



# Bridgeport City Times

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## Water project bids this week

This week, on Thursday April 23, the water treatment equipment (Bid Package 1) will be bid. This is a week later than scheduled due to a number of changes in the funding front. Rural Development (RD) is officially back in the funding mix. In concert with the State Revolving Loan Program (SRF), Rural Development will fund the treatment equipment. With this change the property docket and minor changes needed to be completed. The bid date was changed to complete these items.

Funding from the stimulus package or American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), has now been assigned to Bid Package 2 which is the installation of water meters. Technically this is now the only phase which must be under contract by September 1, 2009.

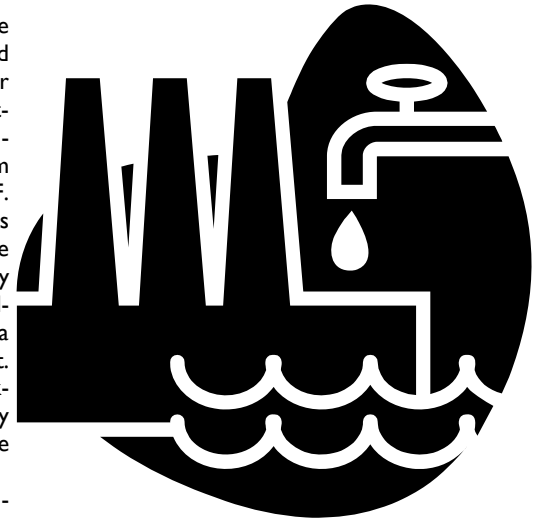
Bid Package 2, Meter Installation has been advertised and will bid May 5, 2009. We are starting to see a lot of interest.

We have received review comment from the Department of Health and Human Services

for Bid Package 3, Wells and Raw Water Lines and waiting for comments from RD and SRF. As soon as comments are received they will be addressed and a bid date set. We are looking at late May or early June for a bid date.

We are completing our in-house of Bid Package 4 which includes the treatment building, and Phase I & II transmission/distribution pipelines. Our April 20th date to send plans and specifications for agency review is revised to April 27th. A late June bid date is still projected.

Since the September 1 ARRA contract date no longer applies design on the three remaining phases, Phase III, IV and V in June or July. These phases, which will be in Bid Package 5,



will include funding from SRF, RD and CDBG or Community Development Block Grants. The short delay will ensure all funding requirements are in place. These phases include replacement of old leaking high maintenance pipeline sections, the elimination of dead end lines and a loop line south of Highway 385.

Our goal is still to have treated water to the residence of Bridgeport by year's end.

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## Free Clean-Up Day rescheduled to Saturday, May 6

The City of Bridgeport and Waste Connections are pleased to announce that the spring free City clean-up day, originally scheduled for Saturday, April 18th, has been rescheduled to Saturday, May 6th.

The original date was moved due to excessive rainfall and muddy conditions at the trans-

fer station. The City and Waste Connections apologize for any inconvenience that this has caused.

Waste Connections will have the transfer station at 405 West Fifth Street open on May 6th from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. for all non-commercial City residents to bring household furni-

ture, small and large appliances and scrap lumber.

No tree branches, refrigerators, or tires will be allowed.

This is a free service, and the City of Bridgeport and Waste Connections encourage all residents to take this opportunity to dispose of unwanted waste on their property.



## ACE MarketShield eliminates hassle

The Public Alliance for Community Energy (ACE) is offering natural gas customers a new pricing option during the upcoming Nebraska Choice Gas program that eliminates the hassle of choosing their rate and ensures customers will pay a fair price for natural gas.

The Choice Gas selection period runs through April 30, which is important to note to customers since previous selection periods have ended May 1.

The program allows customers on the SourceGas distribution system, includ-

ing Bridgeport, to choose their natural gas supplier for the year.

Customers who select the ACE MarketShield pricing option during the two-week selection period will receive an average of fixed rate per therm prices offered during the two-week selection period and market conditions two weeks later.

Not only will customers who select the ACE MarketShield option avoid the hassle of trying to monitor gas prices and making multiple calls in an attempt to get a fair price during the selec-

tion period, but they will receive the same rate as ACE rollover customers. ACE's rollover rate was the lowest of all the participating suppliers last year, saving the average residential customer as much as \$100 or more last year.

"We're trying to make it as easy as possible," said Beth Ackland, ACE Retail Gas Services Coordinator, "and at the same time have them walk away feeling like they received a fair rate."

For more about ACE MarketShield, contact ACE at (800) 454-4759.

