

Inside Burlington



VOLUME 4 / Spring 2009

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City of Burlington
300 N. Pine Street
Burlington, WI 53105
www.burlington-wi.gov



City of Burlington to hold Auction April 25, 2009

The Burlington Police Department will host an auction on April 25, 2009 at the Police Department Building, 224 E. Jefferson Street. Viewing of items will be 9 A.M. to 10 A.M. The live auction will be held from 10 A.M. to 11 A.M.

Every two years the various city departments gather items they no longer have use for ranging from office furniture to computer items. The Police Department has many items that are either located by officers as lost property or turned in by citizens as found property. The police department makes every

effort to see these items are returned to the owner by posting flyers of



ems with a value of \$100 or less in the Police

Department and by placing an ad in the local newspapers of items with a value over \$100. Items not claimed are put up for auction.

Bicycles are another item that are turned in or found abandoned. The Police Department has received 70 unregistered bicycles as found property over the last two years. These will also be auctioned off in April. The city encourages all bicycle owners to register their bicycles as it is required by City Ordinance, Section 110.

Come take part in the auction on April 25 where you'll see some great finds!

Do You Depend on Life-Support Equipment?

Occasionally, the City of Burlington will have a power outage, whether planned or uncontrolled. During a power outage valuable life-supporting home medical equipment could shut down. In an effort to provide citizens on life-support equipment quick emergency response, the Police Department needs to know the names and locations of residents that depend on this equipment. Equipment can include ventilators, heart pumps, dialysis machines or oxygen to name a few.

It is important that this information be current and accurate with the Police Department. They will make every effort to give priority to restore service or provide alternatives to citizens on the critical care list. If you or a member of your family depends on life-support equipment, please fill out the following form and mail it to us as quickly as possible. All information will remain confidential and will only be used by the Police Department in an emergency to contact you.



YES, I DEPEND ON LIFE-SUPPORT EQUIPMENT

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Type of support equipment _____

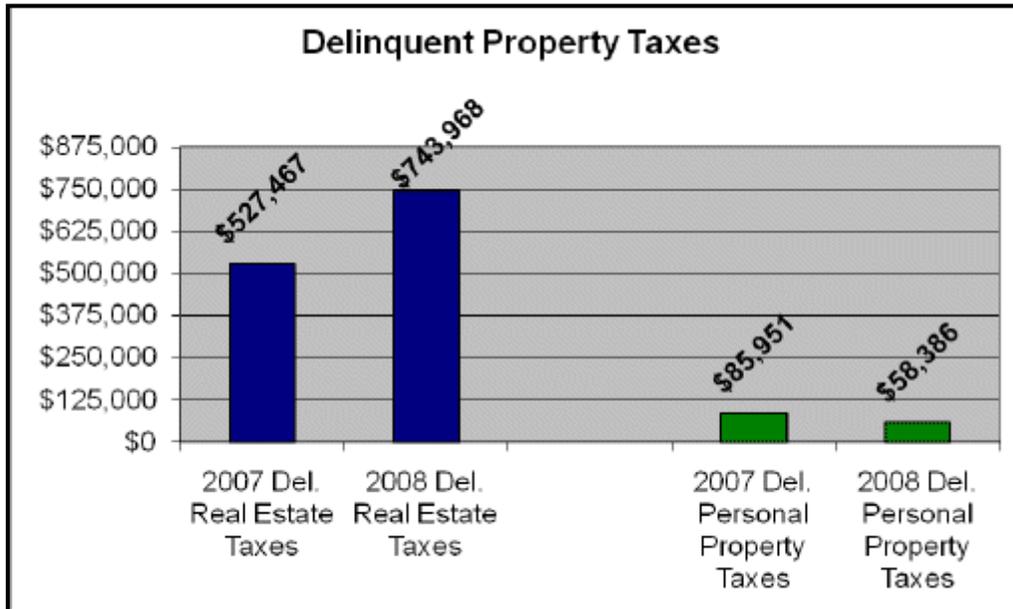
Please return this form to the City of Burlington Police Department, Life Support Equipment Registration, 224 E. Jefferson Street, Burlington, WI 53105.

