

VILLAGE OF BELGIUM

2016 FALL NEWSLETTER

104 Peter Thein Ave.
Website-www.village.belgium.wi.us
262-285-7931
Monday-Thursday 8am-5pm
Friday 8am-12pm

Village Hall Contact Information.

Village Clerk
Julie Lesar
jlesar@village.belgium.wi.us

Village Treasurer
Kelly Brinkman
kbrinkman@village.belgium.wi.us

Administrative Assistant
Sherri Erickson
serickson@village.belgium.wi.us

Village Marshal
Cory Birchbauer
cbirchbauer@village.belgium.wi.us
Phone Number 262-483-8752

Village of President
Vickie Boehnlein
vboehnlein@village.belgium.wi.us

October

4-28 Hydrant Flushing 9am-2pm
5 FLU Clinic @ Belgium Legion Hall, 10am-11am
8 Fire Department Open House, 10am-1pm @ Fire House
9-15 Fire Prevention Week
19 Curbside Leaf Pick-up Begins
22 Drug Take Back Day—See Page 6
30 Trick or Treat 4pm-7pm

November

6 Daylight Savings Ends
8 General Election 7am-8pm
15 Delinquent Bills/Fees Placed on Tax Roll
21 Branch Pick-up Ends
23 Curbside Leaf Pick-up Ends
24 & 25 Village Hall Closed

December

24 & 25 Village Hall Closed
31 Recycling Cards Expire
31 & 1 January Village Hall Closed

Posting Locations

Belgium Village Hall 104 Peter Thein Ave.
Port Washington State Bank 545 Main Street
Belgium Post Office 543 Main Street
Belgium BP Gas Station 106 N Royal Ave
Website www.village.belgium.wi.us

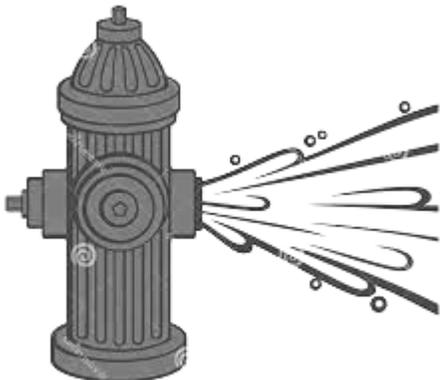
Belgium Fire Department Open House

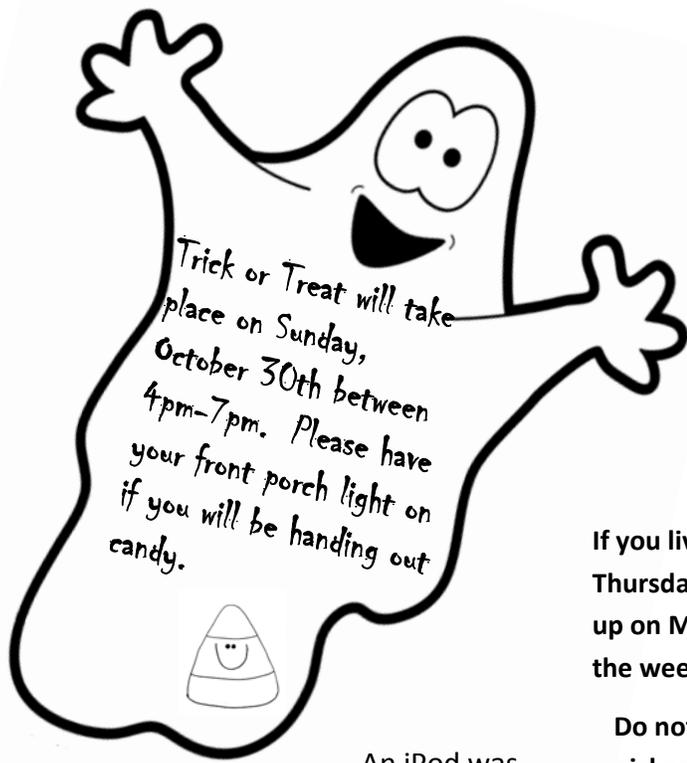
Fire Prevention Theme-Don't wait.....Replace
Check the date on smoke alarms every ten years.
Saturday, October 8th from 10am-1pm
At the Belgium Fire House-195 Commerce St.

