



City of Burlington

Fellow Citizens

This tabloid is the first in what we hope will be a long running series to keep you updated and informed about what is going on in your city government.

This will be a quarterly newsletter intended to provide information about events and activities taking place of which you otherwise may not be aware.

It is a collaborative effort of various City departments and The Hawk Eye advertising department and is wholly funded by advertising with no expense to you, the taxpayer.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the following City employees who have worked on this project: Jill Dunlop, Chris Clements, Cindy Henry, Darren Grimshaw, Scott Hoschek, Sandy Levins, Kirk Danforth, and Amber VerKuilen. I would also like to thank The Hawk Eye for assisting in making this possible and to our advertisers. Finally, I hope you find this feature informative and we will certainly welcome your input on how we may improve on the next quarterly publication.

Douglas J. Worden
City Manager



Tested by the Mighty Mississippi



CITY OF BURLINGTON

Development Department



The City of Burlington would like to congratulate Jay Smith on 15 years of continued service. Jay has been the city's rental inspector for the past 10 years and was a nuisance inspector for the five years prior to that. This winter Jay will be retiring and on behalf of the city we would like to thank Jay for all of his hard work and let him know that he will be missed.

Flint River Trail

Over the past few years the City of Burlington has been working with Des Moines County to design and construct the first multi-use trail in the region; this 20-mile long trail will be located within Des Moines County. Four miles of trail will be located within city limits. The Flint River Trail will start at the Port of Burlington and make its way up to Big Hollow Recreation Area. To date the City of Burlington has secured more than \$340,000 in grant funding for the trail. Construction is to start on a part of the city's northern portion of trail this fall, with an opening celebration this winter. The city is awaiting award announcements for another \$366,000 that will occur this fall. The City anticipates the Flint River Trail to be completed in its entirety by Fall 2012. The City would like to take this opportunity to thank all the community volunteers, local businesses, and organizations for your continued support and hard work. For more information please visit the Flint River Trail website at www.flintrivertrail.org

Clean-Up Burlington Program (CUB)

Another exciting program within the City's Development Department is the Clean-Up Burlington (CUB) Program, directed by Joe Stewart, City Nuisance Inspector. The program has developed a working relationship between the City of Burlington and the Community Based Corrections through the 8th Judicial District in an effort to maintain unattended areas of right-of-way and public property in the City of Burlington. The program allows residents of the Community Based Corrections facility to volunteer in the maintenance and clean up of these public areas in order to enhance and maintain their quality appearance. So far this year, the CUB program has worked at 47 different locations within the city. The program is funded through the Keep Iowa Beautiful grant awarded by the Iowa Department of Transportation, which requires 80 hours of staff involvement and 140 hours of volunteer involvement. To date, the CUB program has 136 hours of staff involvement and 158 hours of volunteer involvement, and they still have more work planned for this year. The program highlights for this year have been the clean up of the 200 block of Maple Street, along with clearing work done on the Flint River Trail.

Demolition Program

The City of Burlington City Council recently authorized funds to be used for the Demolition of Unsafe/Abandoned/Fire damaged homes within the community.

To date, City Staff has identified 80 abandoned/unsafe/fire-damaged homes within Burlington.

1. Criteria for making the list, in no particular order:

Complaint driven and inspector reviewed
Length of time abandoned/unsafe/fire damaged

Visibility (i.e. main streets and thoroughfares)

Safety of the Site

2. The Development Department has created a database of these homes and they have been divided into two categories:

Demolition (not repairable or too costly for repairing)

Rehabilitation (repairable but not currently habitable)

3. Staff will soon be placarding those homes that have been placed on the list and the owners will be notified of the requirement to comply with code violations. Homeowners will be asked to do one of three things:

Repair the structure

Demolish the structure

Sell the property to another owner, with plans for code compliance

4. Demolition Process

Solicit bids for all homes identified as unrepairable

Calculate the number of homes to be taken down with allocated money

Demolish homes

On July 1, 2008 the program kicked off and four homes were identified for demolition throughout the community. Two homes were located adjacent to each other on Little Ashmun. These homes had fallen into disrepair and have been abandoned for more than 3 years. One of the other homes was located off of N. Central Ave; this home had been abandoned for about 5 years and was full of debris. The last home demolished, located on S. 15th Street, had a fire in late 2007. This home was beyond any repairs and was left abandoned and unsafe.

A few pictures of these are provided. They show the property before the demolition and the clean site after the demolition.



