

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

Announcements

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

Mid December - 2011 Real Estate and Personal Property Tax bills to be mailed. First installment payments are due by January 31, 2012. If you want to claim a deduction on your income taxes, you must pay by December 31, 2011.

December 23, 26, 30 and January 2 - City offices closed for the holidays.

January 19 - The Annual Chamber of Commerce Dinner and Auction will be held at Veterans Terrace, 589 Milwaukee Avenue starting at 6 p.m. Registration required by January 13th. Call 763-6044 for more information.

March 24 - The Annual Home Show & Chocolate Extravaganza will be held on Saturday, March 24 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 539-3770 for specific hours.

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
Robert Jones	Sergeant
Brian Zmudzinski	Sergeant

DPW-Streets/Parks/Water - 2200 S. Pine St. - 539-3770

Dan Jensen	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 December 12 - 16
- Week of December 26 - 30
- Week of January 9 - 13
- Week of January 23 - 27
- Week of February 6 - 10
- Week of February 20 - 24
- Week of March 5 - 9
- Week of March 19 - 23

December Meetings

- | | | |
|-------|-----------|-----------------------|
| 12/6 | 5:30 p.m. | - CDA |
| 12/6 | 6:30 p.m. | - Common Council |
| 12/7 | 6:30 p.m. | - Police & Fire Comm. |
| 12/13 | 6:30 p.m. | - Plan Commission |
| 12/13 | 4:00 p.m. | - Library Board |
| 12/15 | 6:30 p.m. | - Park Board |
| 12/20 | 6:30 p.m. | - Common Council |
| TBD | 6:00 p.m. | - Airport Committee |
| TBD | 6:30 p.m. | - HPC |

January Meetings

- | | | |
|------|-----------|-----------------------|
| 1/3 | 5:30 p.m. | - CDA |
| 1/3 | 6:30 p.m. | - Common Council |
| 1/4 | 6:30 p.m. | - Police & Fire Comm. |
| 1/10 | 6:30 p.m. | - Plan Commission |
| 1/17 | 6:30 p.m. | - Common Council |
| 1/19 | 6:30 p.m. | - Park Board |
| 1/24 | 4:00 p.m. | - Library Board |
| 1/26 | 6:00 p.m. | - Airport Committee |
| 1/26 | 6:30 p.m. | - HPC |

February Meetings

- | | | |
|------|-----------|-----------------------|
| 2/7 | 5:30 p.m. | - CDA |
| 2/7 | 6:30 p.m. | - Common Council |
| 2/8 | 6:30 p.m. | - Police & Fire Comm. |
| 2/14 | 6:30 p.m. | - Plan Commission |
| 2/16 | 6:30 p.m. | - Park Board |
| 2/21 | 6:30 p.m. | - Common Council |
| 2/23 | 6:00 p.m. | - Airport Committee |
| 2/23 | 6:30 p.m. | - HPC |
| 2/28 | 4:00 p.m. | - Library Board |

Inside Burlington



Volume 15 / Winter 2012



The City's Official Newsletter

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



Real Estate Tax Payment Options

With the holidays right around the corner most of you are aware that Real Estate Tax bills will also be hitting your mailbox. Here are just a few tidbits of information regarding your property tax bill, payments and contact information if you have questions. When in doubt, you can always call the City Treasurer's Office with questions at (262) 342-1170.

Property tax bills are prepared and mailed on or about December 15. Please contact City Hall first if you do not receive your tax bill or if you have any questions regarding your tax bill. City Hall and the participating banks listed to the right will accept checks, money orders, bank checks or cash. This year the City is again partnering with Official Payments (www.officialpayments.com) for online credit card or e-checks to pay your taxes. There is a small service fee added to your tax payment amount to use this service.

The first installment of your tax bill is due no later than January 31, 2012. The second installment of your tax bill is due no later than July 31, 2012. This payment should be made payable and mailed to: Racine County Treasurer. City Hall cannot accept property tax payments after January 31.

In all cases, if you are mailing your payment and would like a paid receipt, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope. If you have a change of address or an error in your property tax description, please contact the Real Estate Description Department of Racine County at (262) 636-3548 or City Hall at 342-1161.

Make sure you look at your tax bill closely. If you own property in Wisconsin you are eligible to receive the Lottery Credit (2011 amount is \$91.51). If you own multiple parcels, you may only take the credit on your primary Wisconsin residence, or one parcel only. You may also be eligible for the First Dollar credit (2011 amount is \$69.14) if you have improved property. First Dollar Credit does not apply to vacant land. Both of these items should be listed on your property tax bill. If you feel you are entitled to the Lottery Credit, but it does not appear on your tax bill, please bring your bill and payment to City Hall where you can fill out the proper Lottery Credit form. We can then apply the credit – if valid – at the time of payment. Neither the banks taking payments, nor www.officialpayments.com can apply a lottery credit to your bill. This must be done at City Hall.

