Inside Burlington

Volume 34 / Autumn 2016

The City's Official Newsletter

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

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Come to the Annual Community Block Party!

Please join us at our fifth annual Community Block Party from 3 to 7 pm on Saturday, September 10 at Devor Park, 394 Amanda Street. Take part in this family friendly event which includes games, activities, inflatable bounce houses, great food and a rock climbing wall! Wristbands will be available for $2 with the donation of a nonperishble food item, or $3 without a non-perishable item. Wristbands will allow unlimited games, activities and use of the bounce houses. Admission and parking are free.

Volunteers needed - The City is looking for high school volunteers in need of community service hours and adults to help with this event. If you would like to participate please call Megan Watkins at 342-1168 or email megan@burlington-wi.gov to sign up.

Thank you to all of our sponsors!!

2016 Trick-or-Treat

This year's Trick-or-Treat hours will be from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, Monday, October 31. The Common Council and City staff encourage everyone to please be safe and enjoy the holiday!

Halloween safety tips

- When choosing a costume, stay away from long trailing fabric. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so he or she can see out of it.
- Provide children with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.
- Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper catch fire easily. Keep all decorations away from open flames and other heat sources like light bulbs and heaters.
- Use a battery-operated candle or glow stick in jack-o-lanterns. If you use a real candle, use extreme caution. Make sure children are watched at all times when candles are lit.
- Be sure to place lit pumpkins well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of the way of trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways and yards.
- Remember to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.
- Tell children to stay away from open flames including jack-o-lanterns with candles in them. Be sure they know how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire.
- Use flashlights as alternatives to candles or torch lights when decorating walkways and yards. They are much safer for trick-or-treaters, whose costumes may brush against the lighting.
- If your children are going to Halloween parties at others' homes, have them look for ways out of the home and plan how they would get out in an emergency.

Be Informed Before you Vote: The Burlington Community Pool Referendum

As the life expectancy of the pool is quickly fading, the City and Burlington Pool Board are looking to rebuild the pool in Devor Park. City residents will be seeing a referendum question placed on the November 8, 2016 Presidential Election ballot, asking if the Community Pool that has been operated and maintained since 1965 by the four non-profit service groups (Jaycees, Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions), should be rebuilt.

The referendum question asks: Should the City of Burlington construct a community pool facility at Devor Park, 394 Amanda Street, funded by taxes with the following conditions: (1) Spending and/or borrowing on the facility is not to exceed $5,400,000 (5.4 million dollars) and; (2) The facility be built within the corporate limits of the City of Burlington.

Based on a 5.4 million dollar referendum, the cost could be *approximately* $0.43 per $1,000 of assessed property valuation; therefore, if the average home value is assessed at $179,000, this equates to approximately $77.01 per year in property tax over a twenty year period.

To find out more information regarding the proposed project, please visit the Burlington Community Pool Project webpage under "Our Community" on the City's website, www.burlington-wi.gov.

General Election November 8

The General Election for President, Vice-President, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, even-numbered Wisconsin State Senate seats, all Wisconsin Assembly seats and all District Attorney Offices is Tuesday, November 8, 2016. Also included on the ballot are the offices for Racine County Clerk, Treasurer and Register of Deeds and a Referendum for the Burlington Community Pool Project.

As a reminder, a photo ID is required to vote. If you do not have a driver's license and are in need of a valid photo ID, one may be obtained through your local Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

Polling Locations

The polling location for Wards 1-4 is Cross Lutheran Church, 126 Chapel Terrace with Wards 5-8 voting at Burlington United Methodist Church, 857 West State Street. The polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm.

Election Inspectors

We are always looking for additional poll workers and if this would interest you, please contact the City Clerk at 262-342-1161.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots are always available at City Hall beginning a few weeks prior to each election. If you have difficulty getting to the polls on the day of the election due to age or illness, there is an option of being put on the permanent absentee list in which a ballot would be mailed to you prior to every election. Please call the City Clerk at 262-342-1161 to request an application to be put on the list.

