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

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

Saturday, March 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Visit the 2016 Home Expo, Craft Fair and Chocolate Extravaganza at Burlington High School, 400 McCanna Pkwy. Contact the Chamber of Commerce at 763-6044 with questions.

March 25 - City offices closed for Easter.

April 5 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. - Spring Election. Contact the City Clerk with questions at 342-1161.

May through October - Vist the Farmers' Market every Thursday from 3-7 p.m. in Wehmhoff Square, downtown Burlington. Visit burlingtonwifarmersmarket.com for more information.

May 27-30 - ChocolateFest 2016! Chocolate, food, music, games, events and a carnival. Visit chocolatefest.com for more information.

May 30 at 9 a.m. - Veteran's Memorial Day Parade starts at Kane and Edward Streets.

CITY STAFF DIRECTORY

City Hall
300 N. Pine Street - 342-1161

Robert Miller	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

Mark Strasser	Interim Fire Chief
Vacant	Fire Inspector

Public Library
166 E. Jefferson Street - 342-1130

Gayle Falk	Library Director
Joy Schnupp	Youth Services Director
Barb Lebak	Reference Librarian

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
Dan Jensen	Supervisor - Streets & Parks

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

James Bergles	Public Works Director

Municipal Court
300 N. Pine Street - 342-1129

Marvin Daniel	Municipal Court Judge

Recycling Collection Schedule

- Week of March 7-11
- Week of March 21-25
- Week of April 4-8
- Week of April 18-22
- Week of May 2-6
- Week of May 16-20
- Week of May 31 - June 3
- Week of June 13-17

March Meetings

3/1	5:00 p.m.	Police & Fire Com
3/1	5:30 p.m.	CDA
3/1	6:30 p.m.	Common Council
3/8	6:30 p.m.	Plan Commission
3/15	6:30 p.m.	Common Council
3/17	6:30 p.m.	Park Board
3/22	4:00 p.m.	Library Board
3/24	6:00 p.m.	Airport Committee
3/24	6:30 p.m.	HPC

April Meetings

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

May Meetings

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

Inside Burlington

Volume 32 / Spring 2016

The City's Official Newsletter

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

2016 Spring Election

The Spring Election, scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, 2016 includes the mayor, municipal judge, and aldermanic positions from each of the four districts in the City of Burlington. Terms for these positions will begin April 19, 2016.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots will be available at City Hall beginning March 21. If you are someone that due to age or illness has difficulty getting to the polls, there is the option of being placed on a permanent list in which a ballot will be sent to you for every election. Please call the City Clerk at (262) 342-1161 to request more information on how to be placed on this list.

Skip the Lines for Voter Registration

At www.myvote.wi.gov, an online tool and resource center, electors can register to vote, check your voter registration status, find your polling place, see your sample ballot, view voting history and check provisional ballot status.

If you plan to register online, go to the My Vote website and select what type of voter you are. You will be asked several questions that will allow My Vote to complete the registration form. Once you complete your registration you will be prompted to print your application and be instructed to take the form, along with proof of residence, to the City Clerk at City Hall, 300 N. Pine Street. City Hall is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Don't Forget Your Photo ID!

On March 23, 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court issued an order declining to hear an appeal of Wisconsin's voter photo ID law. A photo ID is now required to receive a ballot in all special and regular elections. You can find more information about the photo ID law online at BringItWisconsin.gov.

Downtown Economic Development

Photo Credit Dennis Tully

As every community has experienced a decline in their local economy, Burlington is no different. Responsibility has been placed on the crash of the housing market, big box retailers, community growth, and, of course, the convenience of shopping on the internet within the comfort of your home. Although the sentiment can be interpreted as seemingly negative, perhaps this means communities must reinvent themselves to ensure future sustainability. Burlington's elected officials are committed to reinvesting in the City. Whether it's the quaint and charming downtown that so many recall as just a dream, or the light manufacturing companies that are looking to locate within the city boundaries.

Burlington is progressing! In order to forge ahead, the Common Council engaged in a two-day strategic planning session yielding a three-year and beyond commitment. The lofty, yet attainable, Strategic Plan addresses a variety of topics, including community design, communication and civic involvement, economic development, infrastructure, fiscal sustainability, responsive and accountable cost-effective government, community safety.