2008 Property Tax Round Up

The City has completed collecting property taxes for 2008, resulting in a slight decrease in collections over 2007. To date, the city has collected \$12.65 million in taxes as compared to 2007 when the city collected \$12.51 million during the first installment period.

Nearly 10 percent of our taxes were paid at three participating local banks as residents took advantage of our new partnership with Fox River State Bank, Associated Bank and M & I Bank. The new program allowed residents to utilize the convenient hours the banks offered to their customers in order to pay their property tax bills.

The current economic conditions have resulted in an increase of \$188,936 in tax delinquencies over 2007. Real Estate tax delinquencies increased by \$216,501 while Personal Property tax delinquencies decreased by \$27,565. The personal property tax is the only area of the tax bill that the City is ultimately responsible for collecting. The amount of unpaid personal property tax has decreased over the last two years, as we have focused our collection efforts.



The City's total property tax collection rate will always be 100 percent of our tax levy, as Racine County takes on the burden of collecting unpaid taxes, while supplying all of the cities in the county with their entire tax levy.

Property taxes for the city are currently \$7.52 per \$1,000 of value. They make up 66 percent of the city's general fund budget revenues, and 18 percent of the city's total budget revenues. Through the property tax, the city funds its police and fire personnel, administration staff, and public works employees along with the required equipment and daily operating expenses.

Spring Election News

The Spring Election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, 2009. The following candidates are up for election:

First District

Robert Prailes

Second District

Peter Hintz
Peter Girolamo

Third District

Steve Rauch
Wayne Swihart

Fourth District

Katie Simenson
Scott Rausch

The term for Alderman begins on Tuesday, April 21, 2009. All terms are for two years.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. If you live in the First or Second District, which includes Wards 1-8, you will vote at Cross Lutheran Church, 126 Chapel Terrace. If your residence is included in either the Third or Fourth

District, Wards 9-16, you will vote at the United Methodist Church, 857 West State Street.

Absentee ballots will be available approximately three weeks prior to the election at City Hall, 300 N. Pine Street between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Before you can vote absentee, you must be a registered voter and complete an application for an absentee ballot. We have many voters who vote absentee on a permanent basis due to ill health or age and they are automatically sent a ballot for every election. If you or someone you know would be interested in being included on this list, please contact the City Clerk at 342-1161. Ballots will be available for viewing on the city website as soon as they are available at www.burlington-wi.gov.

We always encourage citizens to consider becoming an Election Inspector for our elections. We provide the training necessary and you may choose to work the whole day or only part of the day. Please notify the City Clerk if you are interested in becoming an Election Inspector (poll worker).

Campaign Signs



If you choose to display a campaign sign in your yard for the spring election, please keep in mind per city ordinance no sign may be placed in the street right-of-way. Typically, the right-of-way begins at the the edge of the street and runs to approximately one foot from the sidewalk (yard side).

Please call the Zoning Administrator for specific questions at (262) 342-1161.

Compost Site to Open April 1

The Compost Site, located on Maryland Avenue, will reopen on April 1, 2009. The site is free of charge to City residents. You will be asked to show identification to verify you are a City of Burlington resident. There is an attendant on site at all times when the site is open.

Contractors will be required to register at the Department of Public Works, 824 Milwaukee Avenue, which will allow the City to bill their business on a monthly basis. Contractor's using the compost site will be charged a dumping fee based on the type of truck and number of axles.

Materials accepted include grass, leaves, garden waste, wood chips and brush. The City will not accept brush or logs greater than 5" in diameter. No plastic bags, plastic containers, or foreign debris of any kind will be allowed. No stumps or root balls will be allowed.

If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Public Works at (262) 763-2060.