If you are not already registered, you will need to register to vote before an absentee ballot can be sent to you. You must provide proof of residence in order to register.

What's Happening

Events in the City

Are you interested in finding out what events are happening in the City of Burlington? The Chamber of Commerce keeps a comprehensive calendar on their website for many events and meetings. Visit the home page on the Chamber of Commerce website at www.burlingtonchamber.org to view the Calendar of Events.

Hosting a meeting or event? You can add your event to the calendar with just a click of the mouse. Click on the Calendar of Events page, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "Create Event" to begin the process.

For more information, call the Burlington Area Chamber of Commerce at 763-6044.

Staying Safe by Properly Installing Smoke Detectors

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

Smoke alarms are an important part of an escape plan should a fire occur. Working smoke alarms cut the risk of fire related deaths in half. Unfortunately, many homes have smoke alarms that don't work. Roughly two-thirds of home fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or non-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 nor disable smoke alarms.

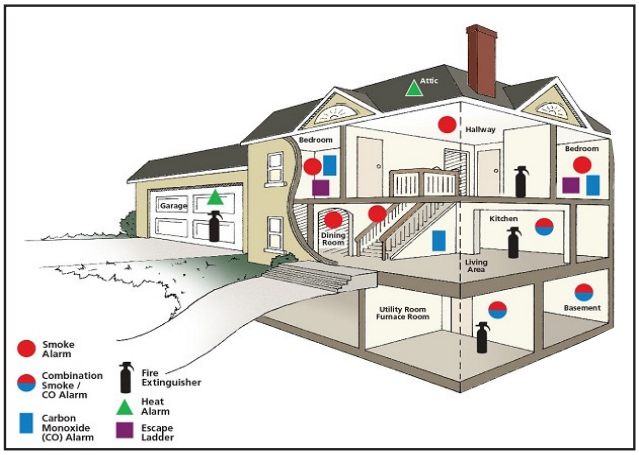
• Interconnection of hardwired smoke alarms is highly recommended; when one smoke alarm sounds, they all do. (This is particularly important in larger or multi-story homes).

• There are two types of smoke alarms, ionization and photoelectric. An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires, for example, a pan fire or the smoke from cooking. A photoelectric alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires, such as a cigarette, overheated wiring or something hot like a space heater. Install both types of alarms in your home or a combination of 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," it is warning you the battery is low and you should 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.



Safety Alert with Pokémon GO!

If you haven't heard, and who hasn't, Picachu is on the loose and everyone with a smart phone is trying to catch him! At the Burlington Police Department, we have had numerous reports of these creatures on the loose and the individuals trying to catch them. While this app has everyone out, walking around and being active, we are concerned for everyone's safety. A couple of things to remember:

• Be vigilant! When walking, make sure you are aware of your surroundings, especially when crossing the street.

• Bicycles cannot be ridden on the sidewalk in the downtown area (Ordinance 293-14). If you are riding your bicycle in an attempt to catch the alluding Pokémon, or taking a break at one of the many pit stops, remember to obey the rules of the road. As a bicyclist you must adhere to the same laws as a motorist.

• While roaming the city, remember,skateboarding, roller skating, scooters or other play vehicles are not allowed on any city street, sidewalk in the central business district, any portion of the Riverwalk, on any public property or on any private property unless permission is given by the owner.

• If you are driving to enhance your Pokémon search, remember you cannot impede traffic! The app was meant for you to get up, walk around, work on those kilometers to hatch those eggs, not drive in your vehicle! If you are watching your phone, you are not watching the road. Inattentive drivers have been reported around the numerous pit stops and gyms in the area. They have also been seen stopping in the middle of the road – stopping to catch a Pokémon who has suddenly appeared. A free Pokémon is not worth a citation.

• Pokémon don't have a curfew; however, anyone under the age of eighteen does! Sunday through Thursday curfew is between the hours of 10:30 pm and 5:00 am. Friday and Saturday is midnight till 5:00 am. This means minors cannot be out filling their backpacks or their Pokémon collection during these hours without a parent present.