In addition to the overall City Strategic Plan, City staff have been working feverishly with Racine County Economic Development Corporation and the Burlington Chamber of Commerce to focus efforts in the heart of the city, without dismissing retail recruitment and retention in Burlington as a whole. As a part of this, the City recently completed a market analysis to identify what the Burlington community can support. An integral component to this is support by the community. This endeavor is not something that the City can accomplish on its own.

The best retail recruitment programs and existing business community cultures are created by a joint effort that includes involvement from key players within the business community, service organizations, government and residents alike.

Locking Out Crime This Spring!

With warmer weather soon on its way, it's time to open the windows and lower the convertible tops! The Burlington Police Department wants to remind you to remain vigilant this upcoming Spring to deter would-be thieves from shopping out of your parked cars. The majority of documented theft from vehicle complaints were found to be crimes of opportunity and from vehicles left unsecure in private driveways and public areas. Keep the following in mind this Spring when parking your vehicle:

- Park in a well-lighted area if available at night and in an area which can't be concealed from public view.
- Close all windows and lock all doors every time you park your car. These are crimes of opportunity. Thieves will likely move onto a softer target if a vehicle is secured.
- If you have a theft deterrent device, use it!
- Put valuables such as purses, wallets, check books, cash, GPS devices, and smartphones out of plain sight in the vehicle. Take it with you, hide it or secure it in the trunk.
- Do not leave the ignition keys inside the vehicle.
- Never leave your car running un-attended, even if you'll only be gone for a minute. It not only violates local ordinance, many vehicles are stolen on cold mornings when the owner leaves the vehicle running to warm it up.
- Important papers such as insurance, credit card statements and vehicle title information often found in glove compartments are also at risk of being stolen. This paperwork could help a thief gain personal data that might lead to identity theft.

Don't let you guard down this Spring! Please follow these suggested precautions to keep you and your family safe and your property protected. If you are victim of a theft be sure to contact the Police Department at 342-1100 as soon as you become aware of it.

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Clean Sweep April 23!

Join us for the 2016 Clean Sweep Program where you can dispose of household hazardous waste, appliances, and medication on Saturday, April 23 from 8 a.m. to noon.

With the help of Wisconsin Clean Sweep Grants, the City of Burlington, Town of Burlington, Town of Dover, Village of Rochester, Village of Union Grove ,Village of Waterford and Town of Yorkville have collaborated to hold this event at the City of Burlington Public Works Facility, 2200 S. Pine Street, Burlington (south of the bypass).

You must be a resident of one of the listed communities and show current identification to participate in the program. Please separate chemicals, appliances, paint, food, clothing and household items before drop off.

Hazardous waste materials are often labeled with indicator words such as "caution", "warning" or "danger". Material that may be toxic, ignitable, corrosive or reactive is also a likely candidate for disposal.

Paints must be in their original containers with a tight lid. All brands (including latex), with the exception of latex stain, will be accepted but the label must be legible. No dried out or nearly dried out paint will be accepted. If that is the case, dry the paint completely and dispose of the paint with the lid removed in your regular trash (latex paint only).

Electronics devices will not be collected. For a complete list of acceptable items please visit the City's website at www.burlington-wi.gov or pick up a brochure at City Hall, 300 N. Pine Street. Electronic devices, ammunition, explosives, medical waste, propane, containers over five (5) gallons, radioactive materials, alkaline batteries, latex stain, or syringes will not be accepted.

If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Public Works at (262) 539-3770.

Love, Inc. will also be on site to collect food, clothing and household item donations.

Compost Site Opens April 2

The Compost Site located off of Maryland Avenue will be opening Thursday, April 2, 2016. The site will remain free of charge to City residents. However, you will be asked to show identification that shows you are a City of Burlington resident. There will be an attendant on site at all times.

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 inch in diameter. No plastic bags, plastic containers, or foreign debris of any kind. No stumps or root balls will be allowed.

Need wood chips or compost?

Residents are able to take wood chips and compost from the compost site for free. You must load and haul the materials yourself.

Please contact the Public Works at (262) 539-3770 with questions.

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Oil & Antifreeze Recycling Available

Used Oil Collection Center

As part of our green initiatives, the City accepts used motor oil and antifreeze at the Department of Pubic Works Facility, 2200 S. Pine St., 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. If you have any questions, please call the Department of Public Works at (262) 539-3770.

9-volt Battery Safety

9-volt batteries power our smoke alarms, household items and toys. They can be found in most homes. But these batteries can be a fire hazard if not stored safely or disposed of with care.