South 15th Street Before



South 15th Street After



Little Ashmun Before



Little Ashmun After

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CITY OF BURLINGTON

Burlington Public Library

Flood 2008

Fema forms and packets on cleanup are available at the Burlington Public Library. Find much more information on local flood news, safe clean up and health issues, flood aftermath information, scams, assistance and resources for flood victims and a handbook from Senator Tom Harkin's office linked to the Library web page at www.burlington.lib.ia.us

Events:

September – December

There's something for everyone happening at the library!

For more information, call the library at 319-753-1647 or visit the library website at www.burlington.lib.ia.us

SEPTEMBER

Fall Children's Babygarten, Toddler, and Preschool **Storytimes** begin in September. Registration is required for Babygarten and

Toddler groups.

Great River Reads book discussion continues on **September 29th** at 7 p.m. with Jodi Picoult's *Nineteen Minutes*. Books are available at the Customer Service Desk.

OCTOBER

Friday, October 3rd, 10 a.m. Specifically for Seniors: Consumer Health for Seniors: Patient Safety (Be Safe, Be Smart). Learn how to lessen your chances for medical and prescription errors by partnering with your pharmacy and hospital for better care.

Saturday, October 4, 10 a.m. – 12:00 noon: **BLING! BLING!** Wire and bead jewelry. A craft class held in conjunction with the Art Guild of Burlington for adults and teenagers. A \$5.00 fee will be charged for materials.

Saturday, October 6th – 7 p.m. - "In the Shadow of the Raven" a dramatization of the life and work of Edgar Allen Poe.

October 12th – 19th – Teen Read Week "Books with Bite"



Katy Dodds/The Hawk Eye

Debbie Gottschalk instructs Gina Miller on the use of the electronic card catalog.

October 15th – Early Out Movie for teens, 2-4 p.m.

October 16th - Teen Game Day, for teens grades 6 – 12, offers teens the chance to play Guitar Hero, Dance Dance Revolution, Wii games with their friends, 4-8 p.m.

October 17th & 18th – Friends of the Library Book Sale

October 29th – Teen Game Day, for teens grades 6 – 12, offers teens the chance to play Guitar Hero, Dance Dance Revolution, Wii games with their friends. 2-5 p.m.

October 30th – Spooky Storytime for kids of all ages. 6:30 p.m.

On **October 25**, the library will host a reception for **Peter Fletcher, Classical Guitarist** from New York City. Mr. Fletcher will perform from 2-3 p.m. and will meet and chat with people after the concert.

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 1st, 10 a.m. – 12:00

noon: **LET THERE BE LIGHT!** Candle making and decorating. A craft class held in conjunction with the Art Guild of Burlington for adults and teenagers. A \$5.00 fee will be charged for materials.

November 7th, 10 a.m. Specifically for Seniors: Metzger-Johnson Architects will present a program on architecture.

November 12th – Early Out Movie for kids and teens, 2-4 p.m.

DECEMBER

December 5th, 10 a.m. Specifically for Seniors: TBA.

Saturday, December 6th, 10 a.m. – 12:00 noon: **IT'S A WRAP!** Creative giftwrap. A craft class held in conjunction with the Art Guild of Burlington for adults and teenagers. A \$5.00 fee will be charged for materials.

December 10th - Early Out Movie for kids and teens, 2-4 p.m.



Mallorie Graham working the Customer Service desk.

Katy Dodds/The Hawk Eye

AREA RECYCLERS

Curbside Collection

We provide bi-weekly curbside recycling collection to residents of our 13 member communities.

Public Drop Off Containers

For residents who don't have access to curbside service, public drop-off containers are located at nine additional locations throughout the county in addition to the drop-off located at the Area Recyclers parking lot.

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Fire Department

FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

- Install and maintain smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Keep ABC multipurpose fire extinguishers charged and ready to use. Know how to operate them properly.
- Make sure every family member knows how to escape from the house by crawling low in smoke.
- Hold regular fire drills.
- Designate two exits from each room and a safe meeting place outside your home.
- If a fire breaks out, get out fast and call the fire department from a neighbor's home.
- If your clothes catch on fire, stop, drop and roll to extinguish the flames.
- Never go back into a burning building for any reason.

THREE STEPS TO A FIRE-SAFE HOME

1. Learn the common causes of home fires and burns.
2. Involve the whole family and check for home hot spots.
3. Know how to correct fire and burn hazards quickly and safely.

PRACTICE FIRE PREVENTION EVERY DAY FOR LIFE. MAKE IT A TOP PRIORITY TO HAVE A FIRE-SAFE HOME.

