts for the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Stimulus Funding Program for Belding Housing Commission have been awarded, and rehabilitation of roofs in three of its developments has begun. The stimulus fund award enabled the housing commission to accelerate work items that have been in the pipeline, and provided work for at least one local contractor. Under separate funding, the 2009 Capital Fund Program work items will include interior work at Belhaven I and Belhaven II. The funding has not yet been announced for this annual program. The housing commission is currently reviewing its comprehensive physical needs assessment to identify

work projects for future funding years.

The function of the housing commission has an interesting place in our local history. As we near its 60th year of operation as a local agency, gratitude is expressed to community members who were founding fathers in working with the federal government to develop affordable housing for our small community. Since its inception, administration of the program has changed dramatically, many times, largely based on federal regulation changes. The purpose of the housing commission has never changed, however, which is to provide affordable housing opportunities for

citizens in our community. In the current economic climate, changes will be streaming forth again that will hopefully enable more affordable living conditions for more of the population. We appreciate what our city fathers did on December 19, 1950 to establish the housing commission, and will remain devoted to the commitment they made while navigating the murky waters of federal change.

Information about its history and affordable rental opportunities may be obtained from the office located at 41 Belhaven Street, Belding – 616-794-1740. Belding Housing Commission is an Equal Housing Opportunity Agency.

Dial-A-Ride

Dial-A-Ride has recently completed an upgrade at the depot and bus garage with the installation of a smoke alarm system. Future projects include storm windows, new heating/cooling system for the depot, and a fire suppression system for the bus garage. These projects are made possible from federal and state grants through the Michigan Department of Transportation. These grants cover 100% of project costs. Dial-A-Ride will also be receiving a new replacement lift-

equipped bus for our fleet. This bus will be purchased with 100% federal and state grant funds.

With the 2009/2010 school year starting soon, remember Dial-A-Ride is available for your transportation needs. For those who are new to the bus system, fares are \$2.00 for adults, \$1.50 for students, \$1.00 for seniors & disabled, all based on one-way trips. Children three and under ride free when accompanied by an adult.

Information about our transportation services is available by contacting (616) 794-3278 weekdays between 6:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. You may also visit the website @ www.ci.belding.mi.us. Brochures about our services are available and can be mailed to your address by request.



Police Department

The Belding Police Department would like to remind you that school will be starting soon and it is very important for drivers to watch out for our students walking to school. They may dart into the road at any time or may be walking in the road when there are no sidewalks available. Students walking to school need to use the sidewalks when provided

and stay out of the street. Also drivers need to observe the school bus flashing lights. If the red lights are flashing you must stop.

The traffic signal at Bridge and Ellis has been removed and the intersection remains a Four Way or All Way stop. Be alert at the intersection for students crossing the street.

Take some time to check your home for security. Lock doors and windows, trim bushes and shrubbery, and have lights on timers. If you will be away for an extended period of time, contact the police department to be placed on the vacation inspection list so your home can be checked by the police department in your absence.

Fire Department

Smoke Detectors

City of Belding ordinance requires working smoke detectors in all existing residential occupancies, including all one and two-family dwellings and apartment houses. Detectors must be located on the wall or ceiling in each room used for sleeping purposes, on the wall or ceiling outside of each separate sleeping area, and one on each floor of the dwelling unit. Installation information may be obtained by contacting the Fire Department. Working smoke detectors save lives. Please check smoke detectors regularly and change the batteries at least twice yearly.

Severe Weather

The City's weather warning sirens

will be tested on the 1st Saturday of every month at 1:00 p.m. 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

Annual Bon Fire permits may be requested by contacting the Fire Department at 794-1900, Ext. 212 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Renewals of existing permits

may be accomplished by stopping in at the fire station and speaking with the on-duty firefighter. Brushfires or the burning of yard wastes is strictly prohibited within the city.

ISO Class Reduction

The City of Belding has an Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification rating of Class 4, which took effect in 2007. This classification rating system is an evaluation of the City's fire protection capabilities based on a review of dispatching capabilities, water system capabilities, and fire department capabilities. This reduced rating may mean a savings on your insurance rates.



