

Village of Belgium 2017 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



October

4-FLU Clinic @ Belgium Legion Hall, 10am-11am
8-14 Fire Prevention Week
9-November 1 Hydrant Flushing 9am-2pm
14-Fire Department Open House, 10am-1pm @ Fire House
17-Curbside Leaf Pick-up Begins
29-Trick or Treat 4pm-7pm

November

5-Daylight Savings Ends
15-Delinquent Bills/Fees Placed on Tax Roll
20-Branch Pick-up Ends
22-Curbside Leaf Pick-up Ends
23 & 24-Village Hall Closed
25-Garbage Pick-up Due to Holiday

December

25 & 26-Village Hall Closed
30-Garbage Pick-up Due to Holiday
31-Recycling Cards Expire
1 & 2-January Village Hall Closed

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

Trick or Treat will take place on Sunday, October 29th 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.

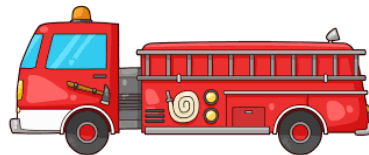
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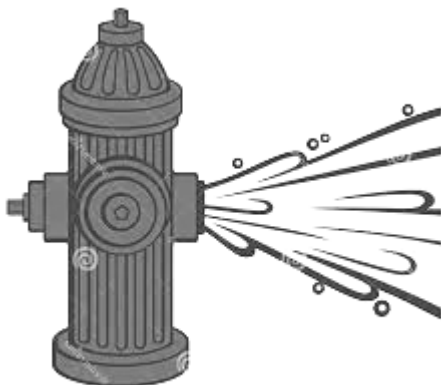
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Belgium Fire Department Open House

Fire Prevention Theme
Every Second Counts. Plan 2 Ways Out.
Saturday, October 14th 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



Hydrant flushing will take place from October 9th through November 1st 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.



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.



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!



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.

My Utility Account is Delinquent...



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.

The screenshot shows a web interface with a dropdown menu labeled "Select Detail -->" set to "Taxes". To the right are buttons for "Make Default Detail", "Printer Friendly Page", and "View Interactive Map". Below this is a section for "1 Lottery credit claimed effective 1/1/2010" and "Print tax bills: 2010 2011 2012 2013". A "Tax History" table is displayed with columns for Tax Year*, Total Due, Paid to Date, Current Due, Interest, Penalty, and Total Payoff. The 2010 row is highlighted in red, and an arrow points to it from the text above. The 2010 row shows a Total Due of \$3,255.05 and a Total Payoff of \$0.00.

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

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS WITH
DELINQUENT UTILITY &
INVOICE ACCOUNTS



On October 15th, 2017 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, 2017** to avoid the 10% penalty allowed per Wisconsin Statute §66.0809(3). Balances which remain outstanding as of 5:00pm on November 15th, 2017 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.

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.

Free Educational Health Seminars -
Oriental Medicine and Acupuncture

With introduction by Dr Braun - Updates on epigenetics

Amy will be working limited hours out of Dr Braun's office to bring an additional healing modality to the community. She was educated at UW Milwaukee with a Bachelor's Degree and then her post graduate education was at Midwest College of Oriental Medicine in Racine Wisconsin where she received her degree in Acupuncture. She is a licensed practitioner in the State of Wisconsin and looking forward to helping you with a new approach to achieve better wellbeing or explore new options in your self-care.

10 AM - 11 AM at the Legion Hall in Belgium,
655 Park Street, Belgium

Sat Oct 14 Acupuncture: What's the Point?

What is Acupuncture and What Can It Help With.... You'll hear about the history of the practice and the education of practitioners. Take a look at the materials used, surprisingly tiny and comfortable. Ask questions and familiarize yourself with acupuncture and it's uses.

Sat Oct 28

Acupuncture and Allergies

Acupuncture and the Immune System

Get an overview on acupuncture's use in the treatment and prevention of allergy symptoms and in the overall tonification of the immune system for more comfort, energy and health. Bring your questions and have a discussion about how acupuncture may benefit you and your loved ones to experience autumn with fewer allergy symptoms and better health.

Sat Nov 11

Acupuncture and Pain

Acupuncture can treat pain such as headaches, body aches, arthritis and other discomforts. The practice is used for many types of people and many types of pain with great results. The treatment may take time to get a handle on certain ailments. Keep in mind how long the problem has been in effect, and be encouraged to know that acupuncture may be able to help you reduce your discomfort greatly to live a better and fuller life!

RSVP for space and chair counts would be most helpful!

Please call or text Amy at 262.573.2190 with date, name, number attending.

Thank you!
Amy Huegerich, Acupuncturist
262.573.2190



Hello, residents! The Belgium Area Chamber of Commerce would like to cordially invite you to join us for the following special events. Please "like" the Belgium Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook page to stay in the know on all the event details as they become available.