One question the City is frequently asked is: "What do I do if I can't pay my taxes?" By state statute, a minimum of the first installment is due by January 31st. Penalties and interest (1.5% per month) begin accumulating after that date. You should pay as much as you can by the first installment date. This will help to minimize some of the penalty and interest charges.

After the installment date, if you need to make payment arrangements or investigate your options for paying the balance of your tax bill, contact the Racine County Treasurer's office at (262) 636-3239, and they will be glad to talk with you about your situation. It is important to remember that only the Racine County Treasurer's office can make payment arrangements.

Make Payments at These Convenient Locations

CITY HALL

300 N. Pine Street • Burlington, WI
Monday – Friday : 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Closed on Saturday & Sunday

Also Closed: December 23rd, 26th, 30th & January 2nd

www.OfficialPayments.com

FOX RIVER STATE BANK

241 E. Jefferson Street • Burlington
Monday – Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday – 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday – 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Open on December 24th & 31st until 12 p.m.

Closed: December 26th and January 2nd

* Tax payments will not be accepted at bank drive-up windows.

M&I BANK

1000 Milwaukee Avenue • Burlington
Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday – 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Open on December 24th & 31st until 1 p.m.

Closed: December 26th, January 2nd & January 16th

* Tax payments will not be accepted at bank drive-up windows.

Staying Safe by Properly Installing Smoke Detectors

Does everyone in your home know what the smoke alarm sounds like? Did you remove the batteries when they started chirping instead of replacing them?

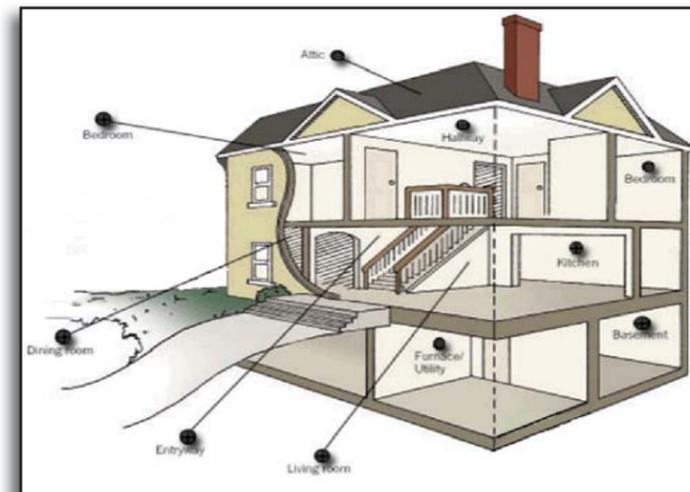
Smoke alarms are an important part of a home fire escape plan. Working smoke alarms cut the risk of fire related deaths in half. Unfortunately, many homes have smoke alarms that just don't work. In fact, according to the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), roughly two-thirds of home fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. About one in five of smoke alarm failures was due to dead batteries.

The City of Burlington Fire Department is urging you to be sure that your smoke alarms are equipped to help protect your family from fire by putting the following tips into action:

- Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of the home (including the basement), outside each sleeping area, and inside each bedroom. Larger homes may need additional smoke alarms. Never remove or disable smoke alarms.
- Interconnection of smoke alarms is

highly recommended; when one smoke alarm sounds, they all do. (This is particularly important in larger or multi-story homes, where the sound from distant smoke alarms may be reduced to the point that it may not be loud enough to provide proper warning, especially for sleeping individuals.)

- There are two types of smoke alarm technologies – ionization and photoelectric. An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires – like a pan fire or the smoke from cooking. A photoelectric alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires – like a cigarette, overheated wiring or something hot like a space heater. Install both types of alarms in your home or combination ionization and photoelectric alarms that take advantage of both technologies.
- Test smoke alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button. If an alarm

