

VOLUME 11 / Winter 2011

The City's Official Newsletter

PRE SORT
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BURLINGTON, WI
PERMIT NO. 2

City of Burlington
300 N. Pine Street
Burlington, WI 53105



Real Estate Tax Payment Options

The City of Burlington will continue our partnership with two of the local banks in hope of making the process of paying Real Estate Taxes more convenient.

In efforts to give you more opportunities to pay your Real Estate Taxes, Fox River State Bank and M & I Bank (local branches only) will be collecting taxes on behalf of the City so you can take advantage of their extended business hours, weekend hours, and various other services. This will only be applicable for the first installment due by January 31, 2011; the second installment will still be paid to the Racine County Treasurer by July 31, 2011.

Payments can be made before January 31 at City Hall, 300 N. Pine Street; by mail to P.O. Box 477, Burlington, WI 53105; the two local banks or by credit card at www.officialpayments.com. Neither the City nor the banks will be issuing cash refunds, a refund check will be mailed to your home within two weeks.

City Hall will be closed on December 23, 24, 25, 30, 31 and January 1. Payments can be made at the two banks on December 24 and 31 (see below). In addition, on the next business day, January 3 all payments have the option to be placed in 2010 or 2011 for income tax purposes. City Hall will also accept postmarked mail.

Fox River State Bank
241 E. Jefferson Street (Downtown)
Hours:
Monday – Thursday 8 a.m.– 5 a.m.
Friday – 8a.m.– 6 p.m.
Saturday – 8 a.m.– 12 p.m.

Open on December 24 until 12 p.m.
Open December 31 until 6 p.m.
Closed: December 25 & January 1

M & I Bank
1000 Milwaukee Avenue
(New location in front of Kohl's)
Hours:
Monday – Thursday 9 a.m.– 5 p.m.
Friday – 9a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday – 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Open on December 24 until 1p.m.

2011 Annual Budget to be Adopted

City residents will see a very slight increase in their city tax bills this year, as the Common Council approved a budget that will increase city taxes on the average home by \$18. This budget comes on the heels of two years where no increase in taxes was required. Under the adopted budget the mil rate will rise to \$7.59 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

The General Fund budget pays for essential city services such as police and fire service, snowplowing, trash pick-up, parks maintenance and street repair. The adopted budget also shows no increase in the operating expenditures over 2010. This is very significant given than it accounts for increases in health insurance costs, fuel, utility costs and pension contributions.

They City's tax base continues to become more balanced, with about 60 percent of the total property values comprised of residential property and 40 percent coming from manufacturing, commercial and other properties.

Unfortunately, the approved budget includes increases in the water rates as the city continues to face decreased consumption in all three of its customer bases (residential, commercial and industrial) and cost related to state-

mandated radium removal systems for Wells #9 and #10.

The Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District #3 encompasses a large land area of the city, including much of the downtown core and major commercial corridors. TIF District #3 has performed very well since its inception, and has created more than \$165.3 million in value since it was created, and generated a tax increment of \$3.4 million. Based upon current projections, it is expected that TIF #3 will close out in 2018. Tax Increment and Financing District #4 is primarily the Burlington Manufacturing and Office Park. The 2011 values decreased about \$5 million. Based upon current projection, it is expected that TIF #4 could meet all its debt requirements and be closed out by 2012. These successful TIF districts continue to create new value and add vital jobs to our local economy. For example, the recently announced expansion of Hi-Liter graphics was spurred by the expansion and relocation of the Hi-Liter plant to our Burlington Manufacturing and Office Park, located in TIF#4.

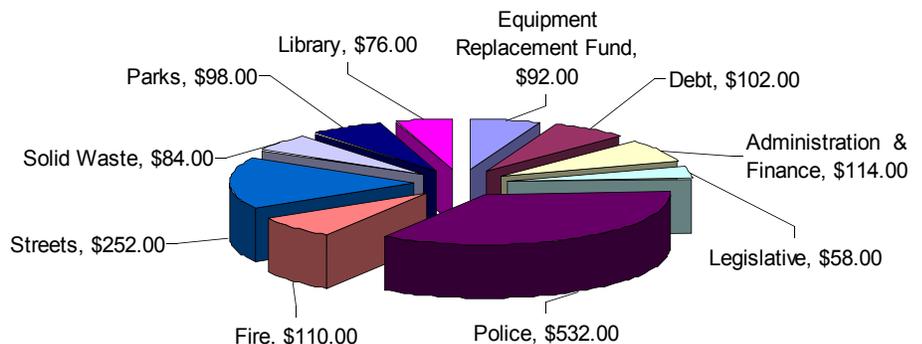
In summary, a fiscally sound General Fund Budget for 2011 addresses the pressing needs of the City, and maintains the current level of services.

