

Belding Bugle

CITY OF BELDING

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Greetings,

Once again the construction season is past. It was an especially busy year with MDOT's M44 project and all the City projects. The lift station construction will continue through the winter, but this activity is mostly unobtrusive.

Next year there will not be much construction. In May, we will commence with the milling and resurfacing of about \$519,000 worth of streets. This is not a reconstruction of the street, but only removing 1 ½ inches of blacktop and putting back down blacktop in the same amount. This is the same type of work that was done this year with the streets throughout town. Of this amount, \$468,750 will be covered by grants. The streets to be milled and resurfaced are as follows:

Broas - M-44 to Washington
 Broas - Main to Depot
 Ionia - Liberty to Center
 Main - Bridge to Ashfield
 Morton - Ashfield to York

Reed - Root to York
 Root - Kiddville to Reed
 Washington - Broas to Hanover

Starting January 15, 2008, we will be implementing a new building department structure that will hopefully be more user-friendly. The Building Inspector, Electrical Inspector, and the Mechanical and Plumbing Inspector will now be "In house." They will have office hours on Tuesday's and Thursday's for one hour, after which they will go out and perform the inspections.

Roger May, Zoning Administrator, is available four days per week to coordinate the permitting process and assist with questions. Substantial improvements have been made in this area in the recent past, and hopefully the new changes will enhance the service level even more in this area. The goal is to make the permitting process as seamless and easy as

possible for the person taking out any type of permit from the City.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,

Randall S. DeBruine
 City Manager

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CELEBRATE BELDING
SESQUICENTENNIAL 1857 - 2007



To conclude the year-long celebration of our Sesquicentennial Year, fireworks will be held at Central Riverside Park on Monday, December 31, 2007 at 8:30 p.m. Please join us for this exciting event in Belding!

B A A C C L A S S E S

*The Belding
Area Arts
Council offers a
variety of classes
for community
members to
enjoy!*

Exploring Art for Adults - This is a continual class offered that features a mixture of art materials such as: acrylics, watercolors, pen & ink, pastels and charcoal. Sessions are Wednesdays from 10 a.m. - 12 noon or Thursdays from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$8.00 per class and bring own materials. All skill levels and styles welcome!! To register or for more information call Debbie Bell at 794-1021.

Crystal and Silver Ladder Bracelet and Matching Earrings - This elegant bracelet and earrings are beautiful and fun to make! Skill level: Intermediate. Tuition: \$15.00 plus supplies. Instructor will provide use of tools as well as beading wire and crimp beads. Dates: Wednesday, January 23 at 5 p.m., or Monday, February 11 at 4 p.m. Contact: Kristin Valentine at 794-7479 or jewelrywithaheart@gmail.com.

Beginning Guitar - Students will learn to: read music, chords and strumming styles. Geared for ages 7 & up. Cost: \$40.00 plus \$7.00 fee for music book (bring guitar with you). Meets for 4 weeks on Saturday from February 9 - March 1 from 10 - 11 a.m. For more information or to register for one of the sessions call: Julie Stephens at 616-225-8794 or e-mail jstephens8794@charter.net. Gift certificates make a great gift!

Beginning Vocals - Students 9-17 will learn vocal range, breath control, pitch and work on developing their own unique style! Cost: \$40.00 for 4 weeks. Class will be held on Saturdays from February 9 - March 1 from 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Register by calling Julie Stephens at 225-8794 or e-mail jstephens8794@charter.net. Gift certificates make a great gift!

Dynamic Dance Studio Classes - Gain discipline, strength, balance, learning to work as a team while expressing yourself through the art of dance! Classes include: Baby Boogie, Kinder Combo, Youth 7&8, Junior 9&10, Adult Tap/Jazz Combo, Tap for grades 2-3/3-4, Competitive Teams, Mini Competitive, Junior (8-11), Junior & teen competitive hip-hop, Competitive solo and Ballroom Dancing. All level Gymnastics also taught. To register or for more information on class dates and times call 616-794-7303 or email dynamicdance@aus.net. Studio is located at 110 W. High St.