The problem

- 9-volt batteries can be dangerous. If a metal object touches the two posts of a the battery, it can cause a short circuit and make enough heat to start a fire.
- It is unsafe to store 9-volt batteries in a drawer near paper clips, coins, pens, or other batteries. Do not store common household items such as steel wool, aluminum foil, and keys near 9-volt batteries.
- Weak batteries may have enough charge to cause a fire. Some fires have started in trash when 9-volt batteries were thrown away with other metal items.

Storing 9-volt batteries

- Keep batteries in original packaging until you are ready to use them. If loose, keep the posts covered with masking, duct, or electrical tape.
- Keep them someplace safe where they won't be tossed around. Store batteries standing up.
- Do not store them in containers with other batteries or loose in a drawer.

Disposal

- 9-volt batteries should not be thrown away with trash. They can come in contact with other batteries or pieces of metal.
- 9-volt batteries can be taken to a collection site for household hazardous waste.
- To be safe, cover the positive and negative posts with masking, duct, or electrical tape before disposal.

Disposal & Recycling of Other Household Materials

Weekly Bulk Item

John's Disposal provides weekly bulk pick up for single-family to four-family residential units. Items include furniture, bedding, mattresses, carpeting, appliances, tires (2 per week, 8 per year), earth/rocks/concrete/construction and demolition materials (in 36 gallon cans that weigh less than 60 pounds). For questions contact John's Disposal at (888) 473-4701.

Brush Pick-Up Service

Brush pick-up continues on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Please call in your address to the Department of Public Works at 539-3770 to be placed on the Brush Pick Up List. You must call no later than the Tuesday before the second or fourth Wednesday. The DPW Crew only picks up brush from addresses that have been called in. You may also bring your brush to the Compost Site during operational hours.

Light Bulb & Mercury Collection

Mercury thermometers and flourescent lightbulbs can be taken to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, 2100 S. Pine Street, for free disposal.

Latex Paint

To dispose of latex paint either remove the lid and let the paint dry or fill the can with kitty litter and replace the lid. Paint cans can be put out with your regular trash.

Recycling

Recycling is collected every other week for single through four-family residences. Items allowed with recycling pick up include: tin cans, steel cans, aerosol cans, dried empty paint cans, small scrap metal, aluminum cans, clean aluminum foil, glass bottles & jars, #1-7 plastic, newspaper, magazines, books, mail, paper, brown corrugated cardboard (flattened), gray chipboard (cereal and shoe boxes) and brown paper bags, milk cartons, juice boxes, soup cartons, shredded paper (in a secured clear plastic bag).

Items not accepted in recycling include: styrofoam of any kind, yard waste, trash, household hazardous waste, light bulbs, construction materials and clothing.

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Food Preparation and Storage Safety

Each year, 1 in 6 people gets sick from a foodborne illness, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 people die. There are over 250 different foodborne diseases with many different symptoms; however, the germ or toxin enters the body through the gastrointestinal tract, so nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, and diarrhea are common symptoms.

Food can become contaminated as it is produced and prepared. Many germs are present in healthy animals, which in turn can contaminate meat and poultry. Infected humans can contaminate food as well, and the way that food is handled after contamination can make a difference in whether or not it causes illness. Storing and cooking foods safely and keeping your kitchen clean can reduce your family's risk of becoming ill.

Clean

Wash your hands with soap and warm water for twenty seconds before, during, and after preparing food. Don't prepare food for others if you are ill with gastrointestinal symptoms.

Separate

Avoid cross contamination by keeping raw meat and their juices separate from other foods. Use separate plates and utensils for raw meat and cooked meat. Wash your hands/kitchen surfaces after handling raw meat, poultry, and eggs. Don't use marinades that come into contact with raw meat or poultry for dips or basting.

Cook

Cook food to a safe temperature to destroy harmful germs. Check the internal temperature of foods to be sure they are fully cooked: Poultry should reach 165°F, sausages/hamburgers 155°F, vegetable dishes 145°F, and roasts/steaks/chops 145°F. Also avoid eating foods that contain raw or undercooked eggs (like batters or cookie dough).

Chill

Refrigerate food quickly after serving. Leftovers should be refrigerated at or below 40°F within two hours of being cooked. Thaw frozen items in the refrigerator, under cold running water, or in a microwave.

Want to learn more? Visit the Central Racine County Health Department website at www.crchd.com or check out www.foodsafety.gov/.

