



# Bridgeport City Times

www.cityofbport.com

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## Snow emergency plan explained

In an effort to more effectively complete snow removal operations, the Bridgeport City Council implemented a snow emergency plan last summer. Now that old man winter has come calling, the plan has been implemented and the success of the plan has been realized.

During a 48-hour period, the City of Bridgeport removed 11 inches of snowfall from streets in the city. That amounted to about 600 cubic yards of snow being hauled away, and many more cubic yards of snow being rolled off the streets.

While the snow removal operations were a big success, they came a surprise to many residents. Therefore, it is important that everyone understands the goals and priorities of the emergency snow route plan.

### **What is a Snow Emergency?**

A snow emergency is a plan that will allow the City to clear snow when conditions are such that normal snow operations are not able to keep the streets clear. During snow emergencies, a special "No Parking" ban goes into effect on selected City streets. This is the most effective way for snow control operations.

### **When will a Snow Emergency be declared?**

The official ordinance states that "the City Administrator will declare a snow emergency whenever weather conditions make it necessary to prohibit parking to allow snow plowing to be successfully completed." Basically, this declaration will generally be

made when more than a couple of inches of snow falls. When the City Administrator declares a snow emergency, the declaration will state the time that the emergency will become effective. The snow emergency will remain in effect until it has been terminated by the City Administrator.

### **How will I know that a Snow Emergency has been declared?**

The City Administrator will inform local radio and television media of the snow emergency as soon as it is issued. You can tune to local radio and TV stations when snow is falling or predicted to fall to see if a snow emergency has been issued. The City will also be utilizing the Vital Call emergency phone calling system. If you would like to be notified when a snow emergency is issued, please contact City Hall at 262-1623 to make sure that we have your contact information correct, and asked to be added to the Snow Emergency Calling list. You can also e-mail [bboyer@cityofbport.com](mailto:bboyer@cityofbport.com).

### **What happens when a Snow Emergency is declared?**

From the time the emergency is declared, there is no parking of any vehicles or trailers on all snow emergency routes.

### **What happens if I park on a Emergency Snow Route?**

Whenever any Police Officer, city employee or person contracted to assist with the removing snow and/or ice from the streets, shall find a vehicle in violation of the Emergency Snow Route plan, they may remove the vehicle, or have the



owner remove the vehicle. The owner or other person lawfully entitled to the possession of any vehicle towed or stored shall be charged with the reasonable cost of towing and storage fees, plus a fine of \$25.00.

### **Why can't the City clear my driveway?**

Despite popular opinion, crews do not place snow in driveways on purpose. There is no practical way for the snow plow operator to cut off the windrow of snow when crossing a driveway. One thing you can do to reduce the amount of snow that is plowed in front of your driveway is to place as much of the snow as possible to the right side of your drive, as you face the street. This reduces the chance of snow previously removed from the driveway being pushed back onto your drive.

If you have any questions or comments regarding our snow removal operations, or would like more information, call the City Administrator at 262-1623.



## Council passes new dog ordinance

The Bridgeport City Council passed a new ordinance at their February 5, 2009 meeting requiring the confinement of dogs harbored in the city limits.

The ordinance, number 788, requires that "in order to harbor dogs in the City of Bridgeport, Nebraska, all dogs shall be confined indoors, in a fenced-in yard with a fence height suitable to the size of the dog, or in an anti-escape locked pen or structure suitably designed to prevent the entry of young children and to prevent the dog from escaping."

The ordinance goes to further

prohibit "any dog to be tied to any object with a rope, chain, leash, or other device and left unattended for any period of time longer than one hour."

The Council debated the ordinance at several meetings, and held public hearings to gather input from the residents and citizens before enacting the law.

There is a 120-day window before the ordinance goes into effect, meaning the ordinance will be enforced beginning June 11, 2009.

This should allow homeowners plenty of time to erect a

fence or build a kennel on their property if they plan to leave their dogs outside. Residents are reminded that a building permit is required before constructing any fence or kennel. Those permits cost \$5 and are available at City Hall.

The fine for violation of the ordinance is \$25 for the first offense, then \$50 for each successive seven-day period in violation of the ordinance.

For more information on this ordinance, call City Administrator Bill Boyer, at 262-1623 or Police Chief Milo Cardenas at 262-1411.

*Vital Call is used to notify residents and businesses of emergencies, including tornadoes, floods, evacuations, electrical or water outages, and other natural disasters.*

## Update your Vital Call information

The City of Bridgeport's Vital Call system is a valuable emergency notification system for residents and business owners. But, the system can be a much more beneficial system to you if you take a couple minutes to update your information.

