

Village of Belgium

2018 Fall Newsletter

104 Peter Thein Ave.
Belgium, WI 53004

Phone 262-285-7931 Fax 262-285-3479
Monday-Thursday 8am-5pm
Friday 8am-12pm
Website- www.village.belgium.wi.us



The new tornado siren was installed Thursday, September 20th. Starting in October the siren will be programmed to go off every Saturday at noon. The Emergency Government wants every community to start testing sirens on a weekly basis. For tornado warnings the Ozaukee County Sheriff dispatch center will activate the siren that will sound for three minutes. The Village will have access to activate the siren at the firehouse if there is a need.

Trick or Treat will take place on Sunday, October 28th between 4pm-7pm. Please have your front porch light on if you will be handing out candy. Also remember that construction is going on, on Main Street. Not all of the street lights may be working at that time. Please be careful, you may want to bring a flashlight and wear brightly colored clothing. The Fire Department will be out patrolling the village streets during this time.



October

7-13 Fire Prevention Week
8-November 9 Hydrant Flushing 9am-2pm
6-Fire Department Open House, 10am-1pm @ Fire House
16-Curbside Leaf Pick-up Begins
28-Trick or Treat 4pm-7pm

November

4-Daylight Savings Ends
15-Delinquent Bills/Fees Placed on Tax Roll
15-Winter Parking Starts
19-Branch Pick-up Ends
22-Curbside Leaf Pick-up Ends
22 & 23-Village Hall Closed
24-Garbage Pick-up Due to Holiday

December

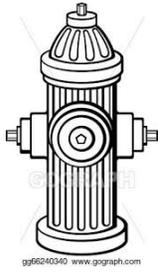
24 & 25-Village Hall Closed
29-Garbage Pick-up Due to Holiday
31-Recycling Cards Expire
31 Village Hall Closed
1 -January Village Hall Closed

Recycling Card Reminder

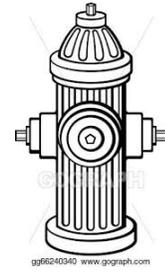
Don't forget to renew your recycling card for 2019. It is inactive after December 31, 2018. The cost to renew your recycling card is \$20. Please bring the card in with you to renew it. If you need to purchase a card the cost is \$25.



Agenda Posting Locations
Belgium Village Hall 104 Peter Thein Ave.
Website www.village.belgium.wi.us



Hydrant flushing will take place from October 8th through November 9th from 9am-2pm. If your water is discolored from this process, please run your tap. The water is safe to use. We urge you to wash clothes at night during this period, if at all possible. Hydrant flushing will take place from the east to the west side of the Village.

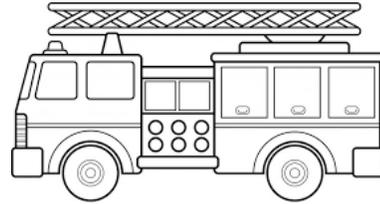


Belgium Fire Department Open House

Fire Prevention Theme
 Look, Listen, Learn
 Be Aware Fire can Happen anywhere
 Saturday, October 6th from 10am-1pm
 At the Belgium Fire House-195 Commerce St.
 Free Raffles
 Fire Truck Rides
 Lunch
 Flight for Life 10am
 Ozaukee County Command Post
 Storm Team 4 Weather Vehicle
 Blood Pressure Checks

Belgium Fire Department Reserves

The Fire Department has a new position available. This position is intended for those who wish to be a part of the Belgium Fire Department, but is unable to attend the necessary firefighter training to become State certified. This position will include all aspects of Fire-fighting with the exception of vehicle extrication, anything requiring the use of SCBA (Air packs, facemask), or patient interaction or contact unless directed by an Incident Commander. If this is something you are interested in please send an email to the Fire Department at belgiumfirewi@yahoo.com or leave a message at the station 262-285-3257.



Absentee voting for November 6 Election

Mailed absentee: Prior to **October 31, 2018** any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day may request to vote an absentee ballot. You must make a request for an absentee ballot in writing. Contact your municipal clerk to request an application or go to the following website to complete the application online: myvote.wi.gov.

In house absentee: you may vote in the clerk's office starting on Monday, **October 8, 2018** thru **November 2, 2018**. No in person absentee voting may occur on the day before the election, **November 5**. In house absentee voting hours:

Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
 Friday: 8:00 am to noon
 Evenings by appointment

General Election: November 6

The next General Election in November 6th. Residents of the Village of Belgium can vote at Village Hall, 104 Peter Thein Ave. The Polls will be open at 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. If you'd like to avoid any delays on Election Day, we recommend registering to vote PRIOR to the election. The following website provides information regarding voter registration and absentee voting: myvote.wi.gov. The following are reasons you MUST register/re-register to vote in Wisconsin:

- Recently moved to the Village of Belgium
- Had an address change within the Village of Belgium
- Voting for the first time
- Had a name change
- Registered to vote on campus while at school, but now intend to vote back home





ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS!