Compost Site Hours

Tuesday
3 PM to 8 PM

Thursday
12 PM to 8 PM

Saturday
10 AM to 6 PM

Sunday
12 PM to 6 PM

Closed Monday,
Wednesday and Friday



2009 Street & Sidewalk Program

The City of Burlington is planning its annual 2009 Street, Sidewalk and Utility program. The project will be bid in mid- March and will most likely begin in April. Each property owner and resident adjacent to the project will receive a detailed informational letter prior to the beginning of the project. The locations listed below will be affected. For questions or concerns, please contact the Department of Public Works at (262) 763-2060.

Location	From	To	Project Type
Conkey Street	W. State Street	Reynolds Avenue	The street will be resurfaced and sidewalk reconstructed, where necessary; a watermain, all lead water services and sanitary sewer will be relaid.
Gardner Avenue	Randoph Street	S. Kane Street	The street will be resurfaced and sidewalk reconstructed, where necessary.
Lewis Street	Amanda Street	Approx. The westerly dead end	The street will be resurfaced and sidewalk reconstructed, where necessary. Sanitary spot repairs will be made.
W. Market Street	McHenry Street	Dutton Street	Concrete slab and joint repairs at various locations.
Sheldon Street	Beloit Street	Approx. to Racine Street	The existing asphalt-paved portion of the street will be resurfaced.
2009 Sidewalk Repairs Complaint Areas	Various locations		Sidewalk reconstruction at various locations throughout the city.
E. State Street	Main Street	Bypass	A 3" watermain will be relaid from Main St. to Wisconsin St. All lead water systems will be relaid from the main to the stop box. Sanitary sewer will be relaid from east of Wisconsin St. to east of Capital St., and sanitary laterals will be replaced from the main to the property line.
McHenry Street	South of R.R. tracks near Market Street	Bypass	Watermain, sanitary sewer and storm sewer will be relocated.
Alternate Bid: Maryland Avenue (Storm Sewer)	Fox River	Fox River approx. 600 feet northerly of Congress Street	Storm Sewer improvements to the southerly portion of Maryland Ave. will be laid. This may be altered due to budgetary constraints.

Brush Pick Up

City crews will be picking up brush on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. Please call the Public Works Department at 763-2060 to be added to the pick-up list prior to the scheduled pick-up days.

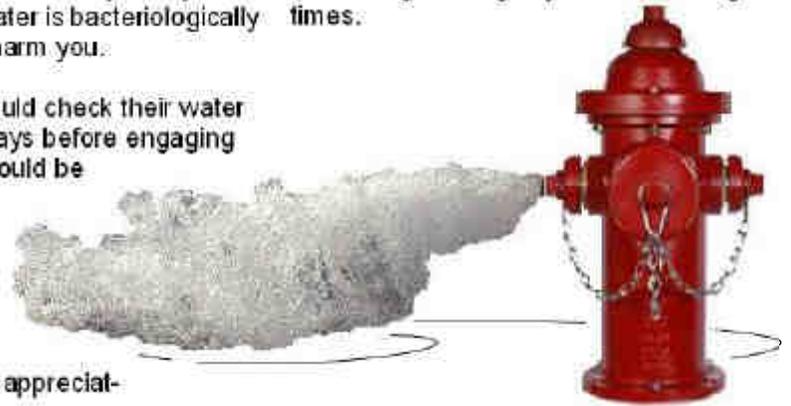
In addition to the pick-up, residents can also bring brush to the City's compost site on Maryland Avenue during site hours. Be sure to bring along identification that you are a city resident.



What Hydrant Flushing Means For You

The Burlington Water Utility will be flushing hydrants on **THURSDAYS** during the months of **April through August**, to reduce and remove the accumulation of rust and iron in the city's water main distribution system. The flushing may cause discolored water in your system. This discolored water is bacteriologically safe and will not harm you.

City residents should check their water supply on Thursdays before engaging in any work that could be affected by the city's flushing of hydrants. Your cooperation and understanding during water main flushing is greatly appreciated.



In the case of accidental iron staining of laundry, a simple 'iron out or rust out' product will help to remove the stains.

Contact the Water Department for a sample of this product at 342-1173 or stop in at City Hall. The City of Burlington is not responsible for replacing any items that may become damaged due to laundering during hydrant flushing times.