Code Enforcement - Be a good neighbor!

Grass may not exceed 10 inches in height, and a well trimmed lawn helps to cut back on the amount of insects which you and your neighbors may have to endure.

No unlicensed or inoperable **vehicles** are allowed within the city limits, unless stored within a four sided enclosed building. **Building materials** may not accumulate unless a building permit has been issued for that specific address.

Garbage receptacles may not be put to the curb any earlier than 24 hrs before pickup day, and must be removed from the curb within 24 hrs of pickup.

Yard waste is picked up on Friday's only, and may not be put to the curb any earlier than 24 hours before pickup. It must be bagged in biodegradable paper bags, available at local stores. These bags may contain only grass clippings and leaves. Any stumps,

brush, sod, stones or garbage will not be picked up, and the bags may not weigh more than 35 pounds. Please help protect our machinery! **Bulk leaf pick-up** will take place from Monday, October 12 through Wednesday, November 25.

Brush Pick-Up Schedule

Brush to be picked up should be placed curbside by 7 a.m. on the listed dates, but no earlier than the 18th of the month. The total amount of brush and limbs per household should not exceed 10 cubic yards per month.

August 24, 2009
September 21, 2009
October 26, 2009

Animal Ordinances state that all dogs must be licensed and vaccinated, if over four months old. No more than 2 dogs and 2 cats are allowed, and there is a leash Ordinance in effect for all City

Parks. Please carry a receptacle and properly dispose of all animal waste.

Parking Ordinances do not permit parking of any kind in the front yard of any residence.

Any work which is done in the City **Right-of-way** requires a permit. This helps to protect utilities and street operations from unauthorized digging.

Building permits are required for any structure over 200 square feet. A **Zoning permit** is needed for most types of construction. Any pool or hot tub which contains more than 24 inches of water requires a building permit. Fencing may be required as well.

For any questions, be sure to call the Zoning and Building Department at 794-1900, Ext 209.

Have a safe and happy summer!

Finance Department

There are four companies that are licensed to haul trash within the City of Belding.

Allied Waste Service
888-707-3867

Green Valley Disposal Service
616-647-1400

Sidney Sanitation
989-248-3323

Waste Management of Michigan
800-796-9696

All of the companies offer the carts. Please contact them directly to set up service.

Allied Waste Service offers bags which are available in packages of 10 for \$13.00 at the front counter of City Hall or at the Police Department. Please have exact change when purchasing the bags from the Police Department.

The City now offers an option for citizens to pay utility billings and City taxes with a credit card. This is available through Official Payments. The company charges a convenience fee of 3% of the total billing. The site to make payments with this option is: www.officialpayments.com.

As a reminder, City Summer taxes are due by August 17, 2009 without any penalty. If you are unable to pay the taxes in full, please remember that we do offer partial payments, but that does not waive any additional penalties that may be incurred.



Homebuyer Purchase Rehabilitation

The City of Belding received a Homebuyer Purchase Rehabilitation grant (HPR). The program will supply up to \$10,000 in downpayment and closing cost assistance, and up to \$20,000 in rehabilitation money to income-eligible purchasers (at or less than 80% median income) for the purchase of a home within the City of Belding.

Currently the following household income limits are based on adjusted gross income:

1 person	under	\$32,850
2 persons	under	\$37,550
3 persons	under	\$42,250
4 persons	under	\$46,950
5 persons	under	\$50,000
6 persons	under	\$54,000
7 persons	under	\$58,000
8 persons	under	\$62,000

The money will be zero-percent deferred loans with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. All MSHDA loan money is prorated over ten years, being calculated monthly and

forgiven after 10 years of residing in the home. The money has a 10-year forgivable loan, and must be paid back based on the prorated amount, if the home is sold or refinanced prior to the 10-year period. Income-eligible buyers must be able to obtain a primary, 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage with a competitive interest rate.

For more information on the program, please contact Marilyn Smith at 734-341-1866 or ms@smithhousing.com.

Gus Macker Tournament - A "Foodfürhoopin" Weekend

The Belding Gus Macker Tournament will be held on August 8-9, 2009 on Depot Street in downtown Belding.