Where do Property Taxes Go?

One of the most common questions that come from Burlington residents is where do my property taxes go? The average assessed value in 2010 is \$200,000. The following charts illustrate where the City of Burlington tax dollars will go in 2011:

Average Assessed Value: \$200,000
City Portion of Tax Bill - \$1,518 (\$7.59 per \$1,000 of assessed value)

Average City Portion of Property Tax Bill: \$1,518





Dog & Cat Licenses Available Soon

State and municipal law dictates that all dogs and cats 5 months and older be licensed with the city by March 31 of each year. City of Burlington tags will be available January 1 at City Hall for 2011. If you are licensing your pet for the first time or you have recently vaccinated your pet, a rabies certificate must be presented at the time of licensing. The city is proud to offer low cost fees for licensing as follows:

Altered (fixed) dogs and cats
\$4.00

Unaltered dogs and cats
\$8.00

After March 31 a \$5 late fee is added to the cost of the tag. Residents that move to the city or have a pet that reaches 5 months of age after the deadline date will not be charged the late fee. A move within the city does not qualify for this exception. Not only is it a requirement of the city to license your pet, the tag numbers are listed with the Burlington Police Department. If your pet were to stray, the tag is a valuable resource to bring them back home quickly.



Street Light Problems

When you see a street light out or malfunctioning please report it to the Department of Public Works at 763-2060. If it is a City-owned street light we will schedule the necessary repair. If it is a WE Energies' pole, we will visit the site to get the pole number and report it to WE Energies to schedule the repair. Repair turnover time from WE Energies should be within 72 hours.

If you can give us the street address closest to the pole in question when you call, it will help to expedite the repair order. In addition, if you see any lights that have been damaged or vandalized, please call the DPW office with a description of the damage and the location.



Stay Safe this Holiday Season

The holidays are just around the corner! This time of year it is especially important to be informed about home fire safety because most fires are reported in the winter months. Many of the winter month fires originate in the kitchen. Also holiday decorations and Christmas trees result in nearly 1,000 fires annually. Please take a few minutes from your busy holiday plans and read the following fire safety tips. They may save you and your family's life.

Kitchen Safety

- Keep cloth and paper product away from heating sources.
- Keep your hair and long sleeves from dangling over burners.
- Use the proper size burner.
- Turn pot handles inward and never turn your back to cooking food.
- Keep your kitchen clean.
- Use only microwave safe dishes.

- Never use anything metal in your Microwave.
- Be sure to shut the stove off when not in use.
- Never use the stove to heat your home.

Holiday Safety

- Use artificial trees and make sure it's fire retardant.
- Use natural trees if it has good color and check the water everyday.
- Remove the tree at the first sign of dryness.
- Inspect your lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires and loose connections.
- Never overload outlets.
- Unplug lights before you leave or go to bed.

On behalf of all of us from the City of Burlington Fire Department we wish you a safe and happy holiday season!

Prevent Water Line Freezing

During sub-zero cold weather we receive inquiries about frozen water service lines, which also cause water meters inside the home to freeze. The water meter is the property owner's responsibility and if frozen and non functional, the Water Utility will bill the customer for the cost of the water meter replacement.

Your water service line may be subject to freezing due to unprotected interior water piping running along exterior walls, especially by windows and in unheated areas such as basements. Methods of preventing water pipe freeze-ups include closing any exterior fresh air vents, caulking cracks, insulating pipes or installing electrical heat tape where needed.

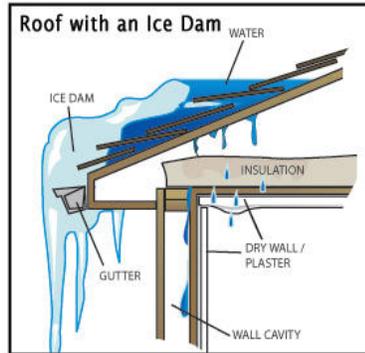
Other measures include opening cabinet doors that hide plumbing, keeping the thermostat at 55 degrees+ or keeping a trickle of water running continuously with a stream about the size of a lead pencil. Begin running water when the outside temperature gets down to zero and remains there for any length of time. Keep this water running until the temperature is above freezing for several days. The frost line must thaw before it is safe. By observing these safeguards, you may prevent the inconvenience and costly expense of a frozen water line!



