



120 S. Pleasant St.  
Belding, MI 48809  
Phone: 616-794-1900, Ext. 210  
Website: [www.belding.mi.us](http://www.belding.mi.us)



City of Belding



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

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**LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER**

**BELDING, MI 48809**

**City Hall will be closed on Thursday, January 1, 2026 for New Year's Day.**

## **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**Winter Reminders:** Street parking is not permitted overnight from 2 a.m. - 6 a.m. through March 31st so snow and ice removal crews can do a thorough job keeping the roads clear and safe. Please also remove vehicles from the street during the day if it is snowing or if there is freezing rain. Sidewalks adjacent to your property must also be shoveled and salted within 24 hours of a snow event or 12 hours of an ice event. If not cleared, the city may have the walks cleaned at the owner's expense. During exceptionally cold winters, underground exterior wall water/plumbing lines can freeze. If you suspect that your plumbing or service line is freezing, please contact city hall immediately at (616) 794-1900.

## **BELDING HOUSING COMMISSION**

**Happy New Year from Belding Housing Commission!** Belding Housing Commission was established December 19, 1950 by Belding City Council. Through the 75 years since its formation, the organization has undergone many changes in operations, primarily due to regulatory and programmatic requirements. Nonetheless, the mission of the agency has remained steadfast; that of providing safe and affordable housing to eligible individuals and families.

As properties and infrastructure age, costs for maintenance and operations increase the same as for anyone trying to maintain a home. Routine revenue sources are increasingly challenged to meet the growing needs and additional burdens realized with increased utility and insurance costs. Nevertheless, the housing commission remains committed to efficient stewardship of available funding and is currently exploring opportunities to maintain the properties for the foreseeable future. The Board of Commissioners is working with experts in the field of redevelopment to bring much needed upgrades to the properties, to help forestall property maintenance costs. The work undertaken thus far has been in process since early 2025 and the agency is hopeful of finalizing plans by mid-2026. In the interim, great appreciation is extended to residents and staff of the agency for enduring inspections, interruptions and data collection. The housing commission is also grateful to the City of Belding in its support of maintaining operations as efficiently and effectively as possible as outlined in the Cooperation Agreement first entered in December, 1950.

In enduring the cold winter months, [mi211.org](http://mi211.org) is a resource that may be able to assist with food, transportation, health care, utility shutoffs, crisis services or housing. Reach out to get fast, free and confidential help by dialing **211** – 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, or visit the website at <https://www.mi211.org>. While the housing commission does not offer emergency housing, those interested in obtaining income-based rental housing may visit the Administrative office located at 41 Belhaven, inquire by phone (616) 794-1740 or email [info@beldinghousing.org](mailto:info@beldinghousing.org) for more information. Belding Housing Commission is an Equal Housing Opportunity agency.



# BELDING BUGLE

January, February, March 2026

*Animals of the Arctic Edition*



## FINANCE DEPARTMENT

### Happy New Year from the Finance Department!

**Friendly reminder:** When paying by check or money order, please remember that property taxes **MUST** be paid separately from water/sewer bills. Payment will be returned to be separated if they are combined on one payment.

#### **Water/Sewer:**

January 2026 water/sewer bills were mailed at the end of December and are due in office by January 30, 2026 to avoid a 10% late fee. These bills cover the cycle dates for September – November 2025.

If you have not received your bill by the end of the first week of January, feel free to contact the office at 616-794-1900 extension 217 to obtain the total amount owing.

**Prefer emailed bills?** Call the office to sign up for paperless water/sewer billing. Instead of a postcard in the mail, you will receive an email with an attached full-page PDF of the bill each quarter.

#### **Taxes:**

The 2025 winter property tax bills were mailed on December 1, 2025, and are due in the Belding City Hall Treasurer's office by Monday, February 16, 2026.

After Monday, February 16, 2026, a 3% late penalty is added to the remaining winter property tax balance. If you are paying taxes between February 17–28, 2026, please call the City Treasurer at 616-794-1900 extension 203 to inquire the exact amount of any outstanding taxes to ensure you pay the full total owing.