Stay Safe with Spring Clean Up

With spring fast approaching, many of us will focus on annual cleaning, home repairs, and yard work. Spring cleaning projects give us an excellent opportunity to get our homes back in shape. They also present some hazards associated with chemicals, power tools and ladders. Below are some helpful "Spring Clean-Up" safety tips from the City of Burlington Fire Department:

Cleaning Safety

Reduce the amount of clutter inside and outside your home. Easy access is important during an emergency.

•Household chemicals, pool chemicals, paints and poisons should be clearly marked and stored out of children's reach. Dispose of any that are leaking or expired.

•When cleaning up hazardous chemicals, wear rubber gloves, safety glasses, and follow the safety directions on the packaging. Never mix chemicals in the same container and never put them in the trash or pour them down the drain.

•Make sure gasoline and cleaning fluids are also marked and stored in a cool dry place away from the house and away from children and pets. Use only approved containers for gasoline storage.

• Properly dispose of oily or greasy rags. If these items must be stored, they should be kept in approved metal containers.

• Pay attention to spaces around your hot water tanks, furnaces, fire places, space heaters, and dryers, as well as areas under cellar stairs. Keep these areas clean.

• Check the kids' play area for sharp objects, poisonous plants, and tripping hazards.

• Check your barbeque grill and propane supply lines for leaks and cracks, and be sure to store any propane tanks at least 10 feet away from your house and garage. Never store propane indoors.

Yard Work Safety

• Always wear protective clothing when you handle pesticides and fertilizers.

• Rake before you mow to prevent any stones and loose debris from launching into the air.

• Never operate a mower in your bare feet and avoid wearing loose clothing.

• When refuelling your mower, make sure the engine is off and cool. Don't spill gasoline on a hot engine - and don't smoke while pouring gasoline.

• Don't use electrical mowers on wet grass.

• When operating trimmers, lawn edgers, pruners and power saws read the manufacturer's instructions carefully before using the tools, inspect the product for damage and don't use it if there are problems, always wear protective clothing including gloves and eye protection, and unplug all tools when not in use.

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Spring Fun at the Library!

Programs For Children

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
Finger plays, bouncing movements, rhythmic play and stories are the core of this program for toddlers ages 2 and under and their caretakers. We meet Tuesdays at 10:30 am, Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29; Apr. 5, 12, 19, and 26; and May 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31. No registration necessary.

WannaWatchaMovie?
Films for kids are fun at the library! Sign up to see a full-length, recently released movie on these dates: Tuesday, Mar. 29, Thursday, Mar. 31, and Tuesday, Apr. 26 all at 2 pm Check www.Burlington-Library.com for movie titles and ratings. Registration is required (so we know how much free popcorn to make!).

Programs For Teens & Adults

Yarn Club
If you have an itch to stitch – crochet or knit – you are welcome to drop in on Mondays from 3:30-5:00 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.

Sewing Make & Take Class
Tote Bags – Instructor Lori Hintz will lead this popular, back-by-demand class. Registration is required. Bring ½ yard of canvas fabric; we supply thread, nylon straps, and sewing machines, courtesy of BASD. Join us March 17 at 1 pm.

Programs For Families

Star Wars Party & Cos Play
All young Jedi Warriors in training are invited to a Star Wars Party Saturday, March 12. Drop in between 10:30 and 12:30 PM (suitable for ages 2-10 years). Activities, games, music and more--costumes are welcome! No registration is needed; however, all children must be accompanied by an adult.

Wednesday Game Nights
Take a night out for fun on the fourth Wednesday of each month as we get together to play board games. We meet from 6:30 to around 8:00 pm. Bring your own favorites or use the library's! Be sure to put these dates on your calendar: March 23, April 27, May 25.

Kiwanis Student Art Show
The library is pleased to once again host the artwork of area students Mar. 21 through Apr. 18. This annual display of extraordinary local talent is available to view during normal library hours.

Battlefield Balladeers
Join us on Thursday May 26 at 6:30 pm for the Battlefield Balladeers. This group brings to life the music of the Civil War including songs by Stephen Foster. This is a terrific opportunity to learn a little about the background of some of our patriotic music while enjoying a professional presentation of the music and pageantry of this historic era.

Book Clubs For Adults

March 10 at 1 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.

April 14 at 1 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.

May 12 at 1 pm
Little Paris Bookshop by Nina George
The owner of a floating bookstore prescribes books to readers with broken hearts and souls. Unable to recover from a loss of his own, he goes on his own journey of discovery with the intent to confront the reality of his loss and discover the healing of his own soul.