Ice Damming 101

Ice damming occurs when snow and ice collect in a certain area of the roof. Some roofing configurations are more prone to ice damming than others. Melting snow on the upper portion of the roof cannot drain properly as it is trapped behind the ice dam. If the dam is large enough and sufficient water collects, it will back up under the shingles and leak into the eaves or worse, into the exterior walls of the building interior.

Ice dams are most common on low slope roofs or roofs which change from a high slope to a low slope. The largest dams tend to form over unheated areas, such as porches, and attached garages. Ice damming problems do not necessarily occur every winter. They normally occur after periods of heavy snowfall when daytime temperatures are at or slightly above freezing while nighttime temperatures are below freezing. Effective solutions to ice damming problems are increased attic insulation and



ventilation. These two measures reduce the air temperature in the attic so that there is less tendency for snow to melt over

the heated portions of the house. Also, protection should be provided beneath the shingles for a distance of at least 2-1/2 feet beyond the interior of the exterior walls. Heating cables can also be used, however, they are considered to be a less desirable approach. Heating cables must be turned on prior to the accumulation of snow and ice. In some cases, they can aggravate a situation rather than improve it if they are turned on after the ice dam has formed.

Adopt a Hydrant this Winter!

Are you a resident with a fire hydrant in front of your home? Please help us by keeping the hydrant Clear and visible. Clear about three feet in all directions from the hydrant and have a path available to the street. Keep the snow banks around the hydrant low to improve visibility of the hydrant. A few minutes of your time will aid the fire department in the event of an emergency.

Snow removal around fire hydrants is the

responsibility of utility employees, however, during heavy winter storms, hydrants may become buried for some time before utility crews reach all of the hydrants in the city. By keeping the snow removed, precious time is saved for the Fire Department in case of a fire. The house you save might be your own!

The city thanks all the residents in the past that have "adopted" a fire hydrant and helped to keep the hydrant clear and visible. Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

Christmas Tree Recycling Available

In conjunction with the regular brush collection program, the City will collect Christmas trees the second and fourth Wednesdays in January and February 2011. Residents should call the Department of Public Works at 763-2060 to have their address placed on the pick up list. Trees should be placed on the curb with all materials such as lights, ornaments or any metal objects removed.



Snow Fall Fast Facts

The winter weather will soon be upon us, and along with this weather also comes snow. Keeping the sidewalks clear of snow and ice is something that is not only a courtesy to other people in your neighborhood for walking, but also required by City Ordinance.

Sidewalks

As the owner, occupant or person in charge of a residence, you are responsible for the removal of any snow and ice that has accumulated on the sidewalk in the front of the residence(s) within 18 hours of the snowfall. Any ice that has formed on the sidewalk must be treated to prevent the area from being dangerous. Failure to maintain the sidewalk within this 18-hour timeframe may result in the Street Dept. cleaning your sidewalk in which case the City will bill the owner(s).

Streets

City crews make every effort possible to safely remove snow from all streets in a timely manner after a snowfall. State highways are the first streets to be plowed, followed by the main (arterial) streets, side streets, and then parking lots and alleys.

Please remember that snow removal in front of a mailbox is the property owner's responsibility. City crews will make every effort to plow as close to the mailbox as possible. Concerns/Questions regarding snow removal should be made to the Street Department at 763-2060.



Seasonal and Yearly Parking Regulations

Winter is officially here and the snow season is quickly approaching. In the coming months, winter restricted parking regulations will take effect along with alternate side parking. Winter restricted parking will take effect throughout the City of Burlington in the event three or more inches of snow fall in a period of 24 hours or less. Once a Snow Emergency is declared by the Supervisor of Streets and Parks, winter restricted parking continues for a period of 48 hours or until it is declared by the Supervisor of Streets and Parks that snowplowing operations are complete. During a snow emergency declaration, no vehicle shall be permitted to park on any city street.

Once a snow emergency is declared, the parking of a vehicle of any kind is prohibited on any street, alley or municipal parking lot between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. A vehicle in violation of this restriction may be towed and cited for illegal parking. The owner of the vehicle will be responsible for the citation and the towing charge.