- Saturday, December 2nd, 2017- The European Christmas parade at 4:30.
- Saturday, February 3, 2018- The Brew & Chew returns! Hosted at Cedar Beach Inn from 6-9 pm. Doors open for advance ticket sale holders at 5:30 pm. Please contact us if you are interested in being a vendor or event sponsor. Tickets on sale soon.

Have you ever thought, "There should be more to do in Belgium. I wish they would have more [insert event idea here], or get the community together for a [another great event suggestion!] We'd love to hear your thoughts and ideas! We have formed a tourism committee which will be working on "branding" Belgium and growing its tourism opportunities. If you would like to join us, or even just pass on your thoughts, please contact Tara at belgiumareachamber@gmail.com.

Belgium Bits- "What's In a Name?"

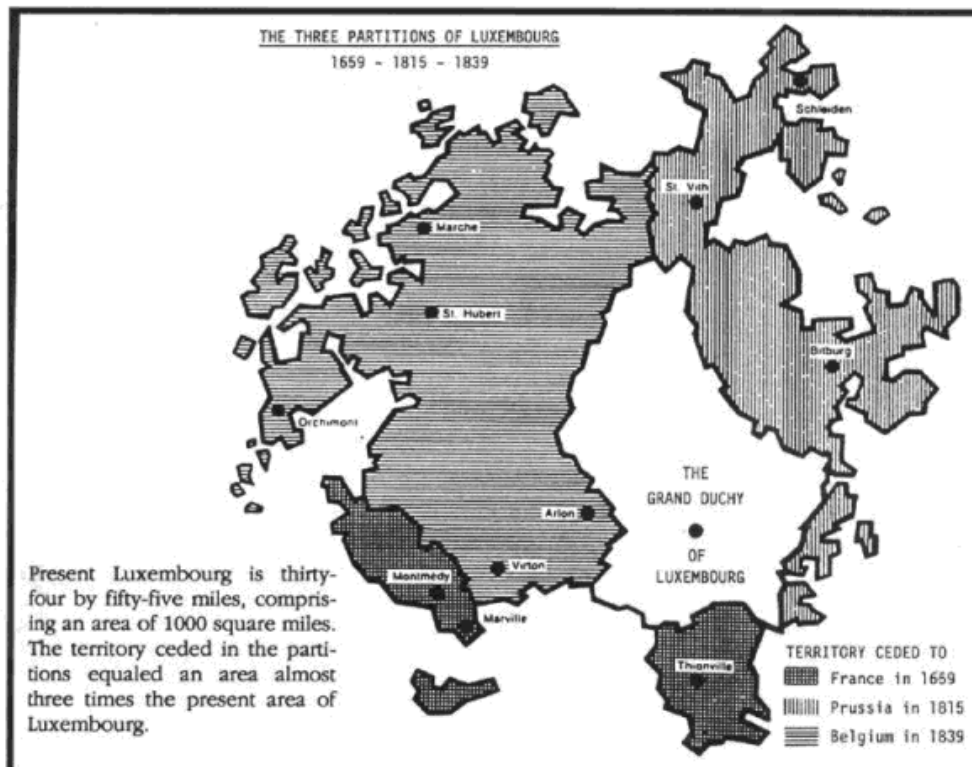
If you're reading this newsletter, you're a part of our community, and even if you weren't a Luxembourger before, you're an honorary one now. :)

As such, we are going to use a bit of each newsletter to share interesting tidbits about Belgium's history and/or Luxembourg Heritage so we can all get to know each other a little more.

Do you know how Belgium got its name, despite being founded by Luxembourgers?

Immigrants to Belgium, Wisconsin came from the city of Arlon. Arlon was located in Luxembourg until 1839, when a part of Luxembourg, including Arlon, was annexed and given to the country of Belgium.

When Arlon immigrants went to name our village in 1848, they still considered themselves Luxembourgers. However, Luxembourgish settlers had already settled further north, starting Luxembourg, Wisconsin. So since that name was unavailable, they went with the country currently on their passports, Belgium.



Buechler Farms LLC "Pumpkin Patch"

587 S Royal Ave, Belgium



*Open every weekend starting Sunday Sept 24th through October 29th.
Go to buechlerfarms.com or Buechler Farms on face book to see
more information.*

*We will be offering two days a week for school events. Book your
child's birthday party! Reserve an evening for your company or
personal event!*

We have lots of exciting things to do at the farm!

- 10+ acre corn maze includes punch card for drawing @ the end of the season for \$300 gift card to The Great Wolfe Lodge.
 - 52+ acre hayride and pick your own pumpkin. Picked pumpkins available as well
 - Pumpkin bowling
 - Apple Chucker
 - Petting zoo
 - Build your own sliced caramel apple
 - Face Painting
 - Don't forget to stop at the "The Barn" Café for lunch and yummy treats!
 - Vendors / Mums/Corn stalk/Straw bales/Indian corn
-

Also new this year for 2017

Buechler Farms will be selling fresh cut Christmas trees starting the end of November. Watch the farm and our face book page for more details.

