



# Bayport News

NOVEMBER 2006, ISSUE 6

## Voters will Elect a Mayor and City Council Members on November 7<sup>th</sup>

Three positions on the Bayport City Council will be filled Tuesday, November 7, 2006 when voters cast ballots in the general election. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the city's polling place, Bayport City Hall.



The Mayor seat is for a term of two years and begins in January. The seat is currently held by Rick Schneider, who is not seeking re-election. The candidates for Mayor, in alphabetical order, are Dave Ness, Jr. and Jonathan (Jon) Nowaczek.

The two City Council member seats are each for a term of four years and begin in January. The seats are currently held by Daniel B. Johnson and Jonathan (Jon) Nowaczek. The candidates for City Council, in alphabetical order, are Daniel B. Johnson, who is seeking re-election, and Torry Kraftson.

To save time on election day, residents may want to consider voting during off-peak hours, which are usually between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. We hope to see you at the polls!



## A Farewell from Mayor Rick Schneider

It is hard to believe I have been your Mayor for four years. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve, but it is time to step aside.

It was never my intention to enter the political arena. I went into politics because I wanted to protect something precious – our small town.

The development “Inspiration” was a very controversial issue, but we did the best we could in resolving major objections. The density was reduced, open space was retained, restorations and park dedication fees were required. In addition, water/sewer hook up fees were brought up to date, to help ensure that the development was economical and environmentally sustainable.

The local tax levy has been reduced by 29% over the past four years, without reducing the level of city services that the residents and businesses of Bayport have come to enjoy.

The trichloroethylene (TCE) that has been found in the city's water supply will soon be filtered without us having to pay excessively, thanks to the efforts of city staff securing a \$849,000 grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). An air stripping treatment unit is under construction and should be operating by next spring.

I am sure that during my term as Mayor, not everyone agreed with all of the



decisions made. We did seek to find solutions for the greater good and sometimes that can be difficult. We tried to ensure the reasons for these decisions were communicated.

“We the People” has taken on a whole new meaning - these are no longer just words. We made a difference.

All in all, things are good and I feel I am leaving the city in competent hands.

See you around town!

*Rick*

## How Can I Make a Difference in My Community?

Serving on a volunteer advisory commission is a great way to get involved and make a difference in your local government and community. If you are a resident of Bayport and are interested in serving on an advisory commission or board, please contact City Hall at 651-275-4404 or visit our website at <http://bayport.govoffice.com> for more information.

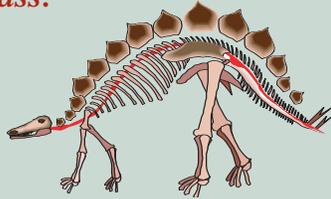
### In This Issue

- Community Programs/Events . . 2
- Recycling Program . . . . . 2
- TCE Treatment . . . . . 3
- Carbon Monoxide Alarms . . . 4

# Community Programs and Events

## *Visit the Bayport Library and Check Out a Museum Adventure Pass!*

It is a first-of-its-kind partnership in the Twin Cities! MELSA (Metropolitan Library Service Agency) and Macy's Department Store, along with 17 local arts and cultural organizations throughout the area, are excited to introduce the "Museum Adventure Pass."



The program provides library card holders in the Twin Cities free admission passes to local museums, zoos, and historical sites. The program is designed to enhance the learning experience for people of all ages through books and other library materials, as well as provide access to arts and cultural organizations.

The "Museum Adventure Pass" is available at more than 100 metro area libraries, including the Bayport Public Library. The program enables library users to check out up to four admission passes to visit participating museums and cultural institutions.



In addition to the admission passes, users also receive a brochure that includes a list of suggested readings, tapes, and DVDs to complement the museum experience. For more information or a list of participating organizations, please contact the Bayport Public Library at 651-275-4416 or visit [www.melsa.org/museumadventurepass](http://www.melsa.org/museumadventurepass).

## *Free Radon Testing*

Radon is a radioactive gas found in the air, which enters a building from the soil or rock beneath it. Because radon is colorless and tasteless, testing is the only way of knowing whether it is present.

In an effort to help identify and mitigate high radon levels in homes throughout the county, the Washington County Department of Public Health and Environment is offering free "do-it-yourself" radon testing kits to residents.

For more information on radon testing, or to reserve a radon testing kit, please visit the Washington County website at [www.co.washington.mn.us](http://www.co.washington.mn.us), using the search word "radon" or contact 651-430-6655.

## Water Meter Reading Made Easy!

In September, the Public Works department began utilizing a Sensus AR5000 handheld scanning computer to record water meter readings for Bayport's 700+ users in the city. Prior to using this device, staff went door to door, recorded each meter reading into a logbook, and then the readings were manually entered into the city's utility billing system computer program.

