



Village of Bellevue November 2009 E-mail Newsletter

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

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

Village of Bellevue Governmental Meetings:

Village Council: Tuesday, December 8, 2009 7:00 p.m.
Bellevue Village Hall
Tuesday, December 24, 2009 7:00 p.m.
Bellevue Village Hall



Bellevue Joint Planning Commission: Tuesday, December 17, 2009 7:00 p.m.
Bellevue Township Hall

Holidays:

The Village of Bellevue offices will be closed on the following days in December:

Christmas Eve	Thursday, December 24, 2009
Christmas	Friday, December 25, 2009
New Years Day	Friday, January 1, 1010

Council Meeting Synopsis:

November 10, 2009: The council had a short but full agenda at their November 10 meeting. The council was made aware that the new recycling cooperative had been opened.



The 2010 Water and Sewer rates as well as the 2010 budget were discussed. The council set a public hearing for Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at 7:15 p.m. to give community members a chance to voice their opinions. The current rate increase that is being proposed is approximately 20%. This would allow both the water and sewer funds to operate at break-even levels. More information is available at Bellevue Village Hall.

November 24, 2009: The Village of Bellevue's upcoming 2010 fiscal year was the main topic of conversation at this meeting. The council reviewed two proposals to provide the Village with general liability insurance. After hearing presentations by the two groups, checking references and comparing coverage's

the council chose the lower bid. This will result in a savings of approximately \$20,000 annually.

The council discussed the 2010 water and sewer rates. There is more information on this later in the newsletter. There was also a public hearing set for the 2010 Village of Bellevue Budget. This public hearing is set for Tuesday, December 22, 2009 at 7:10 p.m.

Christmas in Bellevue:

Christmas is a time for family and sharing. There is a group of caring individuals that would like to see our small town of Bellevue rejoice in the Christmas spirit together. Thank you for all your hard work to benefit Bellevue.

Bellevue Christmas Parade

Santa Clause will be visiting Bellevue to ride in the annual Christmas Parade to be held on December 5th. The parade will begin at 5 p.m., with the line up forming at 4:30 p.m. on Vine St. The parade will proceed south on Main St. through the downtown business district, culminating at the Bellevue Hardware Store.



The parade is open to anyone and participants are encouraged to participate. Questions can be directed to Deb Black, the organizer of the parade at 269-841-6830.

Family Night with Santa

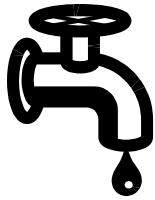
The Bellevue Hardware, will be hosting Santa's visit to Bellevue on December 5th, following the parade. The Bellevue Fire Department will deliver Santa to the Hardware at 5:30 p.m. and he will be there until 6:30 p.m. Bring the little ones down to sit on Santa's lap and tell him what they would like for Christmas.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays:

The Village of Bellevue would like to wish our community both those here and those that are spread abroad a very merry Christmas and happy holidays.

Sincerely,

Village of Bellevue



The Village of Bellevue

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The Village of Bellevue will be holding a public hearing on Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at 7:15 p.m. for the purpose of taking public comment on proposed 2010 Water and Sewer Utility Rates for the Village of Bellevue. Just like our community members, the Village has not remained immune to the economic downturn this decade, experiencing reduced revenues and rising expenses. We have seen expenses in certain areas continue to grow and have done our best to offset these increases. Our methods of operation have been and are consistently being reviewed for cost savings. Changes are being made where possible. We have replaced equipment to improve efficiency and effectiveness, changed chemical usage, and put off capital improvement projects. Personnel costs have also underwent changes that have allowed the Village to realize significant cost savings.

The council and employees of the Village are very aware of the difficult economic times. While our efforts to control costs have had successes we have still unfortunately reached a point where it is necessary for us to increase our utility rates.

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. At the same time that usage has fallen and expenses have increased, the requirements the Village must meet have become more stringent. An example of the impact these regulations have had is the project in 2006 where the wastewater treatment plant underwent a \$1,000,000 infrastructure improvement project. We will be paying off the bonds required to fund the project for several more years.

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. We are also pursuing community growth. Both our water and wastewater systems are currently operating at approximately half capacity so with increased usage we could spread our costs over a greater number of households with little impact to our expenses.

The proposed rate changes are:
Water:
 Minimum Bill- An Increase from \$20.00 to \$24.00

Usage (in 1000's)	Current Total Bill	Proposed Total Bill	Quarterly Increase	Annual Increase
1	\$ 96.00	\$ 108.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 48.00
2	\$ 96.00	\$ 108.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 48.00
3	\$ 96.00	\$ 108.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 48.00
4	\$ 96.00	\$ 108.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 48.00
5	\$ 96.00	\$ 108.25	\$ 12.25	\$ 49.00
6	\$ 106.80	\$ 122.10	\$ 15.30	\$ 61.20
7	\$ 118.60	\$ 136.45	\$ 17.85	\$ 71.40
8	\$ 130.40	\$ 150.80	\$ 20.40	\$ 81.60
9	\$ 142.20	\$ 165.15	\$ 22.95	\$ 91.80
10	\$ 154.00	\$ 179.50	\$ 25.50	\$102.00
11	\$ 165.80	\$ 193.85	\$ 28.05	\$112.20
12	\$ 177.60	\$ 208.20	\$ 30.60	\$122.40
13	\$ 189.40	\$ 222.55	\$ 33.15	\$132.60
14	\$ 201.20	\$ 236.90	\$ 35.70	\$142.80
15	\$ 213.00	\$ 251.25	\$ 38.25	\$153.00
16	\$ 224.80	\$ 265.60	\$ 40.80	\$163.20
17	\$ 236.60	\$ 279.95	\$ 43.35	\$173.40
18	\$ 248.40	\$ 294.30	\$ 45.90	\$183.60
19	\$ 260.20	\$ 308.65	\$ 48.45	\$193.80
20	\$ 272.00	\$ 323.00	\$ 51.00	\$204.00
21	\$ 283.80	\$ 337.35	\$ 53.55	\$214.20
22	\$ 295.60	\$ 351.70	\$ 56.10	\$224.40
23	\$ 307.40	\$ 366.05	\$ 58.65	\$234.60
24	\$ 319.20	\$ 380.40	\$ 61.20	\$244.80
25	\$ 331.00	\$ 394.75	\$ 63.75	\$255.00
26	\$ 342.80	\$ 409.10	\$ 66.30	\$265.20
27	\$ 354.60	\$ 423.45	\$ 68.85	\$275.40
28	\$ 366.40	\$ 437.80	\$ 71.40	\$285.60
29	\$ 378.20	\$ 452.15	\$ 73.95	\$295.80
30	\$ 390.00	\$ 466.50	\$ 76.50	\$306.00

Rate per thousand gallons of usage- Increase \$0.80 per thousand gallons from \$3.90 to \$4.70

Sewer:

Minimum Bill- An Increase from \$40.00 to \$48.00

Rate per thousand gallons of usage- Increase \$1.75 per thousand gallons from \$7.90 to \$9.65

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 15,000 gallons a quarter so this line has been highlighted. Usage can vary greatly from household to household so you are encouraged to look at past bills for your usage amounts.