City Park Reservations

Park Reservations can be made by contacting the Department of Public Works at 763-2060. Reservations are taken for Echo, McCanna, Riverside and Wehmhoff Jucker Parks. Reservations are \$35 for City Residents and \$75 for Non-Residents. A refundable \$100 Security Deposit is required. A separate permit is required for serving beer and can be obtained from the Public Works Department for \$10.

The pavilions are reserved on a first come first serve basis. All pavilions have electricity and water. Each pavilion offers tables, however you may take additional tables from throughout the park if needed, provided they are not in use. They must be returned after you have finished with them. The parks also offer a charcoal grill, holding tanks for beverages, playground equipment and restrooms.



Rain Barrels For Sale!

Rain barrels are 55-gallon recycled drums that originally held soda syrup, made of a thick durable plastic. Rain barrels help keep excess rain water out of the sewer system or becoming polluted storm water runoff, which is the biggest remaining threat to clean water in the United States.

Rainwater stored in the barrels has many uses. Most people find it useful for watering their landscapes and gardens free of cost. The rainwater can help to improve the health of your gardens, lawns, and trees. Rain is a naturally soft water full of nutrients and devoid of minerals, chlorine, fluoride, and other chemicals. For this reason, plants respond very well to it. Save money,

water, and energy, and help protect our groundwater by purchasing a rain barrel for home and work.

Be part

of the Solution!!
Order your rain barrel today for \$30 by contacting the Water Department at 262-539-3646.

Rain barrels painted by high school students are also available for \$40. Also, be sure to see us at the Annual Home Expo at the

Burlington High School on March 28, 2009.



A New Fire Truck for the City

The City of Burlington Fire Department recently took delivery of a 2009 Pierce PUC Impel Pumper.

This engine will be the first responder to all structure and vehicle fires in the city. It features a 1,500 gallon per minute pump, one thousand gallons of on-board water with an integrated foam injection system, hydraulic generator to supply scene lighting, and a full compliment of ground ladders. Engine

925 has a projected service life of twenty years. The initial design and specification began approximately 18 months ago. The new truck will replace a 1989 Pierce Arrow pumper that has been sold on the secondary market.



New Open Burning Restrictions



This past fall we adopted a New Fire Prevention, Protection, and Control ordinance under Chapter 155 of the City of Burlington Municipal Code.

The new code states there shall be NO open-air burning of any combustible waste materials except as allowed by permit issued by the Fire Department. This means burning yard waste is no longer permitted. Yard waste can be taken to the City Compost Site. Recreational Fires are still permitted with verbal permission from the Fire Department. You must call in and obtain permission on the day you wish to have a recreational fire at 763-7842. Recreational fires are only permitted between the hours of 6:00 am and 11:00 pm and must be completely extinguished by 11:00 pm.

The City of Burlington Fire Department thanks you for your cooperation. By working together everyone will benefit and have a safer 2009.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors Required in Multi-Tenant Buildings

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas produced by incompletely burning fuel containing carbon. Carbon monoxide poisoning can cause brain damage and death and is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the United States. You cannot see it, smell it, or taste it; but carbon monoxide can kill. CO can be formed, for example, by open flames, or fuelburning space heaters, water heaters, furnaces, boilers, and clothes dryers. When not properly vented, carbon monoxide from these appliances can build up in a room or building, displacing oxygen. Early symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning such as headaches, nausea, and fatigue, are often mistaken for something other than CO because the deadly gas goes undetected as it builds up in a building.