March 28 at 7 pm
The Secret Wisdom of the Earth
by Christopher Scotton
Timely and timeless, this is a dramatic and deeply moving novel about an act of violence in a small, Southern town and the repercussions that will forever change a young man's view of human cruelty and compassion.

April 25 at 7 pm
Citizen: An American Lyric
by Claudia Rankine
Rankine recounts mounting racial aggressions in twenty-first-century daily life and in the media where the often named "post-race" society fails to live up to its moniker.

May 23 at 7 pm
Black River by S.M. Hulse
Wes Carver returns to his hometown, Black River, Montana with two things: his wife's ashes and a letter from the parole board. The convict who once held him hostage during a prison riot is up for release. For years, Wes earned his living as a corrections officer and found his joy playing the fiddle. But the riot shook Wes's faith and robbed him of his music; now he must decide if his attacker should walk free.

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

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Water Rate Increase In Effect

A water rate increase of 3% for the City of Burlington was approved by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) effective January 27, 2016.

The water rate increase is necessary to keep pace with the rising cost of energy, equipment replacement, labor, aging infrastructure and meeting new DNR regulatory requirements. As our infrastructure ages we are starting to see the financial impacts of replacing and maintaining our older infrastructure.

Our water rates are still a bargain when compared to other utilities in a 50-mile area of Burlington. According to the PSC dashboard:

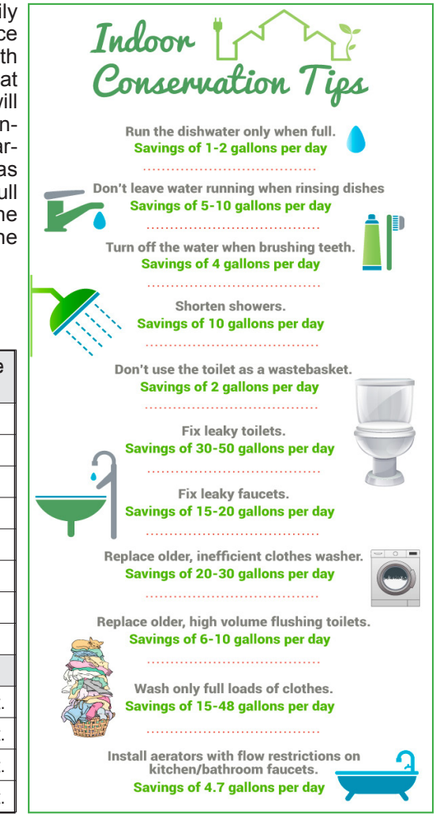
http://www.efc.sog.unc.edu/reslib/item/wisconsin-residential-water-rates-dashboard#

The average price for 11,000 gallons of water is $40.02. With Burlington's 3% increase, the average price for 11,000 gallons of water is approximately $31.62 even though we charge $2.15 per 100 cu. ft used. (excluding meter, fire and sewer charges).

What does this mean for you?
The water utility bills customers four times per year for municipal services including water, sanitary sewer and fire protection The current average three-month residential utility bill for a family of four is $215.74. The water service portion of the bill averages $91.04 with the rate increase applying only to that portion of the bill. The rate increase will amount to approximately a $3.32 increase in the average residential quarterly water bill. The rate increase was effective January 27, 2016. The first full rate increase cycle will occur in the second quarter billing (March to June 2016).

Meter Size	Qtr. Water Service Chg	Pubic Fire Charge
5/8 inch	$28.69	$25.24
1 inch	$39.34	$62.94
1.5 inch	$55.73	$124.57
2 inch	$85.23	$199.96
3 inch	$137.68	$376.99
4 inch	$226.20	$629.41
6 inch	$321.23	$1255.54

Consumption Charge (Metered Usage)	
First 5,000 cu. ft.	$2.15/100 cu. ft.
Next 245,000 cu. ft.	$1.86/100 cu. ft.
Next 500,000 cu. ft.	$1.74/100 cu. ft.
Over 750,000 cu. ft.	$1.58/100 cu. ft.



Tour the Wastewater Treatment Plant!

Jim Bergles, Director of Public Works would like to invite groups and/or individuals to take a tour of the City of Burlington Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Touring the facility is a great learning opportunity for teachers, students, groups or individuals interested in learning how the facility is run.

If interested, please contact Mr. Bergles at 539-3770 to arrange a date and time.

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