B E L D I N G P O L I C E D E P A R T M E N T

The construction season is over and it did present some challenges for our residents and visitors to the city. We thank you for your patience.

No Parking on City streets **2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.** from November 1st through March 31st. The signs are posted on the major streets entering the city.

Please take some time to follow a few common parking laws that have become a problem over the last few months:

- Standing or parking close to the curb, " A person shall not stand or park a vehicle in a roadway other than parallel to the edge of the roadway, headed in the direction of lawful traffic movement and the right hand wheels within 12 inches of the curb or edge of the roadway". Parking with left wheels to the curb or road edge is allowed on one way streets only.
- No parking on a sidewalk or obstructing the use of sidewalks.
- No parking within 15 feet of fire hydrant.
- No parking within 30 feet of a stop or yield sign.

Take some time to review your winter driving tips:

- Keep a safe distance from the vehicle ahead of you.
- Clear all window surfaces of ice and snow.
- Carry a shovel and a winter survival kit in your vehicle. Articles in the kit should include a blanket, non perishable foods, water and a flashlight.
- If you are stuck in deep snow and you stay with the car, keep the tailpipe clear of snow, roll your windows down to let fresh air in and keep lights on so that you can be seen. If it appears to be an extended period run your engine for a short time each hour.

Please keep sidewalks clear of ice and snow and remove accumulation within 24 hours of the ice storm or snowfall.

Please report any street lights that are out to Dispatch at 794-1900, Ext. 0. They will contact Consumers Energy.

Bagged yard waste in biodegradable bags will be picked up each Friday beginning April 4, 2008. There will not be a loose leaf pick-up in the spring, all yard waste must be bagged. Brush pick-up will begin on March 24, 2008. Brush to be picked up should be placed curbside by 7 a.m. , 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.

If your going away for an extended period of time, please contact the police department directly or visit us on the web at: www.ci.belding.mi.us Click on police department for the vacation house check form.

Please have a safe and joyful holiday season, and prosperous New Year.

B E L D I N G D I A L - A - R I D E

The Michigan Department of Transportation conducted an on site audit of the Belding Dial-A-Ride bus service. We are pleased to announce that no citations were received on our audit. The department of transportation looks at compliance with the Federal Transit Administration regulations. The regulations consist of bus maintenance, facility maintenance, American Disability Act compliance, compliance with no charter services, and school busing.

Dial-A-Ride is in the process of ordering a new lift-equipped bus to replace one older bus, with delivery expected next summer.

During the winter months, there is a greater demand on our service. This, combined with slippery roads, may delay our pickup or drop-off time, so please allow extra time when calling for appointments. Please allow 30 minutes from the time of call for the bus to arrive, and during the winter, please allow a little extra time.

For any information regarding our service, please do not hesitate to contact our dispatch center @ (616) 794-3278. Dispatchers are always available to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have about our bus service.



**C O M E T O G E T H E R
@ A L V A H N . B E L D I N G L I B R A R Y**

NEWLY EXPANDED BELDING LIBRARY REOPENS TO THE PUBLIC. “Oh wow!” “Isn’t it beautiful?” “Look at the view!” “Isn’t this wonderful for Belding?” These are just a few of the comments that have been heard recently at the newly renovated and expanded Alvah N. Belding Memorial Library. Since our rededication on September 29th, the library has been busy with patrons, new and old, stopping by to see the end result of the year-long building project.

This renovation not only enhanced the beautiful, historic library, but provides the much needed space needed for more programs and services. Books and other materials are now easier to locate. Patrons are enjoying the various quiet places to study, to read, or to do research while also enjoying the view of the river and the cozy warmth of the fireplaces.

Accessibility for all patrons to all levels of the library is certainly one of the most significant improvements to the library. The new handicap entrance ramp on the west side of the building provides easy access to the building for those in need, and once inside, the elevator’s short ride to the lower level guarantees safe passage to the community rooms, to the children’s library, and to the restrooms that have handicap accessible features as well.