## New dog ordinance begins in June

**Beginning June 11, 2009, all dogs shall be confined indoors, in a fenced-in yard, or in an anti-escape locked pen.**

As a reminder to residents, the new dog confinement ordinance, passed by the Bridgeport City Council in February, goes into effect on June 11, 2009.

The ordinance 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 June 11 implementation should allow homeown-

ers plenty of time to erect a fence or build a kennel on their property if they plan to leave their dogs outside. A building permit is required before construction can begin. They 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.



## Updates from Prairie Winds Community Center

### Summer Activities Available Soon

Prairie Winds Community Center youth soccer has been postponed due to weather conditions for weeks 1 through 3. Updated soccer schedules are posted at the community center, available online at [www.prairiewindsc.com](http://www.prairiewindsc.com) and in the Bridgeport Newsblade.

### Summer Activities Available Soon

All youth and summer activities will be available the week of April 27th. Sign up forms will be at the community center front desk and online at [www.prairiewindsc.com](http://www.prairiewindsc.com). Summer activities will include softball, sand volleyball and youth baseball.

### Community Center Expands Hours

Prairie Winds Community Center has new hours.

\* **Monday thru Friday** 5:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

\* **Saturday** 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

\* **Sunday** 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (closed Memorial Day to Labor Day)

# Helpful water conservation tips

The City of Bridgeport is here to help you conserve water. As the City progresses toward metered water (meaning you will pay for the water you use), we want to help you find ways to save—not only water usage but money. Here are some things you can do to help:

## IN THE KITCHEN AND LAUNDRY

- Keep a container of water in the refrigerator to avoid running water for a cold drink.
- Avoid running water to thaw food.
- Run the dishwasher only when you have a full load. Automatic dishwashers use about 15 gallons of water per load.
- If washing dishes by hand, don't let water run continuously for rinsing.
- Use a bowl of water to clean and prepare vegetables, rather than letting the faucet run.
- Use your garbage disposal less often and compost instead.
- When doing laundry, use the right water level to match the size of the load. Otherwise, wash only full loads. Each load of laundry normally requires 50 gallons or more of water.
- Check hose connections for leaks.

## IN THE BATHROOM

- One of the best ways to save water inside the home is by replacing the parts inside your toilet tanks every few years. Leaking toilets can send over 1,000 gallons of water down the drain in a single day. Because they are often difficult to see or hear, toilet leaks surprise many customers in the

form of an unusually high water bill. Internal toilet parts, like tires on a car, wear out over time and need to be replaced. Doing it before they begin leaking saves water and money.

- Test for toilet leaks by adding food coloring to the water tank. Don't flush for 15 minutes. If there is color in the bowl after 15 minutes, you may have a leak.
- Install water saving low-flow showerheads.
- Don't use the toilet to dispose of tissues or other trash. Every flush uses three and one half to seven gallons of water.
- When replacing fixtures, install water saving models.
- A bathtub filled half full holds about 50 gallons of water. Consider showering instead.
- Limit the length of showers to two or three minutes. An unrestricted showerhead runs at five to ten gallons a minute.
- Avoid letting the water run while shaving, brushing your teeth, and washing your face.
- Teach children to turn faucets off tightly after use.

## SAVE WATER ON THE LAWN

- Avoid excessive watering. Most lawns need only an inch of water per week to stay healthy. Measure the amount of time it takes your sprinkler to deliver that much water, and do not exceed the total time for the week. A shallow container, such as a tuna can, can be used to measure the water.
- Use short cycles (5 minutes) at least an hour apart to reduce runoff.

- Reduce evaporation by watering in the evening or early in the morning.
- Set sprinklers carefully to avoid watering paved areas.
- Avoid sprinklers that spray a fine mist, which increases evaporation.
- Aerate the soil in the spring and fall to reduce runoff.
- Keep the grass 2-3" long to enhance root development with minimal watering.

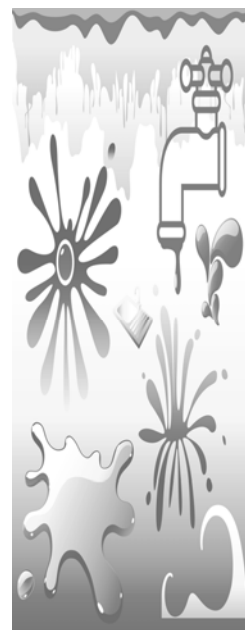
## LANDSCAPE WISELY

- Minimize grassy areas, which require the most water.
- Plant water efficient grasses, plants, trees, and shrubs.
- Use mulch to help the soil retain moisture and to reduce the growth of weeds.
- Use drip irrigation to water plants, trees, and shrubs.
- Plant in the spring or fall, when watering requirements are lower.