Free Raffles Flight for Life 10am
Fire Truck Rides Ozaukee County Command Post
Lunch Storm Team 4 Weather Vehicle
Blood Pressure Checks

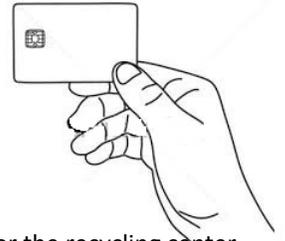


Hydrant flushing will take place from October 4th through October 28th from 9am-2pm. If your water is discolored from this process, please run your tap. The water is safe to use. We urge you to wash clothes at night during this period, if at all possible. Hydrant flushing will take place from the east to the west side of the Village.





Recycling Center Reminder

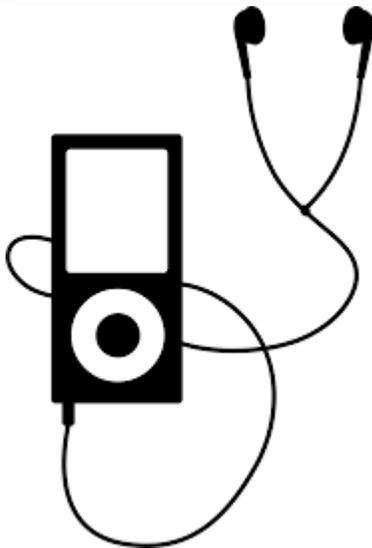


You need to purchase an access card for the recycling center. You can purchase them at the Village Hall for \$25. They expire on December 31, 2016. The amount to renew for the following year will be \$20. Dumping hours are 6am-10pm 7 days a week.

Leaf Pick Up

If you live east of Community Park, leaves will be picked up on Thursdays. If you live west of Community Park, leaves will be picked up on Mondays. Please do not put leaves in the gutter until after the weekend. Do not put leaves on the catch basin grates.

Do not mix grass clippings with your leaves. They will not be picked up if they are mixed.



An iPod was turned in to Village Hall that was found in a Village Park in the beginning of August. If you think this may be your iPod, please call Village Hall during business hours to identify it.

Branch Pick Up

Branch pick-up is on Mondays, ending on November 21st. The branches need to be at the curb by 7am with the trunk ends towards the street. Please call Village Hall for this service at 262-285-7931. If calling after hours please leave a message in our general mailbox. Do not bring your branches to the recycling center. The recycling center is for yard waste only.



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.



General Election: November 8

The next General Election is November 8th. 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 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



The following links provide information regarding voter registration and absentee voting:

Wisconsin Voter Registration Form:
<http://www.gab.wi.gov/forms/el-131-fillable>

Acceptable forms of Photo ID for voting in Wisconsin:
http://www.gab.wi.gov/sites/default/files/publication/137/acceptable_photo_ids_for_voting_in_wi_pdf_20769.pdf

Acceptable forms of Proof of Residency for registering to vote in Wisconsin:
http://www.gab.wi.gov/sites/default/files/publication/154/proof_of_residence_pdf_29621.pdf

More information on the exceptions to the photo ID law can be found at:
<http://www.bringitwisconsin.com/>

Application For Absentee Ballot:
<http://www.gab.wi.gov/forms/EL-121-english>

Detailed instructions for absentee voting:
http://www.gab.wi.gov/sites/default/files/publication/137/absentee_overview_1_27_16_pdf_14821.pdf

VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

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 and request that an application for an absentee ballot be sent to you for the election. The deadline for making application to receive an absentee ballot by is: 5:00pm on the fifth day before the election, Thursday, November 3, 2016.

