

Village of Belgium Newsletter

www.village.belgium.wi.us

104 Peter Thein Ave.

Belgium, WI 53004

Phone: 262-285-7931

Hours 8-5 Monday –Thursday

8-12 (Noon) Friday

Village Clerk

Julie Lesar

jlesar@village.belgium.wi.us

Village Treasurer

Kelly Brinkman

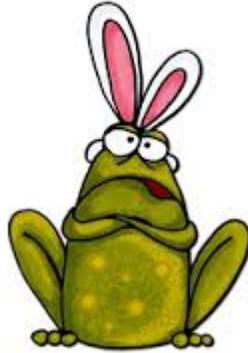
kbrinkman@village.belgium.wi.us

Administrative Assistant

Sherri Erickson

serickson@village.belgium.wi.us

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Free Shredding and E-Cycling

Village residents are invited to bring any documents you want to dispose of safely and securely to Plus Group Financial Office, 680 Main Street from 8:30-11:00am on May 14, 2016. Documents will be shredded on-site at no cost to you. Paper Shredding Limit 5 boxes per person until truck is full.

Electronics can be brought to the **Belgium Town Dump, 1215 Jay Road** from 9am-12(Noon)

E-Cycling is unlimited until the truck is full.



Main Street Construction

As you may have noticed, the construction on Main Street has begun. Here are a few things to keep in mind while the construction is going on. It is imperative that everyone exercises caution while driving, bicycling, or walking on the streets that are under construction and obeys ALL construction signs. The Village asks that residents keep their distance from construction equipment in use. Please keep children and pets away from construction activity and open trenches as they might not be aware of the dangers.

Calendar of Events

March

31-Winter Parking Ends

April

1-Dog License Deadline

4-Spring Election

14-Village Hall Closing at 12pm

15-Easter Egg Hunt @1pm (See Page 2)

28-Rummage Registration Deadline

May

13-Village Rummage Sale

15-Branch Pickup Begins-Call Village Hall (See Page 3)

20- Paper Shredding (8:30-12pm) @ Plus Group

E-Cycling Located at Town Dump (See below)

23-Open Book (See Page 3)

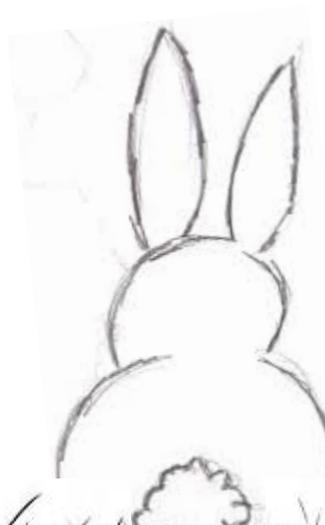
29-Village Hall Closed

June

3-Garbage pickup on Saturday due to holiday

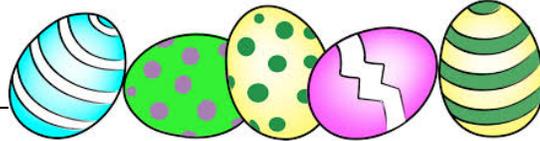
23-Fireworks start between 9:45pm-10pm @ Heritage Park

29-Board of Review 7pm –9pm (See Page 3)





The Belgium Area Chamber of Commerce will host an Easter Egg Hunt on April 15th. The egg hunt will start at 1:00pm sharp at the Heritage Park, 224 Nicks Way in Belgium. The Easter Bunny will join us for this fun filled hunt, so please bring your camera. Prizes will be awarded too. Please arrive with your Easter basket on time.....as the Easter Egg hunt will start promptly at 1:00pm. Hope to see you there!



Election Inspectors Needed

The Village is currently taking applications for Election Inspectors. Election inspector's duties include setting up the polling place, recording electors, issuing ballots, monitoring voting equipment. The only requirement is that you are a registered voter in the Village of Belgium. Training (two hours) is required and is provided by the Village, Ozaukee County and/or State of WI. The election day shifts are: 6:30 am to 1:30 pm or 1:00 pm to close. Rate of pay is \$10 per hour. Please contact Village Clerk, Julie Lesar at 262-285-7931, jlesar@village.belgium.wi.us, if you are interested in becoming an inspector or have any questions .



