

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

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# *5th Ward Meeting*

*with*  
*Alderman Bill Lynn*



Thursday, September 17, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.  
Adler Education Center at 1236 E. Rusholme St.  
Genesis Heart Institute (Lower Level)

*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](mailto:Bill@ProfBillLynn.com)

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

1935 Walling Court

Davenport, IA 52803

Or just come to one of the quarterly ward meetings.

### How can I reach you?

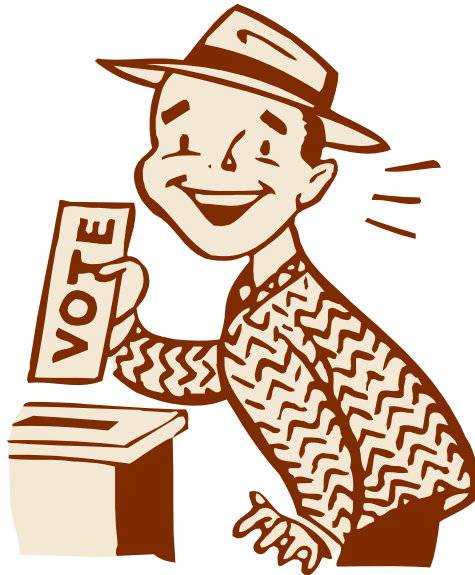
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

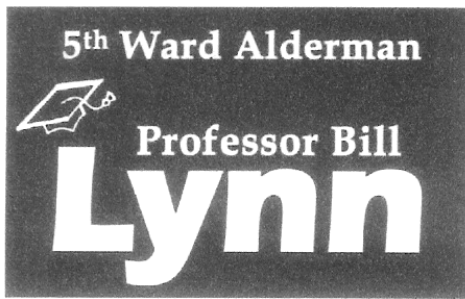
\_\_\_\_ Please e-mail my future newsletters (Please return this form or e-mail me. Thanks.)

**Please be sure to vote  
in the City of Davenport Election  
Tuesday, November 3rd.**



**Voting is so important, no matter how you vote.**

**Choosing to vote  
tells politicians that you are interested in your city.**



## IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN

Yes, it is election year again. I can't believe how quickly the two years roll around!

Since it is election time, this will be my last newsletter and ward meeting for this year. However, that **does not mean** you will **not be hearing from me** anymore, as I will be conducting my campaign for re-election on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## THIS SUMMER WAS NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL

Summer is always a time of great activity in Davenport with all the events like the Bix, Blues Fest, etc. It was even busier with the Rock the River concert that attracted 14,000 people. We were only one of four cities to host this and we were the smallest city.

Usually summer is normally a little slow in the City Council arena, but that has not been the case this year. This council has done a very good job of moving the city forward with none of the infighting of past councils and as a result we have seen a turnaround in this city. We enacted two new initiatives and we continued to move forward on many other items.

## NOW PROGRAM

One initiative that was enacted was the NOW program. This program will allow us to abate 50% of the city's portion of the property tax for any person or business doing at least \$5,000 worth of improvements to property which may include new buildings. I was not initially in support of this, because I still believe we need to simply lower property tax rates in Davenport. We have the highest property tax rates in the area. After long consideration, I did support it since it was obvious that I could not get agreement on a tax rate reduction. What we did in this case was lower tax rates for a period of time for anyone building or improving property in Davenport. It appears that it has already attracted some persons that planned on building new homes. We will see how well it works.

On a related note, we have many programs like this for the central city that are much better. **If you are making improvements** be sure to contact the city and determine the best program for you. If you are **south of Locust** you probably want to use the **Urban Revitalization and Tax Exemption (URTE) program**. It gives you up to 100% tax waiver for some years and then declines.

We also have many other financing programs for anyone wanting to make improvements. Many of these are dependent on income and where you live. Please contact **Bruce Berger** at **326-7711** for details.

## NEW PROGRAM

We have developed the **Neighborhood Empowerment and Wellness (NEW)** program that divides the city into 13 planning areas. We have had public meetings in many of these areas to gather information from residents. We will use this information to make improvements to the area. Some of you may have attended one of the meetings. Some meetings have been well attended and others not so well attended. Given the newness of the program this is not a great surprise. If nothing else this program does give us an avenue to collect more information from residents. This approach has been tried in many cities with great success, so we are hopeful it will work here. After the initial round of meetings we will reassess what we have found.