The new regulations were issued by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, Safety and Buildings Division as 2007 Wisconsin Act

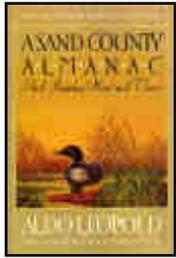
205. The Act affects the owners of commercial buildings where people sleep or lodge and tourist room houses (rental cabins) where fuel burning appliances are installed. The types of commercial buildings affected include existing and new apartment buildings, condominiums, hotels, motels, fraternities, sororities, dormitories, convents, seminaries, community based residential facilities, home shelters and bed and breakfast establishments. Single-family and two-family homes are not required to follow Act 205. All new construction of these types of facilities will need to install CO detectors that are wired directly to the building's electrical service in each room that has a fuel-burning appliance and that is not used as a sleeping area. Existing facilities may use battery-operated units. All facilities will have until April 1, 2010 to have a carbon monoxide detector installed and inspected by the City.

For specific information on installation requirements, please visit www.commerce.wi.gov/SB/ or pick up a brochure at City Hall, 300 N. Pine Street.

Library Adult Book Discussion Group

The Burlington Public Library Adult Book Discussion Group has the following books scheduled:

March 23



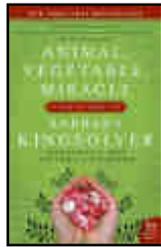
A SAND COUNTY ALMANAC by Aldo Leopold. In 1935, pioneering wildlife manager Aldo Leopold purchased a worn-out farm on the Wisconsin River outside of Baraboo, WI. The farm and its

renovated chicken coop served him and his family as a refuge from "too much modernity", as well as a laboratory for some of the earliest efforts at land restoration. A Sand County Almanac was Leopold's signature work. He weaved together many observations and insights gathered during a life lived close to the land. He learned it would be published only a week before his death from a heart attack in 1948.

In conjunction with this book we will have a program, "Aldo Leopold, the Last Radio Show" at the library on Monday, April 6 at 7 p.m. by Mike Irwin of Lodi, WI. In Irwin's dramatic performance, the audience will meet Leopold near the end of his life as the professor speaks before his WHA College of the Air audience one last time.

complete man, lover of nature, science, humanism, and "a citizen of the land".

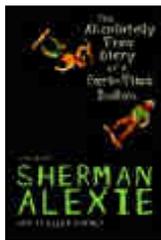
April 27



ANIMAL, VEGETABLE, MIRACLE by Barbara Kingsolver. Kingsolver takes readers through the seasons, chronicling the joys and challenges of eating only foods that she, her husband and two daughters grew in their

backyard or purchased from neighboring farms. Part memoir, part cookbook, and part expose of the American food industry, it is an inspiring story of discovering the truth behind the adage "you are what you eat".

May 18



THE ABSOLUTELY TRUE DIARY OF A PART-TIME INDIAN by Sherman Alexie. This book starts a three month series of books dealing with Native Americans and their evolution over time in American society.

Alexie's book deals with Arnold "Junior" Spirit who endures taunts that he's an "apple", "red on the outside and white on the inside" when he leaves his reservation to go to a better high school in a nearby town. At the age of 14, he's attended 42 funerals and most of the deaths were alcohol-related.

Arnold eventually learns that the world has many kinds of tribes and that more than a few of them have a place for him. This award winning novel for Young Adults guarantees a thought-provoking and rowdy discussion.

Copies of all the books are available at the Burlington Public Library. Registration is not required and there are no fees. Programs start at 7 p.m.

Library Youth Services

Burlington Public Library's Youth Services Department has a range of activities planned for Spring. Wii Gaming in a round-robin style continues on Thursdays for school-aged children, K-12, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. One Thursday each month is dedicated to teen Wii gaming only. Check the website for dates at www.burlingtonlibrary.com.

Preschool

A new program for the preschool set, Wednesday Wii for Wee Ones, is held every Wednesday at 2:30 for an hour. Tots and their caregivers are invited to come play the simplest of Wii games (our personal favorite is Cow Racing!). No registration is necessary for either of these programs. Just show up and be ready to have fun!

Movies

The Wanna Watch a Movie? series continues the last week of each month. Please check the Youth Services Special Events link on the website for the film and date. We show the very latest and popular releases; you won't want to miss them. Although registration is required, the movies are free – and so is the popcorn!