The system uses information gathered from public phone listings and utility billing information to produce a calling list. The City then uses these phone numbers to call in the event of an emergency or city notification.

When updating your information, either online at [www.cityofbport.com](http://www.cityofbport.com) or in person at City Hall, you can provide up to three phone numbers—a primary number, a secondary and alternate phone number. You can also provide a primary and secondary e-mail address and receive the notices by e-mail. You can also provide a SMS phone number that will be used to send a text-message to your cell phone.

Any telephone number can be added, whether it is a local

number or a long distance number.

Additional options are available as well, including the ability to add TTY or TDD functionality for those who are hearing impaired.

Again, to update your information, go online to [www.cityofbport.com](http://www.cityofbport.com) and click on the One-Step Notification Sign Up Now box, or stop by City Hall and 809 Main Street and the City Staff will be glad to help you get your Vital Call information updated.

## Bridgeport Library offers catalog online

Keeping up with the goals of the Nebraska Library Services and Technology Act, we recently completed a long process of upgrading our technology information.

This big step forward for our community started with obtaining a Library Improvement Grant through the Nebraska Library Commission and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Library patrons can now browse the library catalog

online. Before one goes to the library, you can check to see if a particular book is available at [www.bridgeportcitylibrary.org](http://www.bridgeportcitylibrary.org) (click *online catalog*). And in the near future, you can reserve and/or renew an item online, from home.

We now have wireless internet for the laptop owners. And last, but not least, for the safety of our children, the library now supports the CIPA (Child Internet Protection Act) with content filtering software.

### Bridgeport Library has extended hours

The Bridgeport Public Library recently modified its hours of operation, and is now open to serve you even more. The Library hours are:

Tuesday: 10 a.m.—8 p.m.

Wednesday: 10 a.m.—5 p.m.

Thursday: 10 a.m.—8 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m.—5 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

Sunday and Monday: *Closed*

The library is always online at [www.bridgeportcitylibrary.org](http://www.bridgeportcitylibrary.org).



# Monthly water project update

**Editor's Note: The following update was provided by Olsson Associates, the engineering firm for the \$5.4 million water treatment project in the City of Bridgeport.**

The property docket addressed last month has been submitted to United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development. The Rural Development process will take 45 to 60 days. In short, the docket assures that all water system improvements are constructed on properties owned by the City or on

permanent easement.

Earlier this fall, the City contracted with Furgo Horizons, Inc. to provide aerial digital photography of the City and electrical service area. The photography has been completed and is being used in the project design process. The photography is also being used as a backdrop for utility mapping.

The well bid packet and meter installation packets are moving forward and will be sent for agency review in March. We anticipate advertisement during April and bid

in May. In addition, design has started on the treatment building and site. The raw water pipeline, treatment building and Phase I transmission/distribution pipelines should be ready for agency review in April with a bid date in June.

The elevation of the treatment and two well sites will need to be increased to meet State and Federal regulations. If anyone has or knows of any fill dirt in the area please contact the City at (308) 262-1623 or Olsson Associates at (308) 635-2627.



# One and six year road plan released

The Bridgeport City Council approved the one- and six-year road plan at their special meeting Thursday, February 19th.

The one- and six-year road plan is a required document to be submitted to the State of Nebraska, showing projects that the City anticipates, or would like to complete during the next one and six years.

Among the highlights on the one- and six-year road plan:

- Surfacing T Street from 12th Street to 16th Street; U Street from 14th Street to 15th Street and 15th Street from T

Street to U Street. This project will be completed and assessed to the property owners, per their petition to the Council to construct the project.

- Resurfacing T Street from 11th Street to 12th Street.

- Resurfacing of 11th Street from Main Street to S Street.

- Chip-sealing Recreation Road from 5th Street to 3rd Street.

- Installing storm box and buried culvert from G Street to H Street to tie into storm drain to relieve surface water problem.

- Resurfacing 10th Street from Main Street to S Street.

- Resurfacing Q Street from 7th Street to 8th Street.

- Surfacing South Railroad Avenue from Highway 88 to Highway 385.

- Surfacing 4th Street from H Street to Main Street.

All of the projects are contingent upon receiving funds. Just because an item is listed on the one- and six-year road plan doesn't necessarily mean that the project will be completed.

For a complete copy of the road plan, stop by City Hall.

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# City launches new website

If you haven't been online recently, you will want to check out the City or Bridgeport's brand-new website at [www.cityofbport.com](http://www.cityofbport.com).