PREVENTION BEGINS WITH A HOME HOT SPOT INSPECTION

Total personnel hours for flood cleanup for June is 574.10. Total personnel hours for flood cleanup for July is 260.20 for a total of 834.30 hours.



Amy Vinchattle/The Hawk Eye

Fireman Steve Hemmie with the Burlington Fire Department uses a fire hose up high from a fire engine's ladder to clean Jefferson Street of the mud and muck left from flooding with the help of Captain Jim Vincent, right, and other members of the fire department Thursday, June 26, 2008 in Burlington.



Smoke Detectors Save Lives SAFETY TIPS

- Install a smoke detector on each level of your home.
- Never remove a good battery or otherwise disable the detectors.
- Know what to do after a detector sounds off.
- Plan a home escape route in the event of a fire.

Katy Dodds/The Hawk Eye

L-R: Brian Reich, Fire Fighter; Todd Van Scoy, Fire Fighter; Delbert Blume, Captain; Lonnie Nye, Fire Fighter.

**Fire Prevention Week
October 5th-October 11th,
2008**

Parks Department employees involvement in post flood cleanup

The City of Burlington's parks department employees have been involved heavily in post flood cleanup. Over 200 hours have been spent to date, and work continues in getting the riverfront area back to normal. Cleanup items completed over this past summer include:

- Major cleanup of the restroom in Riverside Park
- Assisted property maintenance employees in riverfront cleanup, including cutting up logs and cleaning up debris from the river.
- The flood killed all vegetation along the riverfront. Parks staff tore out the shrubs and reseeded the park area. 3,600 lbs. of grass seed was used in the riverfront area.
- Replaced landscaping around the Port of Burlington building.
- Assisted with the cleanup of the Depot.

Other Park Employee projects

- The Parks employees have moved the skate park to Dankwardt Park this past summer.
- The Dog Park will be seeded during the fall months
- Construction continues on the new restroom in Perkins Park

Parks Department Calendar of Events items

Sunday, September 28 - Disc Golf Tournament - Dankwardt Park

October 4-5 - Perry Brown Memorial Girl's A.S.A. Softball Tournament - Burlington Regional RecPlex

October 24, 25, 30 and 31 - Haunted House - J Street Youth Center



Matt Ryerson/The Hawk Eye

City of Burlington worker Lynda Gaddis cleans muddy Mississippi River flood water out of the Burlington Depot Monday, June 23, 2008, in Burlington, Iowa.

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CITY OF BURLINGTON

City of Burlington Employees Milestone Anniversaries

The following City employees celebrate a milestone anniversary of employment in 2008. A special thank you goes out to these employees for their dedicated and consistent service to the Burlington community!

35 Years of Service

Clifford Moyers Solid Waste

30 Years of Service

Thomas Clements Fire
 Mark Whalen Fire
 Lyle Martin Wastewater Treatment Facility
 Breydn Hill Public Works – Property Maintenance

25 Years of Service

Daniel Deal Wastewater Treatment Facility
 David Osborne Public Works – Public Transit
 Kevin Wagler Public Works
 Daniel Luttenegger Police
 Brad Johnson Solid Waste
 Daryl Bailey Fire Control
 Paul Luloff Wastewater Treatment Facility

20 Years of Service

Lyle Beard Police
 Dennis Kramer Police
 Richard Murphy Police - Communications
 Darren Grimshaw Police
 Linda Gerling Library
 Lyle Rosson Fire
 Robert Corrick Police
 Mark Crooks Fire
 Gregory Higdon Fire
 Lois Blythe Library
 Phillip Good Library
 Peter Klees Wastewater Treatment Facility
 Arthur Roberts Public Works - Streets

15 Years of Service

Adam Schaefer Police
 James Vincent Fire Control
 Sandra Levins Wastewater Treatment Facility
 Jay Smith Community Development

10 Years of Service

Stephen Hemmie Fire
 Debra Smith Finance
 Gary Bechtel Wastewater Treatment Facility
 David Otto Wastewater Treatment Facility
 Jason Wagoner Fire
 Wayne Thomson Police
 Kirk Danforth RecPlex

5 Years of Service

Edmund Marsh Public Works - Streets
 Ben Cooper Public Works – Streets
 Michael Courtney Public Works - Auditorium
 Mark Weiss Solid Waste
 Mary Beth Luttenegger Library
 Jason Webster Police
 Eric Tysland Community Development