During the tournament, **The Belding Bible Church will be sponsoring a 'Foodfürhoopin' Fundraiser and Silent Auction.** This fundraiser is a community effort to 'help our neighbors',

those people in the surrounding area adversely affected by the weakened economy. ***We encourage all teams to bring with them nonperishable food items to assist in their efforts.*** The money raised from the silent auction will be used to help those who are finding it difficult to pay heat and electric bills. We thank everyone for their support in this

worthwhile endeavor.

This year's Gus Macker Tournament will once again benefit such local community charities as: the Belding Police Reserves, Project Graduation, Belding School Athletics, Belding Rocket Football, and the Belding Area Arts Council.

Miss Belding Scholarship Pageant

The Miss Belding Scholarship Pageant will be held on Saturday, August 29, 2009 at the Belding High School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

This year's event will host the competition for Miss Belding, Junior Miss Belding, Young Miss Belding and the announcement of our 2009 Kiddie King and Kiddie Queen contest. We will also be showcasing some of our area's youth with a chorus line production during the pageant.

Our 2008 Miss Belding Katherine McKenna, Junior Miss Belding Alanna Hodges and Young Miss Belding Christy Gasper will

be honored throughout the evening.

The Miss Belding Scholarship Pageant is excited to offer Miss Belding a \$1,500.00 scholarship for higher education sponsored by the Miss Belding Scholarship Pageant Committee, and a \$500.00 scholarship sponsored by Independent Bank. The first runner-up receives a \$500.00 scholarship for higher education. These funds come from fundraising with the Kiddie King and Kiddie Queen contest, our local sponsors and general admission sales.

This year's Kiddie King and

Kiddie Queen canisters will be placed at Firstbank of West Michigan on the corner of M-44 and M-91. Please take a few moments and stop by to vote for your favorite royalty!

We look forward to seeing all of you at the **Miss Belding Scholarship Pageant on Saturday, August 29, 2009**. Tickets will be available at the door for \$7.00 per person. Children 7 and under are admitted free of charge.

Please come and support these outstanding young ladies from our own Belding community!



Labor Day Homecoming Celebration

The 104th Annual Belding Labor Day Homecoming Celebration will be held from September 4 – 7, 2009. The theme for 2009 is "Hawaiian Luau." Many activities are planned throughout the weekend. Pick up a brochure with all the details for this year's event. Highlights include:

The **Twilight Parade** will be held on Friday, September 4, 2009 at 9:30 p.m.

A **Classic Car Show** will be held on Saturday, September 6, 2009 from noon to 5 p.m. at Central Riverside Park.

The **Beatles Tribute Band** will perform on Sunday, September 6, 2009 at 8 p.m.

The **Fireworks Spectacular** will be held at Central Riverside Park on Sunday, September 6, 2009 at

10 p.m.

The **Labor Day Parade** will be held on Monday, September 7, 2009 at 11 a.m.

Our sincere thanks is extended to the Belding Labor Day Committee for their commitment to providing this wonderful weekend for our community! **Please join us for the celebration!**

Duck Race



The Belding Museum Board, along with the Belding Elementary PTO, will be holding the 15th Annual Labor Day Duck Race on Monday, September 7, 2009 at 2 p.m. at the Belding Boat Launch. Tickets are available at the Chamber of Commerce office in the Covered Village Mall and at City Hall. Tickets are \$5 each or 5/\$20. Get yours and come cheer your little rubber ducky on!

Belding Museum and Quilt Show

The Belding Museum will be open on Labor Day Weekend – Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 1-4 p.m.

The Belding Museum and the Silk City Quilters will host a quilt show and raffle on Sunday, November 8th from 1-4 p.m. at the Belrockton. The show will feature beautiful examples of the

time honored craft of quilting. Tickets for the raffle quilt will be available until the drawing at 3:30 p.m. You need not be present to win. Tickets may also be purchased at Leppinks several weeks before the show.

*Please note that the museum will not be open the first Sunday of November, but will be open the 8th.

Belding Area Arts Council

Belding Area Arts Council meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Artbeat Gallery, 100 W. Main St., Belding. All are welcome to attend.