The new children’s area is colorful and welcoming. Children’s programs are being expanded to meet a growing need. The lower level boasts a tutor/study room that can be used by literacy tutors or other individuals needing a quiet, concentrated study environment.

The space which once housed the children’s room has been transformed into a meeting room; with its movable wall, the room can be divided to accommodate two simultaneous groups or activities. With nearby kitchen facilities, both library and community organizations can make maximum use of the area.

Upstairs, a spacious media room allows for easy browsing of the many books-on-tape/CD, the latest feature and non-feature videos/DVDs and the music CD collection. This room also houses the Young Adult collection with comfy reading and study areas for students. The east room continues to house the various fiction collections.

Those doing genealogical research will find the library’s genealogy section more user-friendly and the historical information easier to locate. Beautifully refinished library tables and chairs nearby provide a comfortable space for viewing and using the materials.

Technology improvements have been made as well. The library continues to provide access to many research databases through MeL (Michigan Electronic Library). The number of public internet stations has been expanded. New technology and computer management programs allow for more independent computer use and free Wi-Fi service is also available throughout the building.

There are many new and exciting things to experience at the Alvah N. Belding Library as well as those from the treasured past. We hope everyone will find some time to stop by, look things over, and become acquainted with all the library has to offer. Our staff will be waiting to welcome and serve you.

NOTICE OF HOLIDAY CLOSINGS: The Belding Library will be closed for the holiday season on Dec. 24th, 25th, & 26th and Dec. 31st, Jan 1st, and Jan 2nd. The library will be open during regular hours Thursday – Sat., Dec. 27th - Dec. 29th, and resume the regular schedule on Thursday Jan. 3, 2008.

2008 BOOKED-WITH-FRIENDS PROGRAM SERIES

Programs are held on the third Thursday of each month. Cost of lunch is \$3.00 For reservations, please call the library (616-794-1450)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2008 – 12:00 NOON

ESTATE PLANNING - Local attorney Karen McFadden will speak about the documents everyone should have in place and discuss the many changes in estate laws which may affect you and your family. Bruce Feuerstein, local funeral director, will address the importance of pre-planning.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2008 – 12:00 NOON

TRAVEL TO INDIA - Vicki Albert and Joan Feuerstein will tell about their recent trip and share information about Indian customs, culture, and ways of life.

THURSDAY MARCH 20, 2008 – 12:00 NOON

HELP FOR AGING RESIDENTS - Linette Seiter from Ionia County Commission on Aging will speak about the various services available to county residents needing assistance.

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2008 – 12:00 NOON

TOYS OF YESTERYEAR - Helen Salzman, sharing toys from the Belding Museum collection, will trigger childhood memories from your past. Feel free to bring your own antique toy for show and tell.

OTHER UPCOMING ADULT BOOK PROGRAMS

“ON THE SAME PAGE IN IONIA COUNTY” sponsored by the Ionia County Library Association will kick off January 14, 2008 when the book title is announced. The book will be discussed at the Belding Library on Thursday, February 28th at 10-11:30 a.m. and again at 6-7:30 p.m. Anyone who has read the book is welcome to participate.

CHILDREN’S STORYTIMES – CALL 794-1450 TO REGISTER FOR ALL PROGRAMS

TODDLER TUESDAY STORYTIME FOR CHILDREN 18-36 MONTHS ~ will be held 10-10:30 a.m. each Tuesday, January 8 through February 26, 2008. In this program we read, do finger plays, music, flannel board stories, etc. An adult must accompany the child during the program.

WIGGLY WEDNESDAY STORYTIME FOR CHILDREN 3-5 YEARS ~ will be held 10-11 a.m. each Wednesday, January 9 through February 27, 2008. In this program, we read, sing, dance, and do a craft. Adults may attend or use the time to browse the library.

BABY TIME FOR INFANTS BIRTH – 17 MONTHS ~ will be held 10–10:20 a.m. each Friday, January 11 – February 15, 2008. In this program we do nursery rhymes and music. And adult must accompany the child during the program.