Alternate street parking remains in effect

year round, with the exception of a declared Snow Emergency when no vehicle can be parked on the street. The alternate side parking ordinance requires vehicles parked on the street to alternate from side to side each morning. On odd-numbered days vehicles must be parked on the odd-numbered side of the street and on even-numbered days vehicles must be parked on the even-numbered side of the street during the enforcement time period. For example, it is December 3, at 10 p.m., and a person does not plan to move his or her vehicle until the next morning; that person would park on the even side of the street because it will be December 4 after midnight, and alternate-side parking is in effect from 2 a.m. to 5 a.m.

The enforcement time period for the City of Burlington is 2 a.m. to 5 a.m. This excludes the Central Business District (downtown area) where no vehicles shall be parked on the street during the enforcement times.

Please contact the City of Burlington Police Department with any questions at (262) 342-1100.

The new
Public Works Facility will
be opening soon! Please take
note of the new addresses for
both Public Works buildings:

**Street, Park & Water Dept.
2200 S. Pine Street**

**Wastewater Department
2100 S. Pine Street**

Radium Removal from the City's Water Source to Begin Soon

As our water customers are aware, the City of Burlington's Drinking Water Supply exceeds the Department of Natural Resource's (DNR) limit of radium. Since 2009, the City has been working with the DNR and the City's engineering firm to remedy this situation. A radium removal system is scheduled to be installed at both Wells 9 (located on Weiler Road) and 10 (located on Karyl Street) in the next year. Below is the schedule of installation of these systems:

January 2011: Requests for bids for the construction for Wells 9 & 10 will be advertised.

March 2011: Award of the construction contract for Wells 9 & 10 will go to the lowest bid.

April 2011: Construction of radium removal equipment to begin, scheduled to last approximately 6 months.

September 2011: Estimated start-up of Radium Removal System for Wells 9 & 10.

Please feel free to contact the Water Utility with any questions or concerns at 342-1173 or 539-3646. The Water Utility works with the DNR and the U.S. EPA to ensure the tap water in the community is safe to drink. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov.



Well #9 Proposed Treatment Facility



Well #10 Proposed Treatment Facility

FAQ About Radium

What is Radium?

Radium is a naturally occurring radioactive element found in many rock formations like the sandstone aquifer beneath the city. All drinking water, including bottled water, contains at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

What are the Health Risks of Radium?

Immediate health risks from drinking water containing low radioactivity levels are small, but consuming this water for a lifetime increases the health risks. The National Academy of Sciences has concluded that a long-term exposure to elevated levels of radium in drinking water does pose a "higher risk of bone cancer for the people exposed." How does this level of risk compare to other risks in life? It is approximately the same as the risk of dying from lightning strikes, or tornadoes and hurricanes. Fortunately, the risk from radium is manageable because radium can be removed from drinking water. Risk in the City of Burlington is even lower as the city has a mixed system combining all five wells to one source point.

Do Other Communities Have this Problem?

Approximately 50 of Wisconsin's 1,300 community water systems exceed the drinking water standard for radium. Communities affected draw water from deep sandstone aquifers in central and eastern Wisconsin as well as granite formations in northern Wisconsin.

Are You at Risk of Lead Poisoning?

Lead is a toxic metal that was used for many years in products found in and around our homes. Lead also can be emitted into the air from motor vehicles and industrial sources, and lead can enter drinking water from plumbing materials. Lead may cause a range of health effects, from behavioral problems and learning disabilities, to seizures and death. Children six years old and under are most at risk. Childhood lead poisoning remains a major environmental health problem in the United States.

Children's brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to the damaging effects of lead. If not detected early, children with high levels of lead in their bodies can suffer from damage to the brain and nervous system, behavior and learning problems, such as hyperactivity, slowed growth, hearing problems and headaches. Lead is also harmful to adults.

Adults can suffer from reproductive problems (in both men and women), high blood pressure and hypertension, nerve disorders, memory and concentration problems, and muscle and joint pain.

Since April 22, 2010, federal law has required contractors performing renovation, repair and painting projects that disturb more than six square feet of paint in homes, child care facilities, and schools built before 1978 must be certified and trained to follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination. Protect your family and make sure you only hire a contractor who is in a Lead-Safe Certified Firm.

To further protect your family, be sure to visit the following website to see a list of common consumer products that contain lead that could pose a health risk: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lead/.