If you would like the quarterly newsletter emailed to you please email Sherri at serickson@village.belgium.wi.us. Help the Village cut costs with postage, ink, paper and envelopes.



If you would like to have your utility bill paid automatically from your bank account each quarter, please fill out an "Authorization of Automatic Payment Withdrawal" form . You can find it either online or at the Village office.



As you might have heard sewer rates have gone up. You will see the increase in the next quarters bill. Here are some of the reasons that the rates have gone up.

- Cost of the wastewater plant operations have increased
- Original equipment at the wastewater plant needs maintenance or replacement
- Phosphorus, a chemical used to treat wastewater, the cost has increased
- Gas and electrical services have increased there rates
- Fixing inflow and infiltration problems throughout the Village.



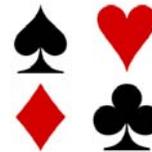
The Cedar Grove-Belgium food pantry is open the 2nd Thursday of every month from 4:30-6:30pm at Faith Reformed Church. The church is located at 243 S 4th St in Cedar Grove. The phone number is 920-668-6725. A collection barrel for non-perishable food items is located at the Belgium Village Hall. Your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

Food Pantry Donations Needed

Check out the Village website and Facebook pages. We are constantly adding and updating information.



The Belgium Fire Department is currently taking applications for membership. If you are interested in joining, please contact Fire Chief Daniel Birenbaum at 414-416-7085 for further information. Applications are available at Village Hall.



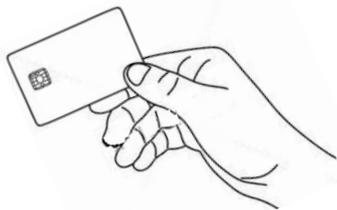
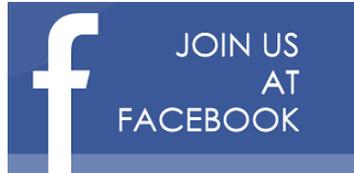
Now that Spring has arrived you may find it is time to get out of the house. Or are you just tired of cooking or eating alone? Why don't you join your fellow friends and neighbors for lunch and maybe some Sheepshead or Dominos. Lunch is open to all seniors and is provided by the Ozaukee County Aging and Disability Resource Center. We serve every Wednesday at 12 at the Belgium Legion Hall, 655 Park Street. For a \$4.00 donation you will get a delicious, healthy meal including coffee, milk and dessert. To reserve a meal, call Louann at 262-483-1207 or the A.D. R.C Office at 262-284-8120 by noon the day before.



Open Book/Board of Review

If you have any questions concerning your new property valuation, there will be an Open Book session held by Grota Appraisals, LLC at the Belgium Village Hall where you can meet individually with one of the appraisers. The Open Book Session will be held on Tuesday, May 23rd from 10 am to 1:00 pm and 2 pm to 7pm. No appointment is needed. If you prefer, you may email the Assessor prior to Open Book at: Les@wi-assessor.com or Mike@wi-assessor.com.

If, after the open book session, you wish to object to the assessment, contact Julie Lesar at 262-285-7931 to file a "form of objection" and to schedule an appointment before the local Board of Review. You will need to file a written or oral intent to object with the Municipal Clerk at least 48 hours prior to the Board of Review. The Board of Review will be meeting at the Belgium Village Hall on Thursday, June 29th from 7pm to 9pm. The Board of Review functions like a court in that it is required to evaluate evidence based on facts. You must provide factual information showing your property is incorrectly assessed.



Have you been to the recycling center and found that your card doesn't work? You probably haven't renewed it for 2017. They expire on December 31st of every year.

The cost to renew your recycling card is \$20. If you need to purchase a recycling card because you don't have one yet the cost is \$25. Hours of operation (with access card) are 6am-10pm 7 days a week.