FAMILY PAJAMA STORYTIME will be held 7:00–7:30 p.m. the first Monday each month. Guest readers will be featured each storytime. **Don’t forget to wear your pajamas!** The first Pajama Storytime of 2008 will be January 7th.

LEGO CONTEST Father/Son, Father/Daughter or any adult male with a school-aged boy or girl in K-8th grade is welcome to participate. If interested, attend a meeting held at 6:30-7:00 pm. on Monday, January 14, 2008 to register and receive the rules for the annual contest. Great winter fun for the family!

FANCY NANCY PARTY for Mothers and Daughters will be held Saturday, March 15, 2008 from 10:30-12noon. For girls 3-10 years of age.

C H R I S T M A S A T T H E B E L D I N G M U S E U M

Community Christmas Trees

You're invited to visit the Belding Museum on Sunday, December 2nd, from 1-4 p.m., to see the Christmas trees that have been decorated by local school children from Ellis, Woodview, Belding Middle School, Belding High School and various other groups from our community. The trees are a delight to see with their unique and creative

decorations that represent each group's individuality.

Breakfast with Santa

On Saturday, December 8th, the Belding Museum Board will host "Breakfast with Santa" from 9-11 a.m. Santa will arrive ready to hear your Christmas wishes while you enjoy a warm pancake breakfast, special treats, and a tour of the museum decorated in its holiday

finest! All adults must be accompanied by a child!

Event is free. Donations gladly accepted.

~Belding Area Schools and the Belding Museum-Partners in Education~



Join us for "Breakfast with Santa" on Saturday, December 8th from 9-11 a.m.

"An educational seminar will be held to learn ways to protect your financial assets in these difficult economic times."

**F A C I N G F O R E C L O S U R E ...
W H A T C A N Y O U D O ?**

Squeezed homeowners in the Belding area have options to try to avoid the worst. An educational seminar will be held to learn ways to protect your financial assets in these difficult economic times. Discussion topics will include foreclosure trends, planning for your future, budgeting tips, financial resources, options to consider and making your

informed choices. Ionia MSU Extension is joining with several local experts to provide this educational session. It will be held on Monday, December 10th from 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the Pere Marquette Depot, 100 Depot St., Belding. Registration is required by contacting Ionia MSU Extension at 616-527-5357 or 100

Library Ct., Ionia before December 6th. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should mention their needs when registering.

**C H I L D R E N ' S A R T E X H I B I T
R I V E R W A L K G A L L E R Y**

The public is cordially invited to the **Children's Art Exhibit 2008** featuring the artwork of young area artists taught by Debbie Bell. This event will be held at the Belding Covered Village Mall on February 29, 2008 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Musical entertainment will be provided and refreshments will be served. Open free for the public to enjoy.

The **Riverwalk Gallery** paintings at Water St. Park will be changed in December, 2007 and March, 2008. Please stop by to enjoy this beautiful art exhibit featuring paintings by area artists!



**P R O J E C T
G R A D U A T I O N**

PROJECT GRADUATION is having a paper drive. Papers can be dropped off at Self Serve Lumber. There is a semi truck trailer at the east side of the parking lot. Only newspapers and phone books will be accepted. The trailer will be available all school year!

Please help support PROJECT GRADUATION!

ARTBEAT GALLERY



The Artbeat Gallery is home to the BAAC. Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

The BAAC and Chemical Bank would like to introduce to you the **Artbeat Gallery** located at 100 W. Main St. The gallery is hosted by the Belding Area Arts Council and sponsored by Chemical Bank. Art exhibits with an opening reception are held on the 1st Sunday of the month from 1 - 3 p.m. and can be viewed Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 - 6 p.m. and Fridays from 3 - 5 p.m. Watch for announcements of Featured Monthly Artists in the Daily News and Buy Line.

SECOND HARVEST GLEANERS

The Second Harvest Gleaners Food Bank will be bringing free food to those in need on December 20th at 5 p.m. at the Belding Covered Village Mall. Bring your own box or bags.

