

# **Belview Bulletin**

August 2009

## **Sales Tax Increase:**

The sales tax on commercial water has been increased to 6.875%. The garbage drive by fee sales tax has been increased to 9.75% effective on this billing.

## **BUILDING PERMIT REMINDER:**

The City of Belview requires residents to apply for a building permit at the City Clerk's Office prior to beginning any building project. Building permits are a flat fee of \$10 and are required for projects such as new decks, additions, fences, and the construction of or the moving in of a home, garage, shed or other building into city limits. The application must be accompanied by a drawing of the property showing where the work is being done. This does not have to be anything too fancy. It is just important the existing buildings, property lines and work to be done are indicated.

We have not required building permits in Belview for such things as replacing windows, siding, or doors. We have also not required a building permit for shingling projects.

A building permit must be applied for when the dimensions of an existing building are being changed or a building is being moved in or constructed on the property. The purpose of the permit is to allow the city to notify property owners of setback requirements and to make sure that a utility locate is performed before any digging. The information on applications for building permits for construction projects is also used for reporting purposes.

When a property owner is considering moving a pre-made building onto the property a picture of the building must accompany the application. If the property owner is considering the installation of a fence there is a special application for that. A fence application must be accompanied by a signature of approval from the adjoining property owner if the fence is to be installed along the property line because the fence could possibly have an effect on their property value as well.

## **BELVIEW FIRE RELIEF RAFFLE:**

The Belview Fire Relief Association will be holding a raffle on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to purchase a ticket contact any of the firemen or stop by the City Clerk's Office.

## **UPCOMING FLU SEASON:**

Right now, parents everywhere are preparing for a new school year, finding out who their children's teachers will be, buying school supplies and seeing the doctor to make sure their kids are healthy and ready to learn.

But if you're a parent, you need to add one more item to that back-to-school checklist: What you will do if someone in your family gets the flu.

This fall-as every fall-we not only have to plan for a new version of seasonal influenza, but in addition, another potentially serious strain, the 2009 novel H1N1 virus.

We first saw the new H1N1 virus in the United States last April, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continue to report higher than normal levels of flu-like illness and actual H1N1 outbreaks in some parts of the country. That's very unusual at this time of year.

CDC estimates that so far we've had more than 1 million cases of H1N1 in the United States. Similar to seasonal flu, with H1N1 you'll get a fever, cough, sore throat, stuffy nose, achiness, headache, chills, and fatigue. Sometimes H1N1 causes diarrhea and vomiting. Just like seasonal flu, it can be severe and potentially deadly.

H1N1 can be dangerous for a person with an underlying medical condition-such as asthma or diabetes-or if you are pregnant. So far, it's been most contagious among children and young adults age 6 months to 24 years. Health care workers, emergency responders and people caring for infants should be on guard.

Scientists believe this virus could worsen with the arrival of school. But if we prepare for the virus now, it does not have to.

Some of these precautions are simple and personal. Make it a routine to wash your hands often with soap and water. Cough into your elbow or into a tissue, not in your hands.

Stay at home if you're sick, and start planning now in the event that one of your kids get the flu. And ask yourself these questions: If you work, have you made arrangements for child care? Have you talked to your employer about what to do in case you need to be out?

Some preparation is community-wide. If you're an employer, now is the time to plan to meet your objectives with reduced staff. You do not want an employee who is ill to spread flu in the workplace.

At the national level, scientists at the National Institutes of Health, the CDC, and the Food and Drug Administration are working with vaccine manufacturers to make sure that an H1N1 vaccine is not only safe, but that the virus is not changing in ways that would reduce a vaccine's impact. They expect to have the vaccine ready this fall.

To wrap up: A reminder. Wash your hands, cough in your sleeve and stay home when you're sick. Get the vaccine when it's available. No one knows what the impact of the fall flu season will be until we're in the middle of it. But how severe the flu becomes this fall will depend on how seriously each of us takes action to reduce risk now.

(This information was provided by the Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.)