• Parents, also be aware of who your children are with. There are several posts on social media asking individuals to meet at a gym and exchange Pokémon. That feature, at least to our knowledge, is not available as of yet. While the app has got your children out exercising, still be vigilant with whom they are meeting or hanging out with.

While you are out, exploring the city, remember safety first! If you are riding a bicycle, please wear a helmet. Always watch where you are going. The last thing we want is someone to be injured because they are so focused on the elusive Pokémon. There are several reports of the Pokémon chasers aiding law enforcement and calling in crimes in progress – we encourage your assistance!

curbside leaf collection

Leaf collection generally begins around October 15 and ends around November 15 (weather permitting). Leaves should be placed in the street next to the gutter, while leaving the flow line of the curb clear for stormwater to pass. ***Please keep all garden waste (tomato plants, pumpkins, etc.) and sticks out of the leaves*** so that we may spend our time more efficiently.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) strives to provide the best service possible to the public and requests your help in doing so. If you have any questions regarding leaf pick up please contact the DPW at 539-3770.

DO!

Place leaves in the street next to the gutter allowing stormwater to freely pass

DON'T!

Place brush or garden waste in the street

Leaf, Brush and Yard Waste Disposal Options

City Compost Site
The Compost Site, located off of Maryland Avenue, is open for City residents until the last Saturday of November. The site remains free of charge to City residents. There will be an attendant on site during open hours. Please provide proof of residency when you arrive.

Hours of operation
Sunday - 12 to 6 PM
Tuesday - 3 to 8 PM
Thursday - 12 to 8 PM
Saturday - 10 AM to 6 PM
Closed Monday, Wednesday & Friday

Materials accepted include grass, leaves, garden waste, wood chips and brush. The City will not accept brush or logs greater than 8 inches in diameter, plastic bags, plastic containers, foreign debris, stumps or root balls.

Brush Collection
Brush pick up is provided for one to four unit residences to collect tree and shrub trimmings where property owners maintain their own properties. Material cut by contractors will NOT be collected. Please make arrangements with the contractor for material disposal.

To schedule a brush picked up, please call the DPW at 539-3770 before 3:30 pm, no later than the Tuesday before pick up. If you do not call in, the brush will not be picked up. The City's brush collection program is conducted on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. Qualified brush includes tree limbs, bush and hedge trimmings that are at least 18 inches in length, but do not exceed 8 feet in length and 8 inches in diameter.

Place brush on the terrace at the street edge, away from trees, parked cars, fire hydrants, utility poles, mail boxes and other obstructions. Do not put brush in the street. Stack brush with the cut ends facing the same direction. Residents can place two piles per pickup, no larger than 4 feet high by 4 feet wide and 8 feet long.

Brush will not be picked up if it has any of the following materials contained in the pile:

- Bags, dirt, leaves, garbage, rocks, vines, boxes, mainly twigs/sticks less than 8 inches, animal waste, grass clippings, logs with diameters greater than 8 inches, hay or straw, garden waste, branches longer than 8 feet, decorative grasses, root balls, sawdust, and/or pumpkins.

Pets Out on the Town

While out and about with your leashed pet please remember to clean up after them. Cleaning up after your dog in public places and on private property not only helps keep areas clean, but failure to do so leaves a mess for someone else to clean up and could result in a citation for you. Health concerns are also a big motivation to clean up after your dog. There are many parasites that can be transmitted to humans. We hope you enjoy walking your dog, but please remember to take the necessary steps to keep our city clean.

Please note that dogs are not allowed in city parks and baseball fields per city ordinance. They are, however, allowed at the Dog Park located at 480 S. Calumet Street. The area is fenced off and the dogs are allowed to run "leash-free". Aggressive dogs and dogs in heat are not allowed in the park due to the safety of other visitors. Pets must wear collars and tags, be fully vaccinated and licensed.