Storytime

Storytime sessions for children up to six years old are held Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. These last about 30 minutes and sometimes include a craft. We'll be reading stories, singing and dancing on these dates: March 3, 10, 17 and 24; April 14, 21 and 28; and May 5 for a special Mother's Day Storytime and Craft. Registration is only required for the May 5 session.

Youth & Teen Book Clubs

Our Youth Book Club and Teen Book Club are ongoing programs and new members are encouraged to come check us out! Youth Book Club for ages 9 to 12 meets the third Wednesday of every month from 4 - 4:30 p.m. Teen Book Club meets the third Tuesday of each month from 3:30 - 4 p.m. Call the Youth Services Reference Desk at 342-1141 to register. Have a suggestion for us to read? We'd love to hear it!



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 Fishcer
(262) 763-8341

Questions and concerns
regarding this newsletter can be
directed to City Hall or to
mjohanson@burlington-wi.gov

Spring Announcements

March 28 - Burlington Home Expo & Chocolate Extravaganza. Burlington High School, 400 McCanna Pkwy. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Contact the Chamber of Commerce for more information at 763-6044.

April 4 - Easter Egg Hunt. Burlington High School. 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Contact Matt Nie for more information at 763-0200.

April 7 - City Election., 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

April 18 - 2009 Pet Wellness Expo. Burlington High School. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Visit www.petwellnessexpo.com for more information.

April 25 - Community Shredding Day. Sentry parking lot, S. Pine Street. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Cash donation or four perishable food items in exchange for shredding paper documents. Limit three grocery bags of documents. Contact the Chamber of Commerce for more information at 763-6044.

May 22-25 - ChocolateFest 2009! Visit www.chocolatefest.com for more information.

May 23 - Art du Chocolat Art Show 2009. Historic Downtown Burlington. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Visit www.artduchocolat.synthasite.com for more information.

May 25 - Veteran's Memorial Day Parade. 9 a.m. Kick off on Kane Street!

May 25 - No garbage & recycling pick up. Garbage collection will be delayed one day for the remainder of the week.

Did You Know?

Meet with the Mayor!

The Mayor holds open office hours for the public to come speak with him on the first Saturday of each month from 9 - 11 a.m.

Pedestrian Safety

Please remember that by state law drivers must yield to pedestrians when the pedestrian has started crossing at any intersection with a marked crosswalk or when the driver is entering and alley or driveway.

Dog & Cat Licenses

A \$5 late fee will apply to all dog and cat licenses purchased after April 1. Licenses can be purchased at City Hall from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Operator Licences

Operator licenses (also known as bartending licenses) expire June 30. It is the responsibility of the license holder to renew their license prior to this date.

Recycling Bins

Replacement recycling bins can be purchased at City Hall for \$8 each. There is no limit to how many you can purchase.

March Meetings

3/3 5:30 p.m. - CDA
3/3 6:30 p.m. - Common Council
3/4 6:30 p.m. - Police & Fire Comm.
3/10 6:30 p.m. - Plan Commission
3/17 6:30 p.m. - Common Council
3/19 6:00 p.m. - Park Board
3/24 4:00 p.m. - Library Board
3/26 6:00 p.m. - Airport Committee
3/26 6:30 p.m. - HPC

April Meetings

4/1 6:30 p.m. - Police & Fire Comm.
4/8 5:30 p.m.- CDA
4/8 6:30 p.m. - Common Council
4/14 6:30 p.m. - Plan Commission
4/16 6:00 p.m. - Park Board
4/21 6:30 p.m. - Common Council
4/23 6:00 p.m. - Airport Committee
4/23 6:30 p.m. - HPC
4/28 4:00 p.m. - Library Board

May Meetings

5/5 5:30 p.m.- CDA
5/5 6:30 p.m. - Common Council
5/6 6:30 p.m. - Police & Fire Comm.
5/12 6:30 p.m. - Plan Commission
5/19 6:30 p.m. - Common Council
5/21 6:00 p.m. - Park Board
5/26 4:00 p.m. - Library Board
5/28 6:00 p.m. - Airport Committee
5/28 6:30 p.m. - HPC