Any unpaid 2025 summer or winter taxes, including late fees, will be sent to the Ionia County Treasurer's office at the beginning of March 2026 and must then be paid directly to the county.



## ASSESSOR

### A Message from the Assessor

Towards the end of February, you will get an Assessment Change Notice from the City of Belding. On the right side of this notice, in the second box, you will see the heading 'Principal Residence Exemption'. If this property is your primary residence, you are entitled to a Homeowners Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) and the % exempt shown should be 100%. If this is not the case, please call me so I can get this corrected.

The middle of the Assessment Change Notice will show the Taxable Value on the first line. The Taxable Value (TV) can only increase by 5% or the Cost of Living, whichever is less. Last year the Cost of Living was 3.1% so everyone's TV increased by 3.1%. This year the Cost of Living is 2.7% so everyone's TV will increase 2.7%. If you added value to your property, such as a new outbuilding, new concrete, or an addition to the house, 50% of the value of these improvements will be added to the Taxable Value as well. The only other factor that will result in the TV increasing more than 2.7% is if you purchased your house in 2025. A transfer of ownership to a non-family member will result in what is called an 'uncapping', causing the Taxable Value to equal the



State Equalized Value. Line 5 of the Assessment Change Notice indicates whether there was a transfer of ownership.

An accurate property record card and a study of sales in the City of Belding from April 1, 2023, till March 31, 2025, will provide me with the necessary data to establish the 2026 State Equalized Value (SEV). This amount should be half the True Cash Value (what you would expect to get for your property if you put it up for sale). This information is found on line 4 of the Assessment Change Notice. When you double this figure, it should be close to what you believe you could sell your property for. If the value listed is much higher than you believe you could sell it for, give me a call. If your phone call with me does not result in a value that you believe is fair, you are entitled to bring your concerns to the March Board of Review. The specific days and times that the March Board of Review meets is located at the bottom of the Assessment Change Notice.

The City Council appoints the Board of Review members each January. Currently the Board of Review consists of Douglas Lamborne, Marjorie Hansen and John Niemela. Richard Outman serves as an alternate. Again, you can expect to receive the Assessment Change Notice towards the end of February or beginning of March. If you have other questions or concerns, please give me a call at 616-794-1900, extension 201, or email me at: [bnaumann@belding.gov](mailto:bnaumann@belding.gov). ~ Bob Naumann, Michigan Certified Assessing Officer

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Take some simple preventative measures to deter crime.

- Lock your car doors and keep valuables out of sight.
- Keep your home, garage and outbuildings locked.
- Make sure all of your home's outdoor lighting is working properly.
- Report suspicious activity in your neighborhood. Suspicious activity can be best described as conduct that causes a reasonable person believe a crime is occurring or will occur.

If it looks suspicious, don't wait. **Report it to the police by contacting Ionia County Central Dispatch at (616)527-0400** or 911 for in-progress crimes.

### **Winter Driving:**

Preventive maintenance before the winter season is the best way to ensure safe travel. Check your vehicle's tire tread and fluid levels. Use a winter blend windshield washer fluid. When traveling, give yourself plenty of time. Drive slowly when it is foggy, raining or snowing and conditions are hazardous. Remember to turn your headlights on for safety!

### **Parking:**

Remember, there is **No Parking on City streets from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m.**, November 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>. Signs are posted on the major streets entering the city. There is no parking between the curb and the sidewalk. Front Yard Parking is prohibited under the Zoning Ordinance. Vehicles shall be parked in the driveway or garage.

### **Code Enforcement:**

#### **SIDEWALKS and SNOW**

Please keep sidewalks clear of ice and snow. Remove accumulated snow within 24 hours and ice within 12 hours.

Sec. 74-128. Snow and ice removal.