There are many features on the website, including downloadable forms and permits, updates on employment opportunities, City Council and other board meeting notices, agendas, and

minutes, and links to contact all the City staff and departments.

Also, while you are there, make sure you update your Vital Call information. This will allow you to put in your address, and enter your home phone, cell phone, e-mail address, and even a text messaging address where the City can notify you in the

event of an emergency or other urgent situation.

There are several other things in the works for the website, including a searchable code book and zoning regulations book, the ability to manage and pay your utility bill online and many more features. Keep checking back at [www.cityofbport.com](http://www.cityofbport.com)



## City of Bridgeport

### Upcoming Board Meetings

#### Mayor & City Council

Thursday, March 5,  
7:30 p.m., City Hall, 809  
Main Street

#### Board of Park Commissioners

Monday, March 9, 6:00  
p.m., City Hall, 809  
Main Street

#### Library Board

Tuesday, March 10,  
7:00 p.m., Bridgeport  
Public Library, 722 Main  
Street

#### Community Center Operating Board

Tuesday, March 3, 6:30  
p.m., Prairie Winds  
Community Center, 424  
Main Street

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 3, 7:00  
p.m., City Hall, 809  
Main Street

All meeting agendas are posted on the website at [www.cityofbport.com](http://www.cityofbport.com) or are available at the City Office at 809 Main Street.

### *We're Online...*

Visit us at these websites:

**City of Bridgeport**  
[www.cityofbport.com](http://www.cityofbport.com)

**Prairie Winds Community Center**  
[www.prairiewindsc.com](http://www.prairiewindsc.com)

**Bridgeport Public Library**  
[www.bridgeportcitylibrary.org](http://www.bridgeportcitylibrary.org)

**Pioneer Trails Museum**  
*Coming soon*

## City of Bridgeport

[www.cityofbport.com](http://www.cityofbport.com)

# Monthly City Administrator's Report

Well, the City of Bridgeport successfully made it through our first snowstorm, and the streets (at least at the time I'm writing this) are dry again.

I had the pleasure of visiting with many of you concerning the snow removal plan, and it's affect on your sidewalks, yards, lawns, driveways, streets and alleys. I really appreciate all of your comments, and those are all things that we will consider in the future.

There are a couple of things that I would like to ask of you. First, when shoveling or snowblowing your sidewalks and driveways, please throw the snow into your yards, rather than into the streets. Your grass will appreciate the extra water, and it will help us to keep the streets cleaner.

The second thing I would like to ask for is patience. This first storm was a work in progress for all of us. I'm just thankful it

was the last week of January before we had to remove snow. What a change a year makes.

The City of Bridgeport water project is progressing (see page 3). I know it seems very frustrating to everyone when it looks as if no progress is being made. But, even though no dirt is being moved, progress is happening.

In a few weeks, bid packages will be out, and once bids are awarded, there will be a lot of workers in our city helping us to get the water project done.

Work will be happening fast and furiously, and we are still planning on having drinkable water by the end of the year. But, there is a lot of work to do. Wells must be drilled, a treatment plant construction, water pipeline and meters must be installed.

Now that President Obama has signed the stimulus pack-



age, it's a wait and see game to determine if the City of Bridgeport will receive any of that money. Time will tell, and hopefully we will all know something really soon.

In the meantime, as always, if you have an idea or suggestion you want to pass along, or you just want to ask questions, feel free to call me at 262-1623 or stop by City Hall at 809 Main.

## City offers flexible payment options

The City of Bridgeport is pleased to offer flexible automatic withdrawal payments for customer's utility bills.

Effective immediately, the City of Bridgeport will offer the ability to shave your utility bill paid automatically out of your checking or savings account on one of three different days.

Customers can select to have their payment withdrawn on the first, fifth, or tenth day of the month.

Those customers who are currently enrolled in automatic payments will continue to have their payments withdrawn on the first of the month, unless they notify the city office that they would like to have their automatic



payment date changed to the fifth or the tenth day of the month.

In addition, the city offers payments via Visa, Master Card, or Discover credit or debit cards. There is no ad-

ditional fee for paying a bill with a credit or debit card and customers can pay in person or by phone at 262-1623.

At this time, the City of Bridgeport does not offer automatic monthly payments via credit or debit card, but this is something that the City will likely be exploring as an option to have in the future.

Also, the City will likely be exploring the options to have online utility billing, allowing you to maintain and pay your utility bills online.

If there is something that you would like to see offered for paying utility bills, please stop by City Hall or call City Clerk/Treasurer Dori Huck at 262-1623.