



Village of Bellevue January 2013 E-mail Newsletter

201 N. Main St. • Bellevue, MI 49021
269-763-9571 • 269-763-9998 (fax)

Bellevuemi@bellevuemi.net • Website: www.bellevuemi.net

Village of Bellevue Governmental Meetings:

Village Council: Tuesday, January 8, 2013 7:00 p.m.
 Bellevue Village Hall
 Tuesday, January 22, 2013 7:00 p.m.
 Bellevue Village Hall



Holidays:

The Village of Bellevue offices will be closed on the following days in January, February, and March:

New Year's Day	Tuesday, January 1, 2013
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Monday, January 21, 2013
President's Day	Monday, February 18, 2013



Council Meeting Synopsis:

October

October 9, 2012: Fireworks and sample ordinances to regulate their usage were an agenda item for this council meeting. Several sample ordinances were presented to the council that regulated fireworks to differing degrees. At this time the council is interested in gathering more public input before making any decisions. Details for the fall leaf pick up program were also shared with the council.

October 23, 2012: Several items were on the agenda of this meeting regarding the Washington Park Project and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Community Development Block Grant that was used to fund a majority of it. The council was given a report on the State's recent audit of the project and a public hearing was set to receive comments on the project and a more detailed civil rights policy was adopted.

The council also discussed handicap parking in the Village's downtown and began its discussion on the 2013 budget.

November

November 13, 2012: Jack Eubank's resignation from the council due to his election to the Bellevue Township Board was accepted. With the empty seat the council took action and appointed Marley Munn to the council. The public hearing to accept comments on the completion of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Grant #MSC 210013-FMK,



commonly referred to as the Farmer's Market Improvement Project, was held. The council did receive comments from one resident in attendance.

The council also continued its discussion on the 2013 budget. As part of this discussion water and sewer rates necessary to support the two systems were discussed. Two public hearings, one for the budget and the other for the utility rates, were set for the December meeting.



November 27, 2012: Christmas decorations were an agenda item with the council deciding to place a Christmas tree in the new Washington Park Gazebo. This placement of this tree had been a topic of discussion amongst the council since the project was developed as a means of once again having a community Christmas tree. The previous tree's size had made it impossible to decorate due to lack of equipment to reach high enough and budget.

The 2013 council meeting schedule was also set at this meeting. A final agenda item was a short discussion about pursuing a grant for the downtown. At this time the Village will not submit a proposal due to lacking any matching funds.

December

December 11, 2012: This council meeting had a busy agenda for their last meeting in 2012. Two public hearings were held, one to accept public comment on the 2013 Village Budget and the other to accept public comment on 2013 Village Water & Sewer Rates. In addition to the public hearings the council did act on several items that included, adopting amendments to the 2012 budget, adopting the 2013 budget, adopting new water and sewer rates for 2013, acting on the salary committee's recommendations regarding employee wages and benefits, and also passing a 2013 contract for the Village Manager.

Council Members:

Here is a list of the Bellevue Village Council Members:

Denise Poyer, Village President (November 2014) Pamela Kolberg, Village Trustee (November 2016)
Thomas Moon, Village Trustee (November 2014) Marley Munn, Village Trustee (November 2014)
Stephen Racine, Village Trustee (November 2016) Lisa Redmer, Village Trustee (November 2014)
Dennis Swartz, Village Trustee (November 2016)

2013 Village of Bellevue Council Meeting Schedule:

The Village Council will meet on the second and the fourth Tuesday of each month in 2013 except December, when they will only meet once, on the second Tuesday. The second meeting was cancelled to allow the council members and employees celebrate Christmas. Village council meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Bellevue Village Hall, 201 N. Main St. Below is a list of the regular council meeting dates.



2013 Bellevue Village Council Meeting Schedule

Tuesday	January 8, 2013	Tuesday	July 9, 2013
Tuesday	January 22, 2013	Tuesday	July 23, 2013
Tuesday	February 12, 2013	Tuesday	August 13, 2012
Tuesday	February 26, 2013	Tuesday	August 27, 2013
Tuesday	March 12, 2012	Tuesday	September 10, 2013
Tuesday	March 26, 2013	Tuesday	September 24, 2013
Tuesday	April 9, 2013	Tuesday	October 8, 2013
Tuesday	April 23, 2013	Tuesday	October 22, 2013
Tuesday	May 14, 2013	Tuesday	November 12, 2013
Tuesday	May 28, 2013	Tuesday	November 26, 2013
Tuesday	June 11, 2013	Tuesday	December 10, 2013
Tuesday	June 25, 2013		

Christmas Season Recognition:

The Village would like to thank all those individuals and groups that worked to help make this holiday season so wonderful.