Event is hosted by the Belding Ministerial Association, Belding Christian Friends and the Family Life Center Church of God. Look for the schedule of future monthly truck deliveries in the Buy Line

LOCAL ENTREPRENEUR NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

The Local Entrepreneur Networking Opportunity will take place at the Bridge Street Café at 103 E. High Street, Belding on Wednesday, December 5, 2007 at 2 p.m. Local business owners and future business owners have expressed a need for more networking opportunities in order to discuss common needs as well as

brainstorm ideas in areas such as marketing, financing, information technology, etc. Please RSVP to icea@msu.edu or phone 616-527-8014 and say you'll be there!

Sponsored by the Ionia County Economic Alliance and Michigan State University Extension.



A local networking opportunity will be held at the Bridge Street Café on December 5, 2007.

BELDING MUSEUM NEWS & NOTES

The Belding Museum Board is moving forward with the renovation of the back area of the third floor. There will be 8 new "themed" display rooms. We are looking for several artifacts for display, including antique toys, a working player piano, anything regarding the Bel when it was the "teen center" or when it was used to house boys during the National Youth Administra-

tion in the 1940's, which could include photos, pictures or articles. Also needed are lumbering artifacts, items that may have been used in the old Belding jail and/or Fire station, and anything from the early Belding settlers.

If you or someone you know has any of the following items and would be willing to donate them to the

museum, please call 794-1900, Ext. 425 to leave a message. A member of the board will then contact you.

Thank you for your interest in Belding's history!



Artifacts are needed that will be included in the new "themed" display rooms on the third floor of the Belding Museum

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
WWW.CI.BELDING.MI.US

C I T Y O F B E L D I N G

120 S. Pleasant St.

Phone: 616-794-1900, Ext. 210

Fax: 616-794-0091

E-mail: kthomas@ci.belding.mi.us

PRSRT STD
US Postage
PAID
Belding, MI
Permit #77

U.S. Postal Customer
Belding, MI 48809

City offices will be closed:
December 24-25, 2007
December 31, 2007
January 1, 2008

W E L C O M E H O M E — F O R T H E H O L I D A Y S
A H O L I D A Y E V E N T C E L E B R A T I N G C O M M U N I T Y
A N D S C N A L I G H T S I N T H E P A R K

On Saturday, December 1, 2007, a holiday event will be held to highlight the launch of the new City of Belding internet portal, the Covered Village Mall and Chamber of Commerce web pages and the Covered Village Mall Free WIFI.

The event will include the Best Christmas Tree Contest with trees decorated by the Mall Merchants, Chamber of Commerce Members and Non-Profits/Orgs. Those attending will vote for the Best Tree. Each vote for a tree will consist of a child's unwrapped toy under the tree of their choice or a small cash donation in the vote box for that tree. All cash votes will be used as donations to the Belding Area Food Bank and toy donations will be presented to Toys for Tots.

Live music will be performed throughout the day. There will be ornament decorating, cookie decorating and a Christmas Cards for the Troops table throughout the day, with U.S. military representatives on hand.

Santa will greet children and hear Christmas wishes from 2-4 p.m. At 5 p.m., there will be a tree lighting ceremony of the new 15' tree. An auction of donated products and service will take place from 5:45—6:45 p.m. with proceeds going to Belding Area Charities. A Holiday Dance will be held in the mall from 7:30-9 p.m.

Please join us for this festive holiday occasion! For more information, please call Jon McGowan or Bryan Felt at 616-794-3373.

3rd Annual Lights in the Park
East Riverside Park
Saturday, December 1, 2007
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

The Silk City Nature Trail will be lit from the corner of Ashfield and Park Streets, leading you down an illuminated pathway throughout East Riverside Park for one night only! Luminaries will also be placed from the Library and Museum to the Mall parking lot.

There will be live music and refreshments. Pictures will be taken for \$1.00.

Stop by and visit with the Silk City Nature Association volunteers for some Holiday Cheer!