The City of Burlington Public Works Department

During the recent flooding, the Public Works Department fought the floods in many different ways, such as traffic control, distributing sandbags and sandbagging the city's buildings and some of the sewer structures along the riverfront. With the help of many volunteers, the public works employees went through an estimated 290 tons of sand. We also filled or distributed 80,000 to 100,000 sandbags. In all, the Public Works Department exhausted about 3271 man hours fighting and cleaning up from the flood of 2008. Besides the sandbagging efforts, crews also had to man the pumps at Memorial Auditorium 24 hours a day for several days. Several employees brought in their own boats to help haul sandbags and equipment from Front Street to the auditorium. Without these boats, some of the sandbagging would have been impossible to do. One of the other responsibilities we had was to make sure the road closures kept up with the rising and receding waters. The flood of 2008 was a very busy time for the Public Works Department. We would like to thank all of the other departments and citizens who volunteered to help us in many different ways.

The following is a Summary of Public Works projects developed, and or worked on, by the Engineering Dept. during the past year and current construction season.

Projects recently completed include:

1. Enhancements to Memorial Auditorium: Completed December 07
2. Curran St. Diamond Grinding: Completed March 08
3. RecPlex Trail Phase 1: Completed May 08
4. 5th & Valley Parking Lot: Completed May 08
5. Grimes Elementary Intersection: Substantially complete
6. Overlay Project: Completed, except for repair to Des Moines Ave Overpass.

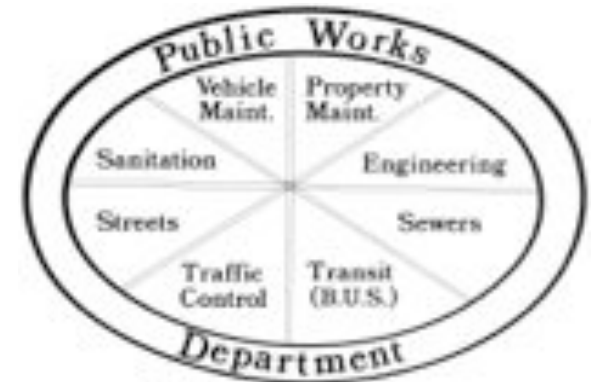
Projects currently underway include:

1. Hawkeye Sewer Phase 4, Equalization Tanks: Work began in August on Lucas St. Tank

Projects with contracts awarded ready to start include:

1. RecPlex Trail Phase 2
2. Cliff Road Sidewalk
3. Jefferson St., Main to Front
4. Hayes Court Reconstruction

All four projects have been awarded to Shipley Construction Co.



Working together for a better Burlington

who is currently finishing other projects out of town. They intend to move crews back and begin the week of 9/8 in the order as shown above.

Public Works Permitting requirements:

The Public Works department is responsible for the maintenance and operation of the city streets and sewer mains; these facilities are located within the city right-of-way (ROW).

The ROW is the area typically from sidewalk to sidewalk, where sidewalks are present. Most alleys are also within a City ROW.

Property owners contemplating construction activities that require connections to city streets or sewer mains need to contact the public works department for a ROW permit and construction details. Examples of construction activities requiring a permit include but may not be limited to:

Driveway construction or reconstruction

Sidewalk construction or reconstruction

Sidewalk pedestrian or ADA ramps to street

Sewer lateral construction or repairs

The public works department handles permitting for construction work within the City right-of-way.

This permitting process allows us to work together as neighbors to provide consistent and quality connections to city/public facilities. The permit is free. Contact 319 753-8171 prior to construction.

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CITY OF BURLINGTON

Wastewater Treatment Plant

As the predicted crest kept being adjusted upward, Wastewater Treatment Plant employees, in addition to continuous sand-bagging efforts, began pulling motors and equipment at the plant and the Market Street Lift Station. This action greatly reduced the duration of downtime and cost to put the facility back on line after the flood. To prevent structural damage the subgrade tunnel at the plant was purposely flooded with clean water when the riverstage reached 25.1'.

The river crested at Burlington at 25.73' on Tuesday, June 17th. Crews were able to get back into the tunnel and other areas to begin cleaning up debris, replacing equipment and testing the electrical system six days after the crest. Thanks to the hard work and long hours of the dedicated wastewater plant employees, the plant

was partially up and running again the following afternoon. Market Street Lift Station was back in operation Wednesday evening, July 2nd.

A lot of work remains before things are completely back to normal, but all wastewater from the Burlington collection system is receiving treatment before discharge to the Mississippi River.

John Lovretta/The Hawk Eye

Doug Smith, Kingston, front and Louis Sattler, West Burlington, employees at the City of Burlington Wastewater Treatment facility emerge from a tunnel at the facility on Wednesday, June 18, 2008.