## OTHER OUTDOOR TIPS

- Shut off and drain the water lines to outside spigots in the winter. This prevents freezing temperatures from causing expensive leaks.
- If you have an automatic sprinkler system, inspect it regularly for leaks and malfunctioning parts.
- Avoid using the hose to clean areas that could be swept with a broom.
- When washing vehicles, run the water only to wet and rinse. Use a container to hold the water used for washing.

For more information, check out [www.cityofbport.com](http://www.cityofbport.com).



*“A bathtub filled half full holds about 50 gallons of water. Consider showering instead”*



## Library celebrates National Volunteer Week

The Bridgeport Public Library thanks all who volunteer for library programs, events and projects. We are very thankful for each and every volunteer, especially Claudia Loomis-Goltl, Sylvia Hildebrand, Lisa Bryan, and all the Friends of the Library.

Claudia leads a weekly book discussion with a group of wonderful pre-teen readers.

Sylvia conducts our local genealogy group and researches our local history.

Lisa never misses an opportunity to help with our enthusiastic group of young readers during afterschool story-time and summer-reading programs.

And Friends of the Library are the fundraisers for library projects and specific needs, and they never miss an opportunity to help with library programs and events.

## City offices observe Memorial Day

The City of Bridgeport City Offices, Prairie Winds Community Center, and the Bridgeport Public Library will be closed to observe Memorial Day on Monday, May 25, 2009.

All three locations will reopen at the regular time on Tuesday, May 26, 2009.



# Monthly City Administrator's Report

Patience. A word that I use to hear from my great-grandma, and one that I was never good with. But, patience is something that I am asking for from all of you throughout the summer months.

The City of Bridgeport will begin construction in the next month or two on the \$6.6 million water treatment project and equipment upgrades. While it has been hard to be patient, it is nice seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

As we work toward that light, though, there is going to be a lot of hard work and hard decisions that will have to be made to get us there.

First, there will be new water pits and water meters installed at every address in the City. This means that there will be digging and trenching occurring in every yard. That means that there will be grass that will be dug up and everyone will have some dirty lawns. The City will reseed all areas disturbed by the project, so we can all enjoy healthy lawns next

year.

In addition to this, there are several areas of the community where more permanent fixtures will have to be disturbed or removed during the process, including sidewalks, driveways, trees, and underground sprinkler systems. If the contractors are required to remove any sidewalks or driveways, those portions removed will be replaced at the City's expense. The City will also pay to have all of trees removed which need to be removed during the process, but no new trees will be planted in the city right-of-way. The city will work with individuals on ways that sprinkler systems can be reconnected at the owners' expense.

One question that I have received a lot is why is the city not locating the water line under the street. This is very simply a cost-saving measure. This process would easily add several hundred thousand dollars to the project costs, and mean that if something hap-



pens in the future, more costs would have to be absorbed to make the necessary repairs.

We understand that this will cause quite a bit of inconvenience, but in the end, when the project is completed, there will be a standardized area for all water meters, meter pits, and even water lines. And, most importantly, we will all be able to drink the water with the peace of mind that the water is safe and healthy.

If you have any questions concerning the proposed water lines, and their impact on your property, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me at City Hall, by calling 262-1623, or dropping me an email anytime at [bboyer@cityofbport.com](mailto:bboyer@cityofbport.com).

## Commercial lighting program underway

The City of Bridgeport, in cooperation with The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN), has launched a commercial lighting program to increase energy efficiency.

The MEAN board of directors, at its January board meeting, approved the ENERGYsmart Commercial Lighting Program. The board appropriated \$75,000 during fiscal year 2009-10 to fund the program.

"The idea behind the program is fairly straightforward," said Andrew Ross, resource planning engineer. "The most valuable kilowatt can be the one not used. Replacing outdated, inefficient lighting not only helps businesses save money through energy reduc-



tion but delays new generation requirement by lowering overall electric load. The program is the first of several being considered that provide incentives to MEAN communities to promote conservation."

Lighting accounts for about 30 percent of a commercial business' total energy use. Un-

der the program, qualified upgrades can reduce lighting energy requirements by 30 to 60 percent with a simple-payback in three years or less.

The program includes cash incentives paid directly to commercial customers to help cover the cost of lighting upgrades and replacements. The program covers indoor high bay, fluorescent, area lighting systems and LED exit-lighting fixtures.

Any business served by the City of Bridgeport electrical department that would like to take advantage of this money saving program, should contact City Administrator Bill Boyer or Utility Superintendent Wayne Kautz.