Autumn Fun at the Burlington Public Library!

Programs For Children & Families

Fall Craft Party
Friday, October 28 from 10:00-11:00 am. Come enjoy some Fall/Halloween Crafts. For kids of all ages. No registration necessary.

Time Out for Play
Join the library's informal play group for kids and their adults on Mondays in the Children's Room from 9:30-11:30 am Puppets, puzzles, and books provided; or bring your own toys. Free coffee available. No registration needed.

Story Time with Ms. Jen and Ms. Jane
Come listen to books, learn finger plays and rhymes, and sing and dance! Children ages 5 and under invited Tuesdays at 10:00 am. No registration necessary.

Sensory Storytime with Ms. Jen and Ms. Jane
Come and explore activities that involve your senses. Children ages 5 and under invited the first Thursday of the month at 10:00 am. No registration necessary.

Yarn Club
If you have an itch to stitch – crochet or knit – you are welcome to drop in on Mondays from 3:30-5 pm. Ages 13 through adult are welcome; no experience necessary. Beginners should bring one pair of size 15 needles, long or short; two skeins of super bulky yarn; and a crochet hook, size I or J. Hosted by instructor Lori Hintz.

Teen Advisory Board
Any teen 12 and up are invited to join our Teen Advisory Board. We will meet the first Wednesday of each month from 4 to 5 pm This is a great way to earn volunteer/community service hours every month. Teens will help with library programs and projects around the library. Snacks will be provided.

Wednesday Game Nights

Join the fun on the fourth Wednesday of each month as we get together to play board games. We meet from 6:30 pm to around 8:30 pm. Bring your own favorites or use the library's!

Be sure to put these dates on your calendar: September 28, October 26, and November 23.

Book Clubs for Adults at the Library

Afternoon Adult Book Club

Thursday, September 8 at 1 pm
Kitchens of the Great Midwest
by J. Ryan Stradel
When a married woman falls in love with wine and a handsome sommelier, her husband is left to raise their daughter on his own. He uses his own passion, food, as a way of connecting with the girl and, as she grows, food becomes her way of connecting with life. In each chapter the story of a single dish and a character is told, offering a study of how food builds community and affects one's sense of self.

Thursday, October 13 at 1 pm
A Spool of Blue Thread
by Anne Tyler
Anne Tyler's twentieth novel recounts tales from five generations of a close-knit family, stories which include the tender moments, laughter and celebrations in addition to the jealousies, disappointments and secrets held by its members.

Thursday, November 10 at 1 pm
Orphan 8
by Kim van Alkemade
In post-World War I in New York, a young girl is separated from her family and sent to an orphanage where medical experiments using x-rays leave her disfigured and the target of abuse. Years later she is forced to confront her past and understand her own complex nature when the doctor who performed the experiments falls under her care.

Evening Adult Book Club

Monday, September 26 at 7 pm
Our Souls at Night
by Kent Haruf
Haruf's final novel is the resonant story of a widow and widower who enter a close relationship after their children move away and each struggles with the loneliness of the night.

Monday, October 24 at 7 pm
Station Eleven
by Emily St. John Mandel
Dystopic tale of a post-contemporary United States after a flu pandemic wipes out civilization as we know it. The author vividly depicts life before and after the pandemic with a strange twist that connects the characters in the end.

Monday, November 28 at 7 pm
A Spool of Blue Thread
by Anne Tyler
Anne Tyler's twentieth novel recounts the tales of five generations of a close-knit family, stories which include the tender moments, laughter and celebrations in addition to the jealousies, disappointments and secrets that are held by its members.

Library Events

Aquaponics for Fun and Food
Thursday, September 29 at 6:30 pm

Explore the science and history of Aquaponics, a method of growing fruits and vegetables without using soil, with Ron and Lisa Stark from Hoyer Homestead Farm and CSA. This event will include tasting various samples of food grown using this modern agricultural method. In addition, each participant will construct an Aquaponic system to take home and grow his or her own samples. This event is sponsored by the Racine County Farm Bureau Women.