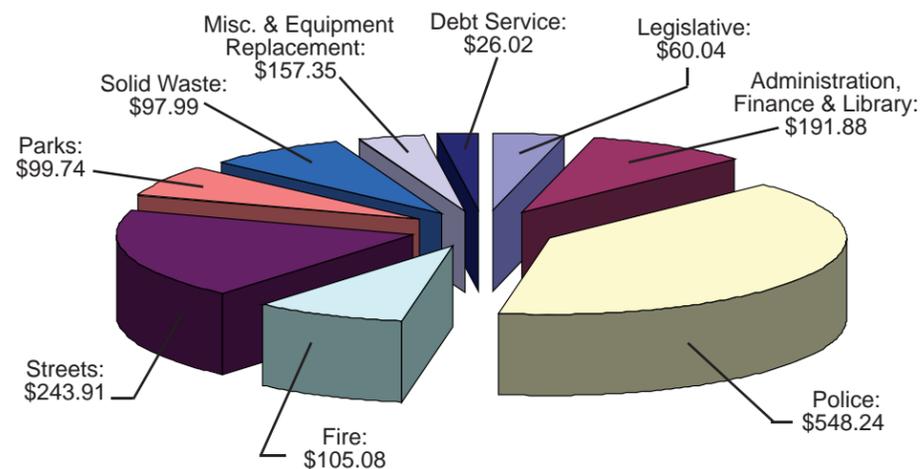


“chirps,” warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.

- All smoke alarms, including alarms that use 10-year batteries and those that are hard-wired alarms, should be replaced when they're 10 years old (or sooner) if they do not respond properly when tested.

Properly installing and maintaining your smoke detectors will help keep you and your family safe.

Average Property Tax Bill: \$1,530



Radium Removal to begin in December

The Radium Removal Project is nearing completion with two attractive buildings adjacent Wells 9 and 10. The contractor will be finishing their work on Well No. 10 first (located on Karyl Street) and startup of this radium treatment system will take place the beginning of December. Work will then finish at Well No. 9 (located on Weiler Road) and startup of the radium treatment system at this location will begin the third week in December. This project will bring the radium levels of Burlington's drinking water well below the DNR's Safe Drinking Water Requirements.

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.



Pet Licensing Available January 1st

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 1st at City Hall for 2012.

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 listed below.

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 licensing your pet a requirement of the city, 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.



Altered (fixed) dogs & cats - \$4.00

Unaltered dogs & cats - \$8.00

Park Pavilion Reservations Open January 3rd



Park Pavilion Reservations for 2012 can be made beginning on January 3rd. Reservations can be made for Beaumont, Devor, Echo, McCanna, Riverside and Wehmhoff-Jucker Parks. Pavilions may be reserved from May 1st through September 30th. All pavilions have electricity, water and tables and all associated parks have restrooms.

Arrangements can be made by stopping at the Department of Public Works located at 2200 S Pine Street. Reservations are on a first come, first serve basis. Questions regarding park reservations can be answered by calling the Department of Public Works at 539-3770.

Winter Programs at the Public Library

Wii Gaming

Tweens, come game on Thursdays at the library from 3:30-4:30 p.m. No registration necessary. Play is in a round-robin style. Check www.BurlingtonLibrary.com for inclement weather closings.

Dog Tales

Four certified therapy dogs visit the library every month to listen while kids read to them. Registration is required; please call or visit the library Circulation Desk to sign up. Buster, Mindy, Cyrus and Eli love stories of all kinds in every language! For more information, call Ms. Joy at (262) 342-1140.



ABC, Music and Me

Linda Breuer from Love, Inc. hosts this program for pre-school children and their families. This session continues Wednesdays, Dec. 7 and 14, at 9:30 a.m. There is no cost; for more information and to register, contact Linda Breuer, Children's Resources at Love, Inc. at (262)763-6226.

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WannaWatchaMovie?

Kids, join us on Thursday, Dec. 22, at 1:30 p.m. for our next newly released film about a man named Mr. Popper and his pet penguins. Other movie dates in 2012 are Jan. 20 and Feb. 23 at 1:30. Check www.BurlingtonLibrary.com for details, then call or visit the Circulation Desk to sign up!

Building Blocks

Linda Breuer from Love, Inc. hosts this program which highlights musical activities, books, and social play for children up to 4 years old and their families. This session runs Wednesdays, Jan.11 through Feb.15 at 9:30 a.m. There is no cost; for more information and to register, contact Linda Breuer, Children's Resources at Love, Inc. at (262)763-6226.

Story Time

Read, sing, dance and play with Ms. Joy at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays, Feb. 7, 14, 21, and 28 and Mar. 6, 13, and 20. No

registration necessary. The goal of Story Time is to encourage children to develop an interest in books and reading. Parents/guardians should be prepared to join their children on the Story Time rug to listen, sing, and learn some rhymes!

Adult Book Club

The 2012 Adult Book Club begins in January. Check the Library's website for the 2012 list of books for discussion at www.burlingtonlibrary.com.

All programs at the Burlington Public Library are free and open to the public.

The Library will be closed Friday, December 23rd through Saturday, December 31 for the Holidays and Carpet Installation.