Branch pick-up will be on Mondays, starting on May 15th. The branches need to be at the curb by 7am with the trunk ends towards the street. **PLEASE CALL VILLAGE HALL FOR THIS SERVICE 262-285-7931.** If calling after hours, please leave a message. Do not place branches curbside over a holiday or event weekend, i.e. Belgium Rummage Sale. Residents who choose to put branches out on event weekends may be charged for the collection. You **can not** bring your branches to the recycling center. The recycling center is for yard waste only! You will be fined if you leave branches there.

Chipping policy (only applies to trees 6" or more in diameter). 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 branches chipped. If branches from a felled tree 6" in diameter or more are left at the curb for the Village staff to chip, a fee of \$200 per hour will be charged to the property owner.





Don't forget to license your dog!

Per Wisconsin law, all dogs within the Village of Belgium are required to be licensed annually. A penalty exists, for obtaining a license after April 1st. Please don't forget the rabies certificate.



It's dog walking season again, and that means dog POOP season again.

Every responsible dog owner agrees... picking up after your dog is a **MUST**. No matter where or when it occurs, there is **NO** excuse for not scooping the poop. So here are 10 reasons why **EVERY** dog owner **MUST** be responsible for picking up **EVERY TIME**.

1. **It's the law.** Just like littering, it's unlawful **NOT** to pick up after your dog, and your violation is subject to fine.
2. **It's common courtesy.** Cleaning up after your dogs shows respect for our neighbors and our community. Only irresponsible dog owners leave their dog's poop for others to look at, step in or clean up.
3. **Dog Poop is unhealthy.** Abandoned dog poop can host diseases and/or parasites which can infect other dogs who come into contact with it, or be transmitted to people who accidentally step in it and track it home. Particularly at risk, of course, are children who play on the ground. Disposing of dog poop immediately helps all dogs stay healthier and reduces feces-borne parasites and illnesses.
4. **Dog Poop bio-degrades slowly.** Some people think it's okay to leave dog poop because it will break down naturally. However, the biodegrading process is very slow, and, especially in places where the dog population is high, abandoned dog poop can accumulate faster than it breaks down. In the cold weather, poop freezes and, because poop that is frozen to the ground is almost impossible to clean up, it will remain where you left it for several weeks to several months.
5. **It's not fertilizer!** In fact, poop impedes landscaping efforts. Leaving dog poop encourages other dogs to mark that spot (by urinating over the previous dog's scent): poop left on the grass contributes to the problem of "nitrogen burn."
6. **Dog Poop pollutes the water.** Dog feces, like any feces, contains high levels of nutrients, like nitrogen and phosphorus, which actually pollute the water. Cleaning up after your dog is environmentally responsible. And please don't dispose of dog poop in storm drains: storm drains are a direct conduit to our water system!
7. **Dog Poop is unsightly.** Everybody knows that. It's disgusting. Pick it up. We all deserve to live in a clean village where we can be proud and step lightly.
8. **Dog Poop tops the list of complaints against dogs.** More than dog aggression, nuisance barking or unsupervised dogs, most complaints against dogs are about people not cleaning up after their dogs.
9. **Dog Poop makes all dog owners look bad.** Every time you don't pick up after your dog, you are giving one more reason for others to dislike dogs and dog owners.
10. **Your actions set an example for others.** When you pick up after your dog, you are part of the solution! And your actions will help convey the message that it's the right thing to do. Consider carrying extra bags to offer to others as a subtle and neighborly hint that cleaning up after our dogs is what responsible dog owners do. If you see orphan poop, pick it up with one of those extra bags you are carrying. *I know, I know!* Nothing like picking up somebody else's cold poop, but what a message it sends to others! Your actions will encourage others to do the same, and soon, this will be a non-issue, because everybody will simply pick up without giving it a second thought.

It's up to each of us to do our part in keeping the Village of Belgium clean and poop-free. **Make sure you carry bags with you.** In fact, carry extras and offer them to dog owners who aren't prepared or may not yet be educated about the importance of picking up after their dogs.