Artbeat Gallery Exhibitors:

August - Bev Adams & Debbie Bell
September - Rose Hickman & James Tingley

October - Eston King & Sam King

November - Alexandria Johnson, Raven Hahler & Jeremy Christy

December - Kim Steere & Jackie Crebessa

This is a free event with opening reception on the 1st Sunday of the month from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. at the Artbeat Gallery. Bring the family

and enjoy artistic culture in your own hometown! If you or someone you know would like to exhibit their artwork (2-D or 3-D) please contact Tami McNee at 794-1571 or tamimcnee@yahoo.com, or Debbie Bell at 794-1021 or dbell38@hotmail.com.

Riverwalk Gallery

The paintings will be switched up the last week of August and last week of November at Water Street Park. This is a community project - all artists of all ages and styles are welcome to participate. For more information and/or getting a Riverwalkboard to paint on, contact Debbie Bell at 794-1021 or dbell38@hotmail.com.

Knitting Classes

Beginning Knitting: 12 years thru adult. Learn to make a neck scarf in your choice of a solid color! Please bring a skein of Worsted Weight yarn and size 7 or 8 needles 10" long. Yarn and needles available at Arnie's or Spring Grove in Greenville. Cost of class is \$20.00 for this two week class on Tuesday, September 29 and October 6, 2009 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call Joan Moran at

794-0924 or email jymiler@iserv.net to register, or if you have questions.

Intermediate Knitting: You must be able to knit and purl to take this class. I will teach you to read a pattern and teach you to do the continental method which is twice as fast and easy on your wrists. Learn to knit four needle mittens or a hat that requires no

Rag Rug Class

Learn to weave and make your own 2' X 3' rag rug using old sheets, tablecloths or any cotton material. Loom will be supplied. Class cost is \$40 with loom and instruction or \$50 with loom, prepared material and instruction. Also available are home classes upon request. Call Tami McNee @ 794-1571 for more information and details.

Monday, September 14 from 6:30-9 p.m.

Monday, October 12 from 6:30-9 p.m.

Monday, November 16 from 6:30-9 p.m.

seams. You will need one skein of worsted weight yarn, one set of size 7 double point needles and a size 7 circular needle 16" long. Cost of class is \$20.00 for this two week class, Tuesday, October 20 and October 27, 2009 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Call Joan Moran at 794-0924 or email jymiler@iserv.net to register, or if you have questions.

Exploring Art for Children and "Petite Picasso's" Class

Exploring Art

School aged children will learn a variety of art mediums and experiment using techniques to create works of art. Students will experience a non-competitive and non-judgemental environment. They will receive enough structure to ensure accomplishment and enough freedom to allow for individuality and creative expression. Various art mediums

will be covered such as: watercolor, acrylics, pastels, collage, mixed media, pen & ink, charcoal, oil pastel, clay, paper mache', printmaking, sculpture, fiber art, crayon and white charcoal. For more information and to schedule your one hour time slot call Debbie Bell at 794-1021 or dbell38@hotmail.com.

"Petite Picasso's" Class

Children 3-5 will have fun explor-

ing various art materials to create works of art. Class meets on Thursdays 9:30-10:15 a.m. The cost of \$10.00 includes all materials. Call Debbie Bell 794-1021 or e-mail dbell38@hotmail.com.



Alvah N. Belding Library

Expanding Opportunities - Building Community

ADULT PROGRAMS

Adult Book Discussions

ANBL hosts adult book discussion groups that are held year-round on the fourth Thursday of the month EXCEPT DECEMBER.



Choose to attend either the morning group, 10:00 - 11:30 am or the evening group, 6:00 - 7:30 pm. The same book is discussed at each session. Call the library at 794-1450 to for more information.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ANNUAL MEETING & PROGRAM

OCTOBER 15, 2009 AT 6:00 PM

The members of the Friends of the Belding Library would welcome new members at their annual meeting Thursday, October 15 at 6:00 pm. This group works to support and promote the library in many ways. Informational brochures are available at the library.