Winter Programs at the Public Library

Youth Programs

Story Time

Story Time with Ms. Joy runs Tuesdays from 10:30-11 a.m. Dec. 7 & 14, Feb. 1, 8, 15, & 22, and March 1 & 8. Come share books, songs, finger plays and fun with other pre-schoolers. Siblings are always welcome! No registration required. The goal of story time is to encourage children to develop an interest in books and reading.



The Public Library will be closed the following dates during the holidays:

December 24 & 25

AND

December 31 and January 1

WannaWatchaMovie?

Our free movie series for kids continues Thursday, Dec. 30 at 3 p.m. with a recently released animated film that finds Andy preparing to depart for college. Woody, Buzz, and the rest of Andy's faithful toys wonder what will become of them, and discover a new adventure is just beginning. This film is rated G.

Thursday, Jan. 20 at 3:30 we'll show a film about the adventures of young Ramona Quimby and her big sister, Beezus. This film is also rated G.

Check www.burlingtonlibrary.com for the movie title being shown Thursday, Feb. 24 at 3:30.

Registration is required (so we know how much popcorn to make!). Please call or sign up at the Circulation Desk, 763-7623.

Book Clubs

The Teen and Youth Book clubs are meeting on the following dates:

Teen - Tuesdays: Dec. 21, Jan. 18, and Feb. 15 from 4 to 4:30 p.m.

Youth - Wednesdays: Dec. 15, Jan. 19, and Feb. 16 from 3:30 to 4 p.m.

New members are encouraged to join at any time. Go to www.burlingtonlibrary.com for book titles and authors, or call Ms. Joy for more information at 342-1130.

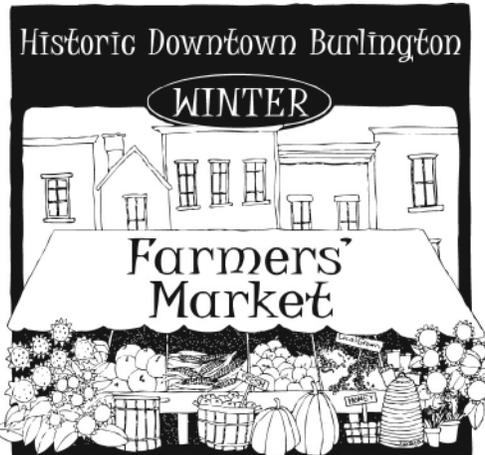


2011 Spring Election

The Spring Election, scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, 2011 will include aldermanic positions from each of the four districts in the City of Burlington. Terms for these positions will begin April 19, 2011.

If you are interested in seeking office, nomination papers are available at City Hall, 300 N. Pine Street, during the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Nomination papers may be circulated beginning December 1, 2010 with completed papers to be returned no later than 5 p.m. January 4, 2011 to City Hall.

Absentee ballots are always available at City Hall beginning several weeks prior to each election. If you are someone that due to age or illness has difficulty getting to the polls, there is the option of being placed on a permanent list in which a ballot will be sent to you for every election. Please call the City Clerk at (262) 342-1161 to request to be placed on this list.



Visit the Winter Indoor Farmers' Market!

In Burlington's Historic Loop
133 E. Chestnut Street

Thursdays

Market Hours: 3-7 pm

For Information Call: 262-210-6360
Or burlingtonfrmarket@sbcglobal.net

Watch For Our New Look!

The City's website is undergoing a makeover to provide a more user-friendly, citizen orientated site with added features and benefits. Watch for the new site in early spring at www.burlington-wi.gov!



Burlington City Hall
300 N. Pine Street
Burlington, WI 53105
(262) 342-1161



**CITY OF BURLINGTON
COMMON COUNCIL**

Robert Miller, Mayor
(262) 342-1161

First District Aldermen

Bob Prailes
(262) 763-5194

Ed Johnson
(262) 763-8321

Second District Aldermen

Peter Hintz
(262) 763-7063

Jim Prailes
(262) 763-7322

Third District Aldermen

Tom Vos, Council President
(262) 763-2213

Steve Rauch
(262) 767-1910

Fourth District Aldermen

Katie Simenson
(262) 767-0409

Jeff Fischer
(262) 763-8341

Questions and concerns regarding this newsletter can be directed to Megan Johnson at (262)342-1161 or to mjohanson@burlington-wi.gov

Winter Announcements

December - **Santa's Chalet** will be open the first three weeks of December on Friday from 6-8 p.m., Saturday from 2-4 p.m. and Sunday from 2-4 p.m. in Wehmhoff Square Park.