Thank you to the Lioness Club for the beautiful decorations adorning our downtown and Bellevue Volunteer Firefighters for hanging them. Both groups do a great job of dressing up the community for the holidays.

Thank you to the Village employees for your help in setting up decorations and keeping the lights working throughout December.

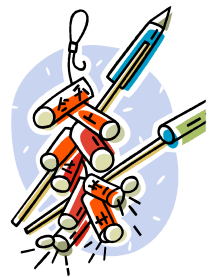
Thank you to Hannah Coy for organizing the annual Christmas Parade. It may have been cold but it was a nice parade.

Thank you to Mark and Julie Jordan and the Bellevue Hardware for hosting Santa Night. The children in our community always enjoy the opportunity to visit with Santa Claus in Bellevue.

Fireworks:

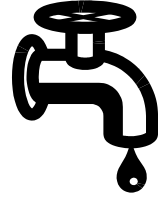
The Bellevue Village Council is currently considering enacting an ordinance to regulate consumer fireworks within the village limits and would like resident's opinions.

Recent laws passed by the State of Michigan have greatly increased what fireworks are legal. The use of these fireworks has led to complaints such as noise, littering, and potential property damage and the council is currently gathering feedback on how best to handle this issue.



If you have an opinion on this issue please share it with a council member, village hall staff, or submit it in writing to the Village so that it can be shared with the council during their deliberations.

2013 Village of Bellevue Utility Rates:



At the December 11, 2012 Bellevue Village Council Meeting the council voted to amend the Village’s water and sewer utility rates. This amendment was based on a rate study, financial information, necessity for the two utilities to be self-reliant, and discussion’s with the Village auditor and bond holders.

The council and employees of the Village are very aware of the difficult economic times. We are required to meet certain requirements as set forth by the State of Michigan and Federal Government. These requirements impact our ability to cut costs. While our efforts have had successes, we have still unfortunately reached a point where it is necessary for us to amend our utility rates.

We take our responsibility seriously. The council and employees will continue to search for areas where savings can be found and implement new ideas that help us control costs.

The rate changes are:

Water:

Minimum Bill- \$24.00, No Change

Rate per thousand gallons of usage- Decrease \$0.50 per thousand gallons from \$4.70 to \$4.20

Sewer:

Minimum Bill- \$48.00, No Change

Rate per thousand gallons of usage- Increase \$1.50 per thousand gallons from \$10.00 to \$11.50

Capital Improvement:

\$36.00 charge per benefit unit per quarter- No Change

These charges create a minimum quarterly billing of \$108.00 for a household.

The chart shows how the proposed utility rates compare to the current utility rates at different usages. The average household uses between 14,000 and 15,000 gallons a quarter so these lines have been highlighted. Usage can vary greatly from household to household so you are encouraged to look at past bills for your usage amounts.

Usage in 1000	Previous Bill	Current Bill	Quarterly Increase	Annual Increase
1	\$108.00	\$108.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2	\$108.00	\$108.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3	\$108.00	\$108.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4	\$108.00	\$108.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
5	\$110.00	\$117.50	\$7.50	\$30.00
6	\$124.20	\$130.20	\$6.00	\$24.00
7	\$138.90	\$145.90	\$7.00	\$28.00
8	\$153.60	\$161.60	\$8.00	\$32.00
9	\$168.30	\$177.30	\$9.00	\$36.00
10	\$183.00	\$193.00	\$10.00	\$40.00
11	\$197.70	\$208.70	\$11.00	\$44.00
12	\$212.40	\$224.40	\$12.00	\$48.00
13	\$227.10	\$240.10	\$13.00	\$52.00
14	\$241.80	\$255.80	\$14.00	\$56.00
15	\$256.50	\$271.50	\$15.00	\$60.00
16	\$271.20	\$287.20	\$16.00	\$64.00
17	\$285.90	\$302.90	\$17.00	\$68.00
18	\$300.60	\$318.60	\$18.00	\$72.00
19	\$315.30	\$334.30	\$19.00	\$76.00
20	\$330.00	\$350.00	\$20.00	\$80.00
21	\$344.70	\$365.70	\$21.00	\$84.00
22	\$359.40	\$381.40	\$22.00	\$88.00
23	\$374.10	\$397.10	\$23.00	\$92.00
24	\$388.80	\$412.80	\$24.00	\$96.00
25	\$403.50	\$428.50	\$25.00	\$100.00
26	\$418.20	\$444.20	\$26.00	\$104.00
27	\$432.90	\$459.90	\$27.00	\$108.00
28	\$447.60	\$475.60	\$28.00	\$112.00