Following the short business meeting the Friends are hosting a program featuring singer/songwriter GARY BRANDT. Gary is from Grand Blanc, Michigan and entertains "with songs of freshness, beauty and simplicity reminding us of home-spun values and a celebration of life." Please join the Friends for this much anticipated program.



The Friends also sponsor a series of informational and entertaining programs called "Booked - With - Friends." Programs are held at the library the third Thursday of

the month October through April. Topics for this season's programs will be announced at the annual meeting.

The Friends annual Candlelight at the Library reception will be held Monday, November 30 at 8:00 pm. Please watch for more details.

IN THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

Special Programs for Kids, Families and Teens.

High School Book Discussion

If you are a Belding High School student who would like a chance to talk about the required summer reading, join us at the library. We will have a book discussion on August 27 at 1:00 pm. Call the library at 794-1450 to register.

Family Story Time

ANBL's Family Story Time will resume on Thursday, August 13 at 6:30 pm. Story Times are held the second Thursday of each month through April. Children of all ages can listen to stories and enjoy making a craft each month featuring a different theme. In August we will be reading Japanese stories and learning the art of Japanese paper-folding called origami.

Annual Book Mark Contest

A Belding Library favorite event is the annual Ionia County Library Association Bookmark Contest. The contest is held during October and November. The contest culminates with a special program at the Ionia Theater for all area youth. Watch for dates and times to be announced.

Halloween

Get your trick-or-treating off to a great start by planning to attend the ANBL Halloween Celebration. Plan to join the fun on Saturday, October 31 at 11:30 am and be watching for more details.



Weekly Programs for Kids

Baby Time will be offered every Friday from 10:00 - 10:20 am starting in September. This program is for babies birth to 17 months and a guardian. There will be rhymes, stories and songs. This program runs through April.

Friday Friends is a program for children ages 18 months to 36 months of age. The program is held on Fridays from 11:00 - 11:45 am starting in September and runs through April. Children and parents will enjoy songs, rhymes, games and stories.



Wiggly Wednesdays is for children ages 3 to 5 years old. This program is offered every Wednesday from 10:00-11:00 am, September through April. Children listen to stories, play, learn and have fun. Parents may enjoy the other areas of the library during the program but are asked to return to the program area for assistance with the craft projects at the end of each program.

All programs are free but registration is required. Please watch for further registration information or contact the library at 794-1450.



CITY of BELDING
live. grow. naturally.

120 S. Pleasant Street
Belding, MI 48809

Phone: 616-794-1900, Ext. 210
Fax: 616-794-0091
E-mail: kthomas@ci.belding.mi.us

PRSR STD
US Postage
PAID
Belding, MI
Permit No. 77

City Hall offices will be closed on:

September 8

November 26 and 27

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

U.S. POSTAL CUSTOMER

BELDING, MI 48809

Voting Location Change

There will be a precinct location change for Precinct 1 (Ellis School) and Precinct 2 (Woodview School) for all future elections.

Voters in Precinct 1 and Precinct 2 will now be voting at the St. Joseph Parish gymnasium, located at 409 S. Bridge Street. Voters will enter the building through the entrance at the back of the church. The building is handicap accessible and ample parking is available.

Voters will receive a new voter ID card before the November election, showing the location and address of their voting precinct.



Voters in Precinct 3 (Belrockton) will continue to vote at 108 Hanover Street.

Music in the Park

East Riverside Park 7 - 8:30 p.m.

August 6 Elroy Band Classic Rock

August 13 LoRyder Oldies

Please join us for free popcorn and a relaxing evening of music in the park!

Many thanks to the event coordinator, Mike Verdun - Verdun Family Funeral Home, event scheduler Mike Tefft, and the 2009 sponsors:

Belding Chamber of Commerce
Belding V.F.W.
Chemical Bank
City of Belding
Firstbank
Johnson-Feuerstein Funeral Home
Leppinks Food Centers
Dr. Linda Satterlee

Fire Hydrant Flushing

The City of Belding will be flushing fire hydrants from Sunday, September 13, 2008 through Tuesday, September 15, 2009 from midnight to 7 a.m.

If you experience discolored water, please flush the water faucet closest to the water meter until it runs clear