Jessica Michna presents Laura Ingalls Wilder
Thursday, November 10 at 6:30 pm

Generations of children and adults worldwide have been fascinated by the stories of Laura Ingalls Wilder. Her "Little House" series was the basis for a successful television series. But how did her life really evolve? What motivated her to put her experiences to paper? In this new First Impressions presentation by Jessica Michna you will meet Mrs. Wilder, older, wiser and reflecting back on her life.. She will tell you her life story and how she came to produce her literary works.

DID YOU KNOW...

Can I get a birth certificate at City Hall?
The City of Burlington, in cooperation with Racine County, offers several County Services. You can request birth certificates, death certificates, marriage certificates, apply for a marriage license and make property tax payments and/or monthly payments if you are on an arranged payment plan.

What do I need a building permit for?
The following is a list of common projects that require a building permit; however, this list is not all-inclusive: furnace/air conditioning, decks/porches, demolition work, additions, electrical work, fences, handrails/stairs, plumbing, pool construction or renovation, roofing, sheds/accessory buildings, siding, and window replacements (if original dimensions are being altered).

How come I cannot place branches, yard waste or grass in the street?
What once was an accepted practice is no longer allowed. The reason is that Burlington is now a permitted MS4 community, which means our storm water that goes into the Fox River is now monitored by the DNR. When grass, dirt, branches, yard waste and garbage are placed in the street, the rain can carry the debris to the closest storm sewer inlet. Once in the storm sewer, it goes right to the Fox River.

Why does ice form on the roads after some snow storms?
Ice can form during a storm if salt has not been applied to road surface early enough. By applying salt early, the ice has less of a chance to form on the road. The Department of Public Works (DPW) strives to take a proactive approach when dealing with snow storms. Freezing rain and ice storms are a little more challenging to prevent ice build-up. Please use extreme caution if you are out and about during these types of storms.

Why does the Fire Department respond with a fire engine?
Having a staffed fire engine immediately respond to the scene allows for: limited out of service time should a second call or fire call come in after the first call, it also provides protection and blocking for emergency services personnel when working in the roadway on accidents; and gives emergency personnel rapid access to specialized tools that may be needed to gain entry to a home, vehicle or to remove a trapped patient.

Can I open burn in the city?
Outdoor fires for the purpose recreation will be permitted with the prior approval of the Fire Department. Please call 763-7842 for approval. Leaf burning is not permitted in the city.

How do I become a volunteer for the Fire Department?
Interested individuals 18 years or older may pick up an application at the Fire Station (165 W. Washington Street) to apply for volunteer positions.

How do I find material for a paper I need to write for school?
The Library has an excellent resource called BadgerLink, which they can retrieve articles ranging from very basic information for elementary school children through peer reviewed journal materials for college students. View this resource by going to www.burlingtonlibrary.com, click on Resources, and then on the Badgerlink icon or come into the library for a demonstration!

When can I put out my garbage and recycling containers?
Garbage and recycling containers can be placed curbside no more than 12 hours before collection and must be removed within 12 hours of collection.

Why should I register my bicycle with the Police Department?
Registering your bicycle will help police determine if a bike they have found may be yours. Bring your bicycle or the serial number to the Police Department and they will issue you a license for free.

How do I determine my child's reading level?
Guided Reading is used in Burlington schools and is a letter system. For example, a second grader might be at level "L". Library personnel can help determine what the levels mean and find appropriate books at their child's reading level.

Burlington City Hall
300 N. Pine Street
Burlington, WI
53105
262.342.1161

CITY OF BURLINGTON COMMON COUNCIL

Jeannie Hefty, Mayor
(262) 342-1161

First District Aldermen

Ed Johnson
(262) 763-8321

John Ekes
(262) 763-8646

Second District Aldermen

Ruth Dawidziak
(262) 763-3965

Bob Grandi
(262) 767-0912

Third District Aldermen

Tom Vos
Council President
(262) 763-2213

Jon Schultz
(262)757-8580

Fourth District Aldermen

Tom Preusker
(262) 661-4488

Todd Bauman
(262) 210-9257

Announcements & Events

Through September 29: 3 to 7 pm - Burlington Farmers at Wehmhoff Square Park and Washington Street.

