

Friends of Bill Lynn
1935 Walling Ct.
Davenport, IA 52803

PSTD STD
US Postage
PAID
BDM

5th Ward Meeting

with
Alderman Bill Lynn



Tuesday, June 23, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.
Davenport Police Station, 416 Harrison Street
In the Community Room

Paid for by Friends of Bill Lynn

Let's Keep in touch!

You can reach me

Cell Phone: 563-320-3675

E-mail: Bill@ProfBillLynn.com

www.ProfBillLynn.com

1935 Walling Court

Davenport, IA 52803

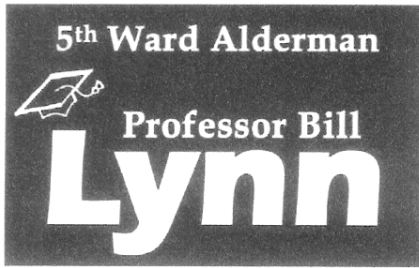
Or just come to one of the quarterly ward meetings.

How can I reach you?

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail _____



A PLEASURE TO PRINT THIS ONE!

I have much to report since my last newsletter. Recently we have had some very good news related to our city and particularly the 5th Ward.

I think the good news continues to be the result of a city council who works well with the city staff.

THE GOOD NEWS

Hilltop Area Receives Grant

The Hilltop Area received a \$100,000 Technical Assistance Grant from the state. This, combined with a commitment of over \$400,000 to the area from the city, should help us develop what we call a **campus village**. For many years, we have recognized that the Hilltop Area is unique in that it is located between two institutions of higher education, St. Ambrose University and Palmer College of Chiropractic. Given the number of students at the two institutions, you would think it would evolve into an area with shops and housing for students, but it has not. We believe that this could happen, and we have provided resources to this end. Given the success in the Village of East Davenport, we believe this success can be reproduced in the Hilltop Area. These two projects will be a real boost to the city.

More Accreditation News

On another positive note, we just had an analysis done of our fire department by Citygate Associates. This organization evaluates fire departments throughout the country. They review aspects such as response times and location of fire stations. The good news is that we have a **very good fire department**. We beat the national averages for response time in all categories and they did not recommend any additional fire stations. I think this is due the very fine work of Mark Frese and his department. The quality of service from our fire department is well above the norm in the country.

The Citygate study was completed because we are working toward accreditation of the fire department. We currently have an accredited Police Department and Public Works Department. Should we obtain accreditation of our Fire Department, we would be **one of the 12 cities in the U.S. to have these three departments accredited**. I have seen the work that goes into this accrediting and it is huge. What it means is that you have **policies and procedures in place** to cover all of the types of services these departments provide. This is then evaluated by an outside team of experts. Most cities do not want to open themselves up to such scrutiny. I believe this shows the willingness of our city to be open. I hope there is more to come.

The Economy

As we all know, the economy is not doing well in most of the country, and many cities are having a difficult time. **Thanks to the city staff's assistance**, so far we have done well in navigating through this difficult time, and the Quad Cities area continues to do better than the nation as a whole. We hope this continues. Nothing is certain at this point, but I want to assure you that Davenport's present finances are in good shape.

Marketing Committee

In the new budget the council has approved \$100,000 to market Davenport. The Council believes that we do not tell people about the positive things happening in Davenport. Since I have been on the Council I have found out many things many residents do not know about our fine city. There are **reasons to be proud of our city**, but if we **do not tell** anyone they **won't know**. Rock Island is now marketing their city. We need to set ourselves apart from other cities, so that is why we have created a marketing committee.

Youth Advisory Council

We recently developed a Youth Advisory Council for the city. There are 16 youth from throughout the city who serve on this council (11 council persons with 5 alternates) and they have adopted their bylaws. The idea behind the Youth Advisory Council is to have a group that could advise the City Council on issues of interest to

Youth Advisory Board (continued)

young people. I believe this is important to the improvement of our city and will allow us to obtain input on how to deal with certain issues. Hopefully combating juvenile crime will be one of those issues.

A DIFFERENT APPROACH

In my last newsletter I explained my position on the Promise Program. It appears a large majority of people agreed with me. I do believe **education is important** and we need to do something to support students. I felt that using city tax dollars was not advisable. Recently the city opened discussions with the school district on how we can work together to attract people to Davenport. I believe this is a positive step that should have been undertaken before considering something like the Promise Program.

CRIME

It appears we have seen a continuing improvement in the crime problem. I believe the weekly meetings Bill Boom and I have with the police and fire departments are part of the reason for this improvement. We discuss constituents' concerns, but more importantly we have been able to develop a **better working relationship between departments**. I think this has paid **huge dividends**. When we have a problem area or address, the police investigate and talk to people in the area. Then they involve all the necessary departments in dealing with the problem.