“Snowbirds” and other “temporary utility customers” are general service customers who voluntarily request disconnection of water service and resume service at the same location within 12 months of the disconnection.

The Wisconsin Public Service Commission (WI PSC) Water Division’s policy on billing for these temporary disconnections is as follows:

If a customer requests temporary disconnection (for less than 12 months), the customer will still be responsible for the service charges (meter charges), whether or not the meter is removed.

In this case, the customer would generally be back-billed upon reconnection of service. However, if both the utility and the customer desire, the customer could continue to be billed on the normal billing cycle while temporarily disconnected.

The PSC’s position on this is that the water utility’s investment in the water meter and all of the infrastructure (wells, pumps, water towers, mains and laterals, etc.) necessary to provide service does not disappear when a customer temporarily does not take water service. Therefore, it is deemed reasonable that the non-variable costs (meter fees) should continue to be paid by the customer.

As winter approaches, the Village wants to be especially certain sure all “snowbirds”, as well as other temporary utility customers are aware of this PSC rule.

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS WITH DELINQUENT UTILITY & INVOICE ACCOUNTS

On October 15th, 2018 notices will be mailed to residents with delinquent utility account and/or invoice account balances. The balances included in the notices MUST be paid in full by 5:00pm **on November 1st, 2018** to avoid the 10% penalty allowed per Wisconsin Statute §66.0809(3). Balances which remain outstanding as of 5:00pm on November 15th, 2018 will become a lien on the property tax bill.

Residential Tenant Utility Customers: Per Wisconsin ACT 274, the Village of Belgium will now place a lien on your personal assets for the amount of the delinquent utility account balance left unpaid by October 1st annually. This lien will become transferable to your landlord should the delinquent balance be placed on the landlord’s tax bill. It is crucial you maintain current accounts to avoid this process against your personal assets.



Appreciation for Jobs Well Done

It takes a lot of effort to run a village the size of Belgium. That our village runs smoothly and serves the needs of its citizens so well is due in large part to the able service of our village clerical staff: Julie Lesar, Village Clerk; Vickie Boehnlein, Village Treasurer; and Sherri Erickson, Administrative Assistant. They perform their jobs seamlessly, with dedication and positive attitude. Without their invaluable support, your Village Board would not be able govern efficiently. So, the next time you are in the Village Hall please take time to thank Julie, Vickie and Sherri (whose smiling face greets you at the front desk!)

Rose Sauers, Village Trustee, on behalf of the Village of Belgium Board of Trustees



My Utility Account is Delinquent... **sowhat**

In the last few years, we've heard from an alarming number of residents who believe that it is in their best interest to leave their utility accounts become delinquent and have the balance applied to their property tax bill each year. Nothing could be further from the truth, and this article is to inform our residents why.



√**Delinquent utility accounts drive up water and sewer rates for everyone.**

Municipal utilities do NOT receive any funding from property taxes. Their only revenue source is from sales of water and sewer services...i.e. our utility bills. The utilities operate year round to provide water to residents and clean our wastewater. There is of course a cost to this process and the utility needs to be able to pay for their employees, electricity bills, needed supplies, loan payments, and so on.

When the Public Service Commission (PSC) completes a full rate analysis to determine what our utility rates have to be in order to keep our municipal utility in operation, one of the major areas examined is how many utility accounts are paid in full each quarter, to be certain that the utility can continue to operate throughout the year. If a large number of accounts are delinquent, the rates have to be raised to compensate for the loss of revenue due to non-payers in order for the utility to be able to pay their bills and operate.



√**Delinquent utility charges on your tax bill are NOT tax deductible on your income taxes.**

We've heard many residents state that they want their utility charges put on their property tax bill so that they may claim a bigger real estate tax deduction for it on their income taxes.

For those who itemize deductions, the ONLY part of your real estate taxes that is deductible on your income taxes is the actual property tax amount listed on your tax bill. Other charges, special assessments, and delinquent account balances are NOT tax deductible. If you include any ineligible tax bill fees in your income tax deductions, you will owe back taxes along with interest and penalties should the IRS discover the error.

Want a copy of your property tax bill or paid receipt?

For years, residents who wanted a copy of their property tax bill receipt, had to send a self-addressed stamped envelope along with their tax payment. That option is still available to all residents. However, there is a new option available via the Ozaukee County website. These are the steps:

- Google "Ozaukee County" or enter their web address <http://www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/> in your address bar.
- Place mouse over "Services" and then click on "Land Information/GIS" in the drop down menu (in middle column).
- Click on "Tax Data Search" in the blue box on the left-hand side of the screen.
- Click on the "Ascent" logo on the following screen to go to the tax data system.

Once you are in the tax data system, you can search for your property tax bill or receipt.

- Change the "Municipality" drop-down box to Village of Belgium.
- Enter your parcel ID or your street number and address, and then click the "Find Now" button.
- Click on the corresponding parcel ID number (in red) for your property.
- Change the "Select Detail" drop-down box to "Taxes"
- If you want a copy of the **tax bill**, to the right of "Print Tax Bills", click on the year in question.
- If you want a copy of the **tax receipt**, under "Tax History", click on the red tax year for which you want a copy of the tax receipt.