Christmas Tree Recycling

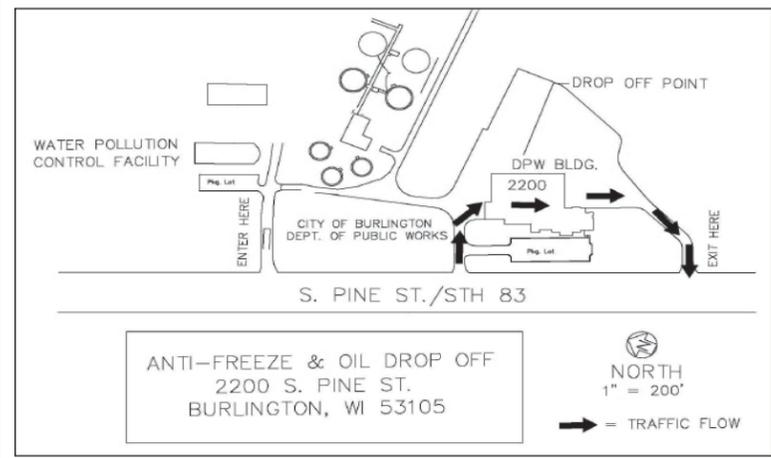


Christmas tree collection will be available the second and fourth Wednesdays of January and February 2012. Pick up of the trees will be in conjunction with brush pick up the same days.

Residents should call the Department of Public Works at 539-3770 to have their address placed on the pick up list. In an effort to be cost effective, we only pick up Christmas trees and brush that has been called in. Please call by the prior Tuesday to have your address added to the list.

Oil & Antifreeze Recycling Available

As part of our green initiatives, the City accepts used motor oil and antifreeze at the Public Works Facility, 2200 S. Pine Street, between the hours of 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Oil and antifreeze will only be accepted at the designated drop off point. Residents must stop in the office to show proof of residency and to make sure someone is there to take your containers. Whenever possible, we ask you to bring in containers that you do not need back. The DPW crews empty the containers as time allows. For your convenience, the map below indicates the location of the door you should use. If you have any questions, please call the Department of Public Works at 539-3770.



Running for Office with the 2012 Spring Election

2012 Spring Election

The Spring Election, scheduled for Tuesday, April 3, 2012 include the Mayor, aldermanic positions from each of the four districts in the City of Burlington and the Municipal Judge. Terms for these positions will begin May 1, 2012.

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. December 1, 2011 will be the first day to circulate nomination papers for the 2012 Spring Election. The final day for filing nomination papers is 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 3, 2012.

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.

Help Wanted - Election Inspectors

If you have an interest in being appointed as an election inspector at the polls, please contact city hall and we will add your name to the list. Election inspectors are paid an hourly wage and may choose to work the whole day or work a shift.



As a reminder, beginning in 2012, a photo ID is required as well as a signature on the poll list before a ballot can be issued to the voter.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are always available at City Hall beginning a few weeks prior to each election. If you are someone that due to age or illness has difficulty getting

Watch For Changes to District Boundaries

The Common Council recently passed an ordinance to redistrict the city in response to the 2010 Census. If it has been determined that your particular address has been reassigned to a different District, Ward and/or polling place you will be notified by mail (as a postcard) prior to the next election. This information will not be available until close to the next election.

Remember Pedestrian Safety

It is always important to remember the rules as they apply to pedestrians and drivers to reduce the chances of being involved in an accident. Follow these tips for pedestrian safety:

- Drivers must yield to pedestrians who have started crossing at an intersection or crosswalk on a "walk" signal or green light if there is no walk signal.

- Drivers must yield to pedestrians who are crossing the highway within a marked or unmarked crosswalk (at an intersection where there are no traffic control signals).

- At marked crosswalks where pedestrians are waiting to cross, drivers must yield and allow the pedestrians to cross.

- Drivers must be careful not to pass or overtake any vehicle yielding for a crosswalk as you may not initially see the pedestrian.

- Pedestrians should be conscious of their surroundings and should refrain from moving into the path of approaching vehicles which do not have sufficient time to yield to the pedestrian. Before entering a crosswalk, look both ways, ensure eye contact is made with the driver and the driver is in fact stopping.

- When walking at night be sure to wear reflective outdoor clothing making yourself more visible to drivers. Never assume drivers can see you. Obey traffic rules to reduce the chance of being struck by a vehicle.



Winning in Wisconsin Winters: Safe Driving Tips For The Season

The countdown is on once again, as we prepare for another winter season. Wisconsin winters can be unpredictable and present several dangers on our roadways. Members of the City of Burlington Police Department would like to remind motorists of several basic strategies to stay safe in inclement weather conditions. Following these tips will ensure your safety this winter season for you and your family. Drive safe and happy holidays.