September 10: 3 to 7 pm - City Block Party at Devor Park, 394 Amanda Street. See article in this newsletter for more information.

October 29: 10 am to noon - Spooky City. Downtown trick or treating, hayrides, costume parade at 10:30 am Wehmhoff Park and much more. Kick off party at Fox River State Bank.

October 31: 6:00 to 8:00 pm **-** City-wide Halloween Trick-or-Treat.

November 8: 7 am to 8 pm - General Election

November 18: Look for the lights and enjoy shopping in Historic Downtown Burlington from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Many of the downtown businesses will have extended hours and the sky will be illuminated with search lights to guide you to fantastic Christmas shopping deals!

November 24 & 25: City offices closed for Thanksgiving.

December 2: Starting at 6:30 p.m. - Annual Christmas Parade beginning on Kane Street.

CITY STAFF DIRECTORY

City Hall
300 N. Pine Street - 342-1161

Jeannie Hefty	Mayor
Carina Walters	City Administrator
Megan Watkins	Director of Administrative Services
Steve DeQuaker	Treasurer/Budget Officer
Diahnn Halbach	City Clerk
Gregory Guidry	Building Inspector

Fire Department
165 W. Washington Street - 763-7842

Alan Babe	Fire Chief
Wes Miner	Fire Inspector

Public Library
166 E. Jefferson Street - 342-1130

Gayle Falk	Library Director

Police Department
224 E. Jefferson Street - 342-1100

Mark Anderson	Police Chief
Brian Zmudzinski	Lieutenant

Public Works - Streets/Parks/Water
2200 S. Pine Street - 539-3770

James Bergles	Public Works Director
Aaron DeGrave	Park Foreman
Tom Koch	Street Foreman
Glenn Harjes	Water Foreman

Public Works - Wastewater
2100 S. Pine Street - 539-3646

James Bergles	Public Works Director
Don Hefty	Wastewater Foreman

Municipal Court
300 N. Pine Street - 342-1129

Kelly Iselin	Municipal Court Judge

Recycling Collection Schedule

- Week of Sept. 5 - 10
- Week of Sept. 19 - 23
- Week of Oct. 3 - 7
- Week of Oct.17 - 22
- Week of Oct. 31 - Nov. 4
- Week of Nov. 14 - 18
- Week of Nov. 28 - Dec. 2
- Week of Dec. 12 - 16

September Meetings

9/6	5:30 p.m.	CDA
9/6	6:00 p.m.	Police & Fire Comm.
9/6	6:30 p.m.	Common Council
9/13	6:30 p.m.	Plan Commission
9/15	6:30 p.m.	Park Board
9/20	6:30 p.m.	Common Council
9/22	6:00 p.m.	Airport Committee
9/22	6:30 p.m.	HPC
9/27	4:00 p.m.	Library Board

October Meetings

10/4	5:30 p.m.	CDA
10/4	6:00 p.m.	Police & Fire Comm.
10/4	6:30 p.m.	Common Council
10/11	6:30 p.m.	Plan Commission
10/18	6:30 p.m.	Common Council
10/20	6:30 p.m.	Park Board
10/25	4:00 p.m.	Library Board
10/27	6:00 p.m.	Airport Committee
10/27	6:30 p.m.	HPC

November Meetings

11/1	5:30 p.m.	CDA
11/1	6:00 p.m.	Police & Fire Comm.
11/1	6:30 p.m.	Common Council
11/8	6:30 p.m.	Plan Commission
11/15	6:30 p.m.	Common Council
11/17	6:30 p.m.	Park Board
11/22	4:00 p.m.	Library Board
TBD	6:00 p.m.	Airport Committee
TBD	6:30 p.m.	HPC