(a) No occupant of any premises or owner of premises or property shall fail to keep the sidewalks in front of or adjacent to such premises or property clear of ice and/or snow, so far as to facilitate pedestrians use. When there are no sidewalks, no such occupant or owner shall fail to clear a path free from snow and ice, when such a path will provide an extension of existing sidewalk on an adjacent property.

(b) Whenever any snow has fallen or accumulated, it shall be cleared from the entire sidewalk or pathway within 24 hours.

(c) When ice is formed on any sidewalk, such owner or occupant shall, within 12 hours after the ice has formed, cause salt, chloride or sand to be strewn on the entire sidewalk or pathway.

(d) In the event that snow or ice on a sidewalk has become so hard that it cannot be removed without likelihood of damage to the sidewalk, the owner or occupant of such premises shall within 24 hours cause enough sand or abrasive to be strewn on the sidewalk as to make travel thereon reasonably safe, and shall as soon as weather permits, cause a path in said sidewalk to be cleared in its entirety.

(e) A person who violates any provision of this section, is responsible for a municipal civil infraction, subject to payment of a civil fine, plus costs and other sanctions, for each violation as provided by section 1-19(c)(1). Repeat offenses shall be subject to increased fines as provided by section 1-19(c)(2).

(Ord. No. 448, § 27, 6-16-98; Ord. No. 506, 12-16-08)

State law prohibits the deposit of snow onto or across a street so please keep this in mind while clearing your driveway and sidewalk.

257.677a Obstruction of safety vision by removal or deposit of snow, ice, or slush prohibited.

(2) A person shall not remove, or cause to be removed, snow, ice, or slush onto or across a roadway or the shoulder of the roadway in a manner which obstructs the safety vision of the driver of a motor vehicle other than off-road vehicles.

(3) A person shall not deposit, or cause to be deposited, snow, ice, or slush onto or across a roadway or the shoulder of the roadway in a manner which obstructs the safety vision of the driver of a motor vehicle.

(4) A person shall not deposit, or cause to be deposited, snow, ice or slush on any roadway or highway.

(5) A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction and shall be ordered to pay a civil fine of not more than \$100.00. ~ Chief Dion Sower

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Clearing of driveways and sidewalks**

Maintaining a clear path to your house, including sidewalks, is vital for emergency services. Our large truck can get through snow, but ambulances cannot. Not keeping your paths clear will add significant time for us to access/remove patients from your house.

### **Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors**

October was Fire Awareness Month, which is generally an ideal time to check batteries in smoke and CO (Carbon Monoxide) detectors. Please be sure to check them if you haven't done so already. If you have an alarm from one of your detectors, leave your residence and call 911. If you open your doors or windows, we will not be able to locate the source.

### **Chimneys**

Be sure to keep chimneys clear of creosote and maintain clearance from stove pipes. This will help reduce the risk of fire.

### **Ice Safety**

Please be careful and check the ice thickness if you are a fisherman or like to take ORV's on the ice. ~ Chief Tim Lubitz



## **CITY CLERK**

The **2026 Regular Meeting Schedule** for City Council and other various city boards is available on the city website under **Public Notices** and is posted on the front door of City Hall. For questions, contact City Clerk Janae Ortego at [jortego@belding.gov](mailto:jortego@belding.gov) or 616-794-1900, extension 210.



## LIBRARY

### January

**January 2** 9:30 AM - 2 PM T(w)een Activity Day

**January 6, 13, 20, 27** @ 3 PM BEGINNER Crochet Club

**January 7, 14, 21, 28** @ 10:30 AM Storytime

**January 7** @ 2 PM Senior Social Bingo

**January 8** @ After School until 4 PM Youth, Life Size Chutes and Ladders

**January 12** @ 5 PM ADULT & Teens 16 & Older, Jewelry and Java Registration required.

**January 20** @ 3 PM Monthly Tech Help. Please contact the library to make an appointment.

**January 21** @ 5 PM Adult, Cozy Knots Crochet Workshop (Some experience to intermediate) This is a multi-part workshop that will run all of 2026 on a monthly basis. This is instruction only; the patron will need to provide yarn in their preferred color.