- Check The Forecast: Take note of local forecasts and plan accordingly for adverse weather conditions. Always ensure your cell phone is charged prior to departure.

- Vehicle Preparation: motorists should ensure that their vehicles are well maintained and properly equipped for winter driving. Motorists should check the fluid levels of their vehicles, particularly washer fluid and anti-freeze, to make sure that they are at adequate levels. Clearing

vehicles of snow and ice enhances the safety of all motorists by providing an unobstructed view to the operator and prevents snow and ice from flying off vehicles at high speeds and posing a hazard to others on the road.

- Plan Your Route: If hazardous weather conditions are anticipated, plan a primary and alternate route. Plan on taking a route that is plowed and salted. On longer trips, contact someone to tell them the route you are traveling and your estimated time of arrival in case you encounter a vehicle breakdown or accident.

- Reducing Speed: Plan for delays. Most snow- and ice-related crashes are caused by spinouts and vehicles sliding off the road because they are travelling at speeds too fast for conditions. Posted speed limits are set for driving under optimal, dry conditions. If road and weather conditions are adverse, motorists should operate at a speed well below the posted limit.

- Don't Overdrive Your Vehicle: Don't overestimate the capability of four-wheel drive vehicles. Four-wheel-drive does not improve braking or cornering, experts say. Four-wheel drive vehicles rarely have any advantages when it comes time to steer or brake. Many 4x4 vehicles are heavier than passenger vehicles and actually may take longer to stop.

- Leave Extra Space Between Vehicles: Under optimal driving conditions, motorists should leave at least one car length for every ten miles per hour between them and the vehicle in front of them. If the road and weather conditions are adverse, that distance should be significantly increased in order to afford for increased stopping distances.

- Leave room for maintenance vehicles and plows. The law requires you to slow down or move over when approaching emergency or maintenance vehicles, including snowplows, parked on the side of the road when they have their flashing lights turned on. If you approach a parked emergency or maintenance vehicle during a winter storm and decide to change lanes be extra careful. The passing lane may be in worse shape than the driving lane. There may also be a snow ridge between the two lanes. Avoid making an abrupt lane change.

- Black Ice: Ice and snow can magnify poor driving habits. Transparent ice may form on the roadway. If you notice ice forming on any objects, assume that it is forming on the road surface as well.

- Break Down Survival Kits: Motorists should equip their vehicles with a snow shovel, ice scraper, jumper cables, flares, a flashlight and some warm clothing and blankets. Inclement weather conditions can vastly delay emergency response units from getting to disabled vehicles. Plan for the worst.

- Buckle Up: It's the law and may save your life.

In the Know with Snow

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 Department 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.

Any concerns/questions regarding snow plowing can be directed to the Department of Public Works at 539-3770.



Help Keep Our Hydrants Clear of Snow

The City of Burlington Water Utility is asking residents and community businesses to adopt their neighborhood fire hydrants during the winter season. They can do this by clearing accumulated snow around hydrants near their homes and places of employment.

Snow removal around fire hydrants is the responsibility of utility employees, but during heavy winter storms, hydrants may become buried for some time before utility crews reach all hydrants in the City. Please clear a radius of at least 3 feet around hydrants so that the nozzles are accessible.

By keeping the snow removed from around the hydrants, precious time is saved in case of a fire which may save your neighbor's home or yours. The City of Burlington thanks all the residents in the past that have "adopted" the fire hydrant in their neighborhood and helped to keep the fire hydrant clear and visible. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Ice Skating on Echo Lake

For years Echo Lake has been a location residents have used to ice skate. To make this a more enjoyable activity the City provides stairs to the lake, screening from the weather by the pavilion, benches along the way and an outdoor portable restroom.



Last year many residents enjoyed the skating, and we hope this winter will provide another great opportunity for families to enjoy. Please remember all city parks officially closed October 1st. While you may continue to enjoy their beauty and other amenities, water supplies have been shut off to restrooms to prevent pipes from freezing.



Visit the Winter Farmers' Market every Thursday from 3-7 p.m. at Gooseberries Market, 690 W. State Street

2012 Snow Policy Forum

Public Works Supervisor Dan Jensen would like to thank all of the residents who attended the October 25, 2011 Snow Policy Forum and responded either by phone call or email expressing their concerns.

This meeting gave residents an opportunity to input their concerns, questions and comments as it pertains to the snow plowing done within the City. It also gave Mr. Jensen the chance to explain what and why the policies are in place.