Our **nuisance abatement** attorney works with landlords to improve problematic situations. If landlords are not cooperative, we can take further action and we have done so in some cases. We now have an ordinance that provides additional penalties for properties that have excessive numbers of 911 calls. Landlords no longer have an excuse that they did not know because we are now notifying them of 911 calls to their properties. I fought for this for some time because in the past their defense was they did not know. This way they are informed and liable. I think this work has really improved many neighborhoods. This is the reason it is **important to call 911** if you have a problem in your neighborhood.

THE CAMERAS ARE ON

Another issue of concern to my constituents (both pro and con) is the traffic cameras. As I have expressed, I am still somewhat uncertain on this issue. I understand the concern of over use and 'big brother.' However two points regarding these cameras are important. First, we did not pay to have them installed. The company installs and maintains them for a percentage of the fine. Second, the money generated is **used for public safety**, and it is not a large amount. It appears that since the cameras were turned back on the number of tickets have declined. That is the point of the cameras.

Since the cameras went into use **accidents are down**. We **no longer have** three of the most dangerous intersections in Iowa. The cameras have also **freed up officers**. If we eliminate the cameras, there will be more requests for traffic enforcement thus taking officers that deal with crime off the street. It costs about \$100,000 per year to add a new officer, and since over 60% of our budget is spent on public safety adding policemen would mean an increase in taxes or fees and I hear from my constituents that they do not want to pay higher taxes or more fees. **Your comments on this subject are appreciated.**

HANDICAPPED PARKING

We just enacted a policy on residential handicapped parking areas. We were seeing a large proliferation of these areas (we have 450 in the city). In many neighborhoods this was creating a parking problem. Until now, the city had no policy to deal with the problem and the staff needed such a policy. **Please be clear, this is not meant to stop people from obtaining the signs if they need them**, but the use of handicapped parking was being abused. Based on a sampling of locations, I found about half of the cars parked in these areas did not have handicapped tags. We have found in many cases the people obtaining the signs have moved or are deceased. Part of the new policy will be to review every location every two years and if handicapped parking is no longer warranted, the signs will be removed. I will place a copy of the policy on my website for your perusal (www.ProfBillLynn.com).

ISSUES FOR HOMEOWNERS

Sewer Lateral Collapses

Two other issues are of note and relate directly to you especially if you are a homeowner. We have had a large increase in **sewer lateral collapses** in the central city. This is simply due to the age of the sewer system. The repair is the responsibility of the property owner and it can be very expensive costing over \$10,000. You can obtain insurance through the water company, but I am told **it is for repair only**. In some cases they have not paid claims for residents.

I do not like to propose fees; however, in looking at the numbers I believe we could add a small fee to each sewer bill and cover the cost of making such repairs. I think it would be around \$2 or \$3 per quarter. Since there is no way of predicting these collapses, I believe property owners would be interested in such coverage--I know I would. **Your comments on this would be appreciated.**

Alley Repairs

We have a cost sharing program that will cover 50% of the replacement of an alley and the remainder would be assessed to the property and paid over ten years. Our current policy is that you must obtain agreement from over 50% **of the property owners** on the alley to have a new alley installed. This is often difficult if you have many rental units on the alley. I have suggested we change that to 50% **of the owner occupied units**. On the other hand we are now studying the possibility of simply having the city pay 100% of the cost and budgeting for some replacements each year.

Home Improvements

It is that time of year when people think about home improvements or buying a home. We have several programs in place to assist people. If you have questions I suggest you call **Bruce Berger at 326-7711**. He knows about all of the programs.

A Great Service for Residents

During the summer months the Lydia Home has mission work teams who will do painting, yard work, minor repair, etc. I have used them in the past to help elderly and disabled residents. If you could utilize this service or know of someone who could utilize this service, please call **Joyce at 322-0382**. Keep in mind they are not able to do major repair work.

YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED

Again, thank you to those who have sent me contributions to support the publishing of my newsletters—your support means so much to me. As you know, I will not use city money to publish the newsletter. If you can make a contribution, no matter how small, to support the publishing of future newsletters, it would be greatly appreciated (please do not send cash—make checks payable to *Friends of Bill Lynn*, or you can go to my website (www.ProfBillLynn.com) and pay via PayPal.

NEXT WARD MEETING

The next Fifth Ward meeting is this **Tuesday, June 23rd at 6:00 p.m.** at the **Community Room** at our new **Police Station at 416 Harrison**, Davenport. Guardian Angel representatives and Roy Dewitt from the Community Planning and Economic Development Department will be guests at the meeting.

If you need assistance with transportation, **please call me at 563-320-3675.**

Hope to see you Tuesday night!