Mid December - 2010 **Real Estate and Personal Property Tax bills** will be mailed mid-December. First installment payments are due by January 31, 2011. If you want to claim a deduction on your income taxes, you must pay by December 31, 2010.

December 23, 24, 30 and 31 - **City offices closed** for the holidays.

February 5 at 6 p.m. - 8th Annual **Aurora Health Care Crystal Ball**. Veterans Terrace, 589 Milwaukee Avenue. Contact Michelle Weber at 262-741-2382 or michelle.m.weber@aurora.org with questions.

March 26 - The **Annual Home Show & Chocolate Extravaganza** will be held on Saturday, March 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Burlington High School, 400 McCanna Parkway.

April 1 - **City Compost Site opens**. Call the Department of Public Works at 763-2060 for specific hours.

April 5 - The **Spring Election** will be held on Tuesday, April 5. Voting hours are from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

CITY STAFF DIRECTORY

City Hall - 300 N. Pine St. - 342-1161

Robert Miller	Mayor
Kevin Lahner	City Administrator
Steve DeQuaker	Treasurer
Beverly R. Gill	City Clerk
Megan Johnson	Asst. to the City Administrator
Patrick Scherrer	Building Inspector

Fire Department - 165 E. Washington St. - 763-7842

Richard Lodle	Fire Chief
Richard Peterson	Deputy Chief
Daniel Rueter	Assistant Chief
William McCourt	Assistant Chief
John Niederer	Fire Inspector

Public Library - 166 E. Jefferson St. - 342-1130

Gayle Falk	Library Director
Joy Schnupp	Youth Services Director
Judy Rockwell	Reference Librarian
Carole Rybarczyk	Circulation Supervisor

Police Department - 224 E. Jefferson St. - 342-1100

Peter Nimmer	Police Chief
Mark Anderson	Assistant Chief / Lieutenant
David A. Krupp	Detective Sergeant
Rodney Thurin	Detective
Michael J. Madsen	Sergeant
John Fisher	Sergeant
Amy Rendall	Sergeant
Brian Zmudzinski	Sergeant

DPW-Streets/Parks/Water - 2200 S. Pine St. - 763-2060

Richard Pieters	Supervisor - Streets & Parks
Tom Koch	Street Department Foreman
Aaron DeGrave	Park Department Foreman
Judy Gerulat	Engineering Technician

DPW-Wastewater - 2100 S. Pine St. - 539-3646

Connie Wilson	Public Works Director
Glenn Harjes	Foreman

Municipal Court - 300 N. Pine St. - 342-1129

Debra Dillon	Municipal Court Clerk
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Recycling Collection Schedule

- Week of **Dec. 13 - 17**
- Week of **Dec. 27 - 31**
- Week of **Jan. 10 - 14**
- Week of **Jan. 24 - 28**
- Week of **Feb. 7 - 11**
- Week of **Feb. 21-25**
- Week of **Mar. 8 - 12**
- Week of **Mar. 22 - 26**
- Week of **Apr. 5 - 9**

December Meetings

12/1	6:30 p.m.- Police & Fire Cmn.
12/7	6:30 p.m. - Common Council
12/7	5:30 p.m. - CDA
12/14	6:30 p.m. - Plan Commission
12/14	4:00 p.m. - Library Board
12/16	6:30 p.m. - Park Board
12/21	6:30 p.m. - Common Council
TBD	6:00 p.m. - Airport Committee
TBD	6:30 p.m. - HPC

January Meetings

1/4	5:30 p.m.- CDA
1/4	6:30 p.m. - Common Council
1/5	6:30 p.m. - Police & Fire Cmn.
1/11	6:30 p.m. - Plan Commission
1/18	6:30 p.m. - Common Council
1/20	6:30 p.m. - Park Board
1/27	6:00 p.m. - Airport Committee
1/27	6:30 p.m. - HPC
1/28	4:00 p.m. - Library Board

February Meetings

2/1	5:30 p.m.- CDA
2/1	6:30 p.m. - Common Council
2/2	6:30 p.m. - Police & Fire Cmn.
2/8	6:30 p.m. - Plan Commission
2/15	6:30 p.m. - Common Council
2/17	6:30 p.m. - Park Board
2/22	4:00 p.m. - Library Board
2/24	6:00 p.m. - Airport Committee
2/24	6:30 p.m. - HPC