## WEST SIDE DIVISION TUNNEL

Finally after many years in the planning, this council made the West Side Diversion Tunnel a top priority and approved the funding to start construction. One of the major obstacles to developing the west side of Davenport has been a lack of sewer capacity. We simply cannot let major businesses or housing developments build there because of the lack of sewer capacity. This will change with the building of the tunnel. We will be starting phase one very soon. This is not of direct interest to the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward, but it is very important to the city.

## SEWER LATERALS

In my last newsletter I wrote about the problem of collapsing sewer laterals. The property owner is responsible for the sewer line from their house to the main sewer line and in most cases the main line is below the street. If you have a lateral problem, it will need to be fixed at your expense and can be very costly. The water company has insurance to cover this, but I discovered that it does not cover some repairs. So, even if you have the insurance, **it may not cover your problem.** There is no way of knowing when you will have a problem. It is not a matter of poor maintenance; it is a matter of age. If you live in an old neighborhood you are at risk. Even some of the newer parts of the city are at risk because of the wet summers and the use of some poor materials many years ago.

I proposed we add **\$1 per month to everyone's sewer bill to cover this problem.** The council did not pass this, but I will keep pushing for this. I discussed it in my last newsletter and at my ward meeting. I have not had one person object to this proposal.

## YES, I AM SEEKING RE-ELECTION

I am running for re-election on November 3rd. I have **enjoyed serving** you and **want to continue** to serve you, but of course that is up to you.

When I was first elected all I knew was that I wanted to make our city run better. Given **my knowledge of business and economics**, I quickly found out that our city needed to make many changes. Our technology was terribly out of date; we had no strategic plan (this helps you determine your priorities); in some cases we did not know our costs; and we did not have defined procedures. I pushed to make these changes and our latest citizen's survey confirmed that we have improved. I believe the increase in population of over 1400 persons in the last year shows we are moving in the right direction. Since I took office **three departments have become accredited by national accrediting agencies** (we are only one of 20 cities in the country with this distinction).

Much has been done during this council because we worked together. We **did not raise taxes**; our **financial house is in order**; we have **improved many services**; **crime is down**; and we have **attracted jobs**. We have done **better than the rest of the national economy** over the last year! Now that we have gotten our house in order, we need to tell our citizens and the rest of the world about the **many good things in Davenport**. To this end we have allocated money to market our great city.

I know **much more needs to be done** to continue moving our city in the right direction. I **want to continue to move this city forward** and I still have **some unfinished business**. You will be hearing about my ideas during my campaign.

## YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED

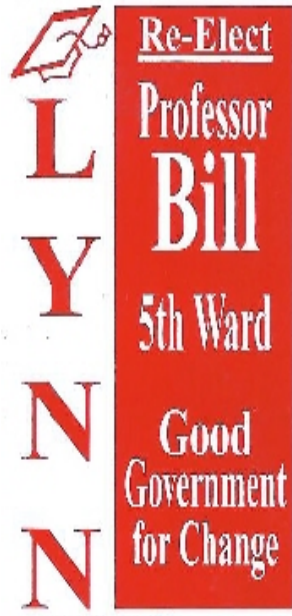
Again, thank you to those who have sent me contributions to support the publishing of my newsletters and my campaign in the last election—**your support means so much to me.** Your **continued support** as I seek re-election will be **greatly appreciated** and vitally important to my success.

## NEXT FIFTH WARD MEETING

The next Fifth Ward meeting is Thursday, September 17, 2009, at 6 p.m. at the Genesis East Adler Education Center (Lower Level), 1236 E. Rusholme. Ray Dewitt, Neighborhood Specialist, and a representative from the Public Works Department will be guests at the meeting.

**Hope to see you Thursday night!**





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

Paid for by Committee to Re-Elect Bill Lynn

*Please Come to  
"Meet and Greet"  
Alderman Bill Lynn*

*Saturday  
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.  
September 19th*

*Encore of Davenport  
1315 Jersey Ridge Road  
in the Village of East Davenport*