Solid Waste Dept.

Twice a year the City of Burlington's Solid Waste Department conducts a Citywide Cleanup program for disposal of bulky items such as furniture, clothing, household items, toys, carpeting and other miscellaneous junk that people don't want any longer. It is mind-boggling to think about the huge quantity of trash that is taken to the landfill during these programs.

In addition to the average weekly collection of 120 tons of trash, during the fall CWCU program, crews collect an additional 30 tons each week for five weeks. That's 150 tons of trash collected in one single week by a crew of nine men -- seven full-time and two temporary workers. That's over 6,500 pounds of trash for each man to pick up each day. Who needs a gym with a work-out program like that?

This fall's Citywide Cleanup program began Monday, September 8 and concludes with Friday's trash route on October 10. For the complete schedule and other details call 319-753-8114 or visit the City's web site at www.burlingtoniowa.org

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CITY OF BURLINGTON

Street and Sewer Department

Between Mother Nature's tantrums, the Street and Sewer Departments have also stayed very busy with our regular maintenance programs. The long winter has left us playing catch up on the potholes and street repairs. Weather permitting, we have employees out every day filling holes and making larger repairs where necessary. We also have been getting the line striping, parking stalls, railroad crossings and turn arrows painted. The heavy rains that came in the spring brought several unplanned sewer projects with them, as it washed out several sewers. Another one of our programs is the crack sealing. This is a year round project as long as temperatures and weather cooperate. The crack sealing we do is a very effective tool we use to help extend the life of our streets. In recent years we have stepped up the amount of crack sealing we do and it appears to be keeping the recent overlaid streets in much better condition. Throughout the summer we have also done several areas of concrete repairs. The wet weather has also kept us busy with keeping the gravel alleys bladed. And yes, even though it's only September, we have begun to get ready for winter!!

Warren Total Patcher

At the city council meeting on September 2, 2008 the purchase of a Warren Total Patcher was approved. This new machine will be very helpful to us in keeping up with the potholes around the city. A major factor in needing this new machine is the inability to get hot mix asphalt on a daily basis in the smaller amounts that we require. We have been testing this machine for about 4 months, and to this point the patching we have done appears to be doing well. One of the other options we have is cold patch. The cold patch is not a permanent patch and is more expensive than the total patcher to use. The Total Patcher can be used year round as long as temperatures don't fall too low for us to keep the oil at 140 degrees in machine. This will allow us to keep up better through the winter with pothole repairs. The Total Patcher uses a water based emulsion and rock mixture and can be used on sealcoat, asphalt or concrete surfaces. Many cities in Iowa and Illinois have been using these type of machines for several years and have had good results. The Public Works Department is confident this will be a very helpful tool in keeping up with the patching process on our roads on a year round basis.

Burlington Urban Service

High gas prices getting you down? Take the B.U.S., Cheapest ride in town.

Individual rides \$1.25 per person, transfers are FREE! Tokens are 4 for \$4.00 or a roll of 20 for \$20.00. (sold in increments of 4.) Monthly bus passes are \$18.50 or \$19.00 with lamination.

FYI:

Did you know that there is at least one city bus running at all times from 5 a.m. til 5:30 p.m.?

We cover east to west from front street downtown to GRMC, SCC and everything in between, and from Sunnyside to far south on Hwy. 61, everything within city limits.

We haul kids to schools, people to work, and to various shopping places around Burlington and anywhere else you might want to go.

We also have a bus for people in wheelchairs that need to get to Doctors appointment, or just plain shopping.

Want to go to the farmers market but not hunt for a place to park, or the mall and not have to walk a block to get to the stores, or how about that doctors appt. at the hospital? Just give us a call and we will make arrangements to get you picked up.

Give us a call and then just sit back and enjoy the ride.

Burlington Urban Service 319-753-8162



After 32 years of service with the City of Burlington, Ray Toal has announced he will retire effective September 19. He has implemented many new procedures for the city that are used on a daily basis, such as one of the first successful systems to track employees' jobs and time spent on a daily basis. He was also a champion of safety procedures, and pushed to get trench shoring equipment which ultimately saved at least one life. He taught proper sign usage in classes for CTRE, and was instrumental in buying the sign machine which now allows us to design our own signs. He worked to upgrade both equipment and tools which enabled employees to perform their jobs more efficiently and more effectively. While under his supervision, he designed the original demand response system for the city buses. Ray's experience will be missed and we wish him well in his retirement.



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