

WEST BURLINGTON CITY NEWSLETTER

A Vibrant and Progressive Community



Community Update From Mayor Trousil

identified the City will apply for additional federal funding

Fall is upon us and school is back in session. Please watch carefully for children who are walking or bicycling before and after school.

The City recently received a federal grant to complete a SAFE-ROUTES-TO-SCHOOL Feasibility Study. A committee of volunteers from the community, along with the City's engineering firm, French-Reneker-Associates, will complete the study. The goal is to get more children to walk and bicycle to and from school along designated safe routes. Once the routes are

to help implement and construct new sidewalks or bicycle routes.

The widening and reconstruction of West Burlington Ave. from the freeway overpass south to Agency Street is still planned to be completed before the end of this years construction season.

Work will also begin on our new Municipal Swimming Pool with a completion date of late May, 2008. This will be a great addition for our community with amenities for

all ages.

The remainder of West Burlington Ave. from the freeway overpass north to Mt. Pleasant Street will receive a asphalt overlay as well. The resurfacing and swimming pool project should both be completed by the end of May.

A second water connection to the Burlington water system along with the extension of water main along Highway 406 Road are in the final planning stages and are awaiting state and federal approval.

As always it is an honor to serve the Citizens of West Burlington as your Mayor.

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FALL CLEAN-UP SCHEDULE

Residents of West Burlington can place approved items for Fall Clean-up at their front curb no later than 7:00 a.m. on the following days. Items will not be picked up if placed in the alley.

Fall Clean-up Schedule

**Monday, October 15th—
for residents on Broadway and east**

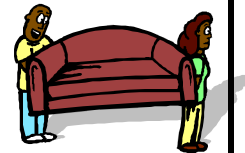
**Monday, October 22nd—
for residents west of Broadway**



Accepted clean-up items include: appliances, furniture, carpet, mattresses, doors and windows.

NOT Accepted: tires, hazardous materials or liquids, batteries, yard waste, regular household trash, lumber, drywall, siding, roofing material and other demolition will not be collected.

Important Notes for clean-up:



- Items may be placed at the curb **no earlier than ten (10) days prior** to your collection day.
- Crews are limited in what they can collect at Fall Clean-up. Appliances and metal are collected first and must be separated from other items. Please keep your items neatly stacked at the curb. Time does not allow crews to sort through piles looking for accepted clean-up items.
- Many items such as toys, old clothes, books, boxes, paper and bedding can be placed with your regular household garbage on your regular garbage collection day.
- Items that are not collected by the City **must be removed from the front curb no later than Thursday** following your collection day.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The West Burlington Volunteer Fire Department will kick off the 2007 Fire Prevention Week by hosting their annual pancake breakfast.

When: Saturday, October 6th

Time: 6:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

Where: West Burlington Fire Station, 301 Broadway St.

Donations are welcome and used toward purchasing equipment for the department. Fire Trucks and other emergency equipment will be on display. We hope to see you there.



W.B. Garbage Collection
will go back to once a
week pick-up

November 1st

West of Leffler—Monday

East of Leffler—Tuesday



Property Tax “Rollback”

By City Administrator Dan Gifford

You may hear city, school and county officials talking about the property tax “rollback”. The State of Iowa has released their preliminary numbers for next fiscal year:

Ag Rollback- 90.1014% (15.434% statewide increase in Ag Valuation)

Residential Rollback- 44.0773% (7.498% statewide increase in Residential Valuation)

Commercial Rollback- 99.6116% (4.589% statewide increase in Commercial Valuation)

Industrial Rollback- 100% (.074% statewide increase in Industrial Valuation)

In case you may be curious about just what this rollback is, I have included some questions and answers from the Iowa League of Cities.

Q: What is the property tax rollback?

A: The property tax rollback, or assessment limitation order, is issued annually and limits the taxable value of

most classes of property. Property in Iowa is divided into classes based on its use. The classes of property in Iowa are residential, commercial, agricultural, industrial and utility. In effect, the rollback limits the taxable value of most property to a statewide increase of four percent annually and eight percent for utility properties. This means that even if property values statewide increased 20 percent, for the purposes of taxation, they would only increase four percent.

This helps shield property owners from sharp increases in property tax resulting from dramatic increases in the value of property. Although all classes of property can be affected by the rollback, residential property is most significantly affected.

Q: What makes the residential rollback different from the rollback on other property classes?

A: Residential property is subject to an additional limitation on the growth of taxable value. The increase in taxable value for residential property cannot exceed four percent or the actual increase in assessed value for

agricultural property, whichever is lower. The intent is to prevent either class from growing faster than the other. For example, if agricultural values grow at two percent and residential values grow at eight percent, residential taxable valuation growth will actually be reduced and both classes will have a two percent valuation growth. This results in residential property valuation actually growing at a rate lower than the four percent allowed for other classes of property. This additional restriction is referred to as coupling of agriculture and residential taxable values.

Q: Why were the taxable values for agriculture and residential properties coupled?

A: Legislation enacted in 1978 tied residential and agricultural valuations together. The impetus for this coupling was a fear that inflation would cause agricultural property values to outpace residential property values, resulting in a shift in tax burden to agricultural property owners.

Q: Why is the residential rollback

problematic for Iowa's cities?

A: In reality, the feared shift of tax burden to agricultural property never occurred, as agricultural values grew at a slower pace and actually declined in some years. Coupling of residential and agricultural property artificially suppressed the taxable value of residential property.

Q: Isn't it difficult to compare agricultural and residential property?

A: Yes. In fact, under Iowa law the two

classifications of property are assessed based on two different methodologies. The assessment of residential property is based on market value. The assessment of agricultural property is based on productivity.

Q: Does the residential rollback impact industrial and commercial classifications?

A: Yes. The artificial suppression of residential taxable values because of coupling has resulted in an inordinate

shift of the property tax burden to classes other than agricultural, particularly commercial and industrial. City officials and others concerned with economic development have long argued that the rollback provisions in Iowa law actually hinder our economic development policy.

If you have any other questions, feel free to stop by and talk with me about it.



OPTIONS FOR YARD WASTE DISPOSAL

YARD WASTE DROP OFF SITE

West Burlington residents are permitted to use the yard waste drop off site located at the City's Street Shop, 515 W. Glasgow. Residents living *within the City limits* can drop off grass, leaves and small branches under 4' in

length and 2" in diameter. All waste must be removed from plastic bags. **Don't be surprised if an officer stops to talk to you while you are dumping your yard waste. Unfortunately, we are experiencing an influx of use by residents outside of the city limits.** We would hate to have

to close the site because of this so we are keeping an eye on it. If you see illegal dumping or vandalism in the area please report it to the police department.




LEAF BURING

Residents will be allowed to burn leaves on **Wednesday and Saturday** between October 15th and November 30th. If you have a lot larger than one acre you are permitted to burn leaves on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays between October 15th and November 30th. During this time leaves can be burned in

burning barrels, on gravel/cement driveways, in gardens or on concrete streets. Leaves CAN NOT be burned on Asphalt or Seal coated streets. The wind must be under 10 mph. Check for wind speed by calling at 754-4601 or Cable Channel 9. Fires must be attended at all times and appropriate fire extinguishing

equipment readily available. Burning is not permitted after dark. The Fire Chief is authorized to require that open fires be immediately discontinued if it is determined that smoke emissions are offensive to occupants of surrounding property or constitutes a hazardous condition.





Trick-or-Treat

Wed., October 31st from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