**January 22** @ 3 PM to 5 PM (Drop in between those times) T(w)een, Pop Up Book Workshop

**January 28** @ 6 PM (EVENING Book Club) *Book Club, East of Eden*

**January 29** @ 10 AM (MORNING Book Club) *Book Club, South of Broad*

### February

**February 2** @ 6 PM Family Night, Indoor Igloo Craft

**February 3, 10, 17, 24** @ 3 PM BEGINNER Crochet Club

**February 4, 11, 18, 25** @ 10:30 AM Storytime

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

**February 9** @ 5 PM Adult, Great Lakes Lavender Farm

**February 12** @ Drop in After School until 4 PM Youth, DIY Invisible Ink

**February 17** @ 3 PM Monthly Tech Help. Please contact the library to make an appointment.

**February 18** @ 5 PM Adult, Cozy Knots Crochet Workshop (Some experience to intermediate) This is a multi-part workshop that will run all of 2026 on a monthly basis. This is instruction only; the patron will need to provide yarn in their preferred color.

**February 25** @ 6 PM (EVENING Book Club) *Book Club, A Thousand Splendid Suns*

**February 26** @ 10 AM (MORNING Book Club) *Book Club, To All the Boys I've Loved Before*

**February 26** @ 4 PM T(w)een, Marshmallow Shooter. Registration required.

### March

**March 2** @ 6 PM Family Night

**March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31** @ 3 PM BEGINNER Crochet Club

**March 4, 11, 18, 25** @ 10:30 AM Storytime

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

**March 9** @ 6 PM Ionia County Emergency Preparedness

**March 18** @ 5 PM Adult, Cozy Knots Crochet Workshop (Some experience to intermediate) This is a multi-part workshop that will run all of 2026 on a monthly basis. This is instruction only; the patron will need to provide yarn in their preferred color.

**March 12** @ Drop in After School until 4:30 PM Youth, DIY Worry Stones

**March 25** @ 6 PM (EVENING Book Club) *Book Club, Horse*

**March 26** @ 4 PM T(w)een, Watercolor Postcard. Registration Required.

**March 26** @ 10 AM (MORNING Book Club) *Book Club, Horse*

**March 30** @ 5 PM Adult, *Soups On Craft!*



## BELDING MUSEUM

### BEL-Belding Exploration Lab

The hands-on children's museum is open the first Sunday and Wednesday of each month from 1-4 p.m. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Your kind donations support our programs, in lieu of an admission fee.

For the most current information, please check our Facebook page: BEL-Belding Exploration Lab or email us at [beldingmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:beldingmuseum@gmail.com).

### Belding Museum

Spend an afternoon with us the first Sunday of each month from 1-4 p.m. Admission is free. Handicapped parking and an elevator are available for those needing assistance.

For the most current information, please check our Facebook page: Belding Museum.

## DIAL-A-RIDE

Belding Dial-A-Ride welcomes in this brand-new year with a new Director, new drivers, and a new Facebook page!

Our new Director, Kristine Mangus, will be a familiar face to most passengers, as she has been one of our drivers for almost two years. Kristine is very passionate about improving the Dial-A-Ride experience for everyone, with a focus on faster response times, more efficient routes, and better community communication through our new Facebook page: "The City of Belding Dial-A-Ride Transportation", where we will provide updates on weather-related closings, service updates and much more! You'll also see some new faces on board as we bring on additional drivers to meet the ever-increasing demand for our services.

Friendly Reminders: Our peak hours are 7 a.m. - 9 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Please try to plan your rides outside these periods to avoid extended wait times. It's also helpful if you schedule your ride as far in advance as possible by requesting a "time call" (like a reservation). This allows us to coordinate trips with others going to the same area of town at the same time.

As always, we thank you for your patronage. Our drivers and staff look forward to continuing to serve you in 2026!

**Business Hours:** M-F 6:30 a.m.- 4:15 p.m. (last call taken at 3:45 p.m.) **616-794-DART (3278).**