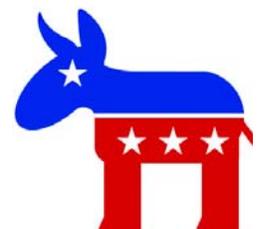
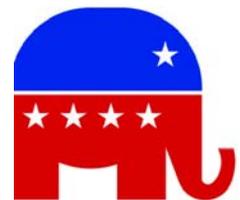
You may also request and vote absentee ballot in the clerk's office or other specified location during the days and hours specified for casting an absentee ballot in person.

Village of Belgium Clerk: Julie Lesar
Phone: 262-285-7931
Village Hall address: 104 Peter Thein Ave.
Days and hours of absentee voting: Monday-Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00pm
Friday, October 21, 8:00 am to noon.
Evenings by appointment

The first day to vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office is: Monday, October 10, 2016, 8:00 am.

The last day to vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office: November 4, 2016, 5:00 pm

NO in-person absentee voting may occur on the day before the election.





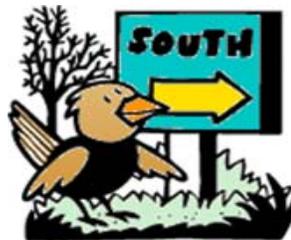
Are you tired of having to remember to mail in or drop off your utility bill payment each quarter? If you answered yes, you will be happy to know that the Village of Belgium has Auto pay for quarterly utility bills.

If you would like to sign up for this service, go to the "Utility Information" on our website at www.village.belgium.wi.us and print out the form. If you don't have internet access, feel free to stop in at Village Hall and ask us about the program and a copy of the form.



Food Collection

The Cedar Grove-Belgium food pantry is open the 2nd Thursday of every month from 4:30-6:30pm at Faith Reformed Church. The church is located at 243 S 4th St. in Cedar Grove. The phone number is 920-668-6725. A collection barrel for nonperishable food items is located at the Belgium Village Hall. Your donations are appreciated.



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!

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.

My Utility Account is Delinquent...



In the last few months, 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



Drug Take Back Day - October 22, 2016 Saturday, 10am-2pm at two locations

Concordia University Wisconsin Ozaukee County Transit Building
12800 N. Lakeshore Drive 741 W Oakland Avenue
Mequon, WI 53097 Port Washington, WI 53074

What You can bring

- Expired and Unwanted Prescription Medication
- Vitamin and Herbal Medicine
- Over-the-counter Medicine
- Veterinary Medicine
- Medicated Liquids, Ointments, and Creams



Please do NOT Bring

- Illegal Drugs
- Biohazardous Material
- Personal Care Products
Examples: shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste
- Household Hazardous Wastes
Examples: batteries, paint, cleaning products

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS WITH DELINQUENT UTILITY & INVOICE ACCOUNTS



On October 15th, 2016 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, 2016 to avoid the 10% penalty allowed per Wisconsin Statute §66.0809(3). Balances which remain outstanding as of 5:00pm on November 15th, 2015 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.



It may be bittersweet to say goodbye to summer. But fall brings its own charm with crisp autumn afternoons, colorful leaves and fall festivals. As the weather begins to change, here are some helpful fire safety reminders from Fire Department.

Home heating

Soon you may need to fire up the furnace so it is important to have your system professionally inspected, cleaned and serviced. Filters need to be changed or cleaned, and you should always make sure combustibles are stored at least 3 feet from the furnace. Have any alternative heating sources checked out as well, such as fireplaces and wood-burning stoves. Creosote buildup can cause heat buildup and ultimately cause a house fire.

Space heaters

Before plugging in your space heaters for the first time be sure to inspect the cords to be sure there is no frayed wires. Keep them away from combustibles and out of the path of children and pets. Space heaters need space and it is recommended to keep a 3 foot distance around a space heater.

Smoke alarms

Having working smoke alarms in your home give you precious time to escape a home fire alive. Tips regarding smoke alarms:
Replace the batteries twice a year.
Clean dust from smoke alarms with a vacuum attachment.
Replace units that are over 10 years old.
Push the test button monthly to ensure proper operation.
Have an outside meeting place where your family will meet in case of a fire. Practice home fire drills!