Tax Year*	Total Due	Paid to Date	Current Due	Interest	Penalty	Total Payoff
2010	\$3,255.05	\$3,255.05	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2011	\$2,740.31	\$2,740.31	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2012	\$3,290.81	\$3,290.81	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2013	\$3,421.60	\$3,421.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total						\$0.00

Tax Reminder!

With tax season quickly approaching, we want to remind you that we will be collecting property taxes at Belgium Village Hall Mondays through Fridays 8:00am—5:00pm during the months of December and January only. Any payments made AFTER January 31st Must be made at the Ozaukee County Treasurer's Office at the address indicated on your tax bill payment stubs annually. If mailing in your tax payment to Village Hall during December and January, please make your check payable to:

Village of Belgium
104 Peter Thein Ave.
Belgium, WI 53004

- If you would like a paid receipt mailed back to you, you must enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your check(s).
- Checks should be made for the exact amount of taxes due. Do NOT include any other payments (utility, permits, etc.) with your property tax payment; they will be returned to you. If there is an over payment due to higher escrow check, a refund will be made by check within 15 business days to the property owner(s) listed on the tax bill.



Port Washington State Bank in Belgium will also be collecting tax payments inside the bank lobby only. In the case of overpayments made at the bank, a refund will be given immediately.

*Bring or enclose your tax payment stub regardless of where and how you pay to avoid an erroneous application of payment



BRUSH CHIPPING POLICY

Due to the large volume of chipping when a tree is felled, the Village Board has instituted a policy in which people who cut down trees should make their own arrangements to have the branches chipped. If branches from a felled tree is 6" in diameter or more are left at the curb for Village staff to chip a fee of \$200 per hour will be charged to property owner.

Winter Reminders

Winter Parking hours start on November 15th and go through March 31st. No parking will be allowed on any of the Village streets from 3am-7am. If you are parked on the street during these hours, you may receive a citation.

Snow is to be removed from the sidewalks within 24 hours after a snow fall. If you go away for the winter please make arrangements to have your sidewalk shoveled. If you fail to shovel your sidewalks you could receive a citation.

When shoveling out mailboxes, be sure to shovel a car-length pathway in front of your mailbox to guarantee mail delivery.

Be sure to shovel out fire hydrants in your neighborhood. Every second counts in a fire emergency.



OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, January 30, 2019

At 5:30pm

Join us for a FREE meal and see what DSCS has to offer!

3K-8th Grade

Education for Life...Faith for Living

Divine Savior Catholic School

305 Fredonia Ave. Fredonia, WI 53021

Phone: 262-692-2141 Email:

dscsschool@dscsfredonia.org

Year-end Excitement Approaches!

2018 has been a great year in the village of Belgium. Now it's time to celebrate! Check out these two upcoming events, and **save the date for next year's Brew & Chew, Saturday, January 26th!** More info on our website: www.belgiumareachamber.org.



Wednesday, November 7, 2018

Join us in celebrating all things great in Belgium in 2018 at the annual Chamber awards banquet.

Not only will we honor businesses, organizations and individuals in our community who have made a difference, but we will celebrate with a great dinner and entertainment by Nationally Renowned Comedian Chris Barnes at Memories Ballroom.

Nominations for awards are welcome! Forms are available online and due October 10th. Get your tickets to Celebrate Belgium in Belgium at Port Washington State Bank, Village Hall, or Plus Group Financial or online at www.belgiumareachamber.org.

Saturday, December 1st, 2018

Welcome in the merriest season of them all at Belgium's European Christmas Parade & Market.

The fun kicks off with a night parade at 4:30 pm marching down to Village Square.

There, guests will be met with a visit from St. Nicholas, shopping, food, drinks, music, hay ride, and crafts for the kids, and more!

Parade entries, sponsors, and vendors are now being accepted. Contact the chamber for details or visit us online at www.belgiumareachamber.org.

Belgium Business Spotlight

The below Chamber member was recently featured as a Chamber Member Spotlight. Check out our website- www.belgiumareachamber.org or our facebook page to get the full stories on our amazing featured business owners!



**Trina Klemeneic
 of Style, Beauty &
 Wellness**

129 Main Street, Belgium

Monday through Friday
 9 am to 7 pm and
 Saturday 10 am- 2 pm.

At Style, Beauty and Wellness, beauty goes much more than skin deep.

Trina Klemeneic, owner of the 1-year old salon in Belgium, built her business on a dream of helping people feel good from the inside, out.

Style, Beauty and Wellness brings a variety of services to its clients, from hair cutting and coloring, to nails, tanning, massage, reiki, Ayurveda, facials, waxing, and even life coaching. Soon, they plan to add cupping therapy to the mix.

Call 262-285-4093 or book online:
www.stylebeautyandwellness.us