So far, the Sensus AR5000 has proven to significantly reduce staff time required in the meter reading process. However, the city will continue to explore opportunities for purchasing a completely new city water meter system, which will be necessary within the next few years.

## New Recycling and Refuse Program is a Great Success!

In July, the City Council adopted a new refuse hauling program for residents of the city. Under the new program, all recyclable materials can be placed in a single container, without sorting. The new single-sort recycling carts have been redesigned with wheels, making them much easier to transport and maneuver. In addition, the new carts are significantly larger than the bins previously used by Bayport residents, so recycling pickup is only needed every other Monday.



So far, the program appears to be a great success! Allied Waste/BFI has reported that Bayport went from averaging approximately 11 tons to 16 tons of recyclables per month. That is an increase of 5 tons or 10,000 pounds of recyclable material per month that would have ended up in the trash!

As part of the new refuse hauling program, wheeled trash carts were also provided to each household. Not only do the new recycling and trash carts provide a uniform look throughout the city, they also help prevent debris from blowing out of the containers and allow automated pickup by the waste hauler.

Allied Waste/BFI offers recycling and trash carts in different sizes, to meet different household needs. If you would like to request a smaller or larger cart, please contact Allied Waste/BFI Customer Service at 651-455-8634. Keep up the great work and thanks for doing your part to recycle!

## TCE Treatment Facility to be Constructed

In 2003, a trace amount of trichloroethylene (TCE) was detected in one of the three wells that supply water to the City of Bayport. This contaminant is a chemical solvent commonly used for metal cleaning and degreasing, and as a dry cleaning solvent. It was first found in the groundwater and in private wells in Baytown Township in 1987, and since, trace amounts have been detected in surrounding communities.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has set a Maximum Contaminate Level (MCL) for exposure to TCE at 5.4 ppb. Recently, the level of TCE in one of the city's wells elevated slightly over the 5.4 ppb limit. Therefore, the city has been working with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to implement a TCE treatment facility.

The proposed treatment facility will be an air stripping unit, designed to separate the TCE from the water by exposing it to air. The contaminated water is piped into a tank and the water is run through a series of trays, exposing the water to air, which accelerates the separation. The clean water is then collected in a sump, pressurized, and put back into the city's water system. TCE that is transferred to the air is treated and discharged into the atmosphere.

Construction has begun and completion is anticipated for March of 2007.



## Welcome Gloria Sell, Bayport's New Finance Officer

Gloria Sell joined the staff at City Hall as the city's new Finance Officer on May 10, 2006. Gloria replaces Tom Westling, who previously held the position for the past year.

Gloria comes to the city with 20 years of experience in accounting and auditing and has a Bachelor's Degree from Pennsylvania State University. She previously held positions at UFE Manufacturing Company as the Accounting Operations Supervisor and Ecolab as the Accounts Payable Manager and Corporate Auditor. Gloria also currently serves as the treasurer for Stillwater Township.

Originally from Greencastle, Pennsylvania, Gloria has resided in Stillwater Township for the past 19 years. In her free time, she enjoys ballroom dancing with her husband John, gardening, and traveling. Inspired by her love for animals, Gloria also volunteers at the Como Zoo in the Animal Enrichment Program, an activity she has enjoyed for the past four years.

We are all very excited to have Gloria on board at City Hall. Please feel free to stop by to meet Gloria and welcome her to the position!



## Communications Corner



City of Bayport  
294 North Third Street  
Bayport, MN 55003  
**Phone: 651-275-4404**  
Fax: 651-275-4411

<http://bayport.govoffice.com>

### CITY HALL OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
City offices will be closed on the following upcoming dates:  
- November 10, Veterans Day  
- November 23-24, Thanksgiving  
- December 25, Christmas Day

### CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Rick Schneider, Mayor  
Connie Carlson  
Jon Nowaczek  
Sharon Ridgway  
Dan Johnson  
Mike McGuire, City Administrator

### FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

City Hall ..... 651-275-4404  
City Hall Fax ..... 651-275-4411  
Fire Department ..... 651-275-4401  
Library ..... 651-275-4416  
**Police Dept-Emergency ..... 911**  
Police Non-emergency ... 651-275-4400  
Public Works ..... 651-275-4410

### MEETING CALENDAR

**CITY COUNCIL** - 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1st Monday of the month, unless noted

**PLANNING COMMISSION** - 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 3rd Monday of the month, unless noted

**LIBRARY BOARD** - 6:30 p.m. at Bayport Public Library, 4th Thursday of the month, unless noted

City meetings are open to the public and most are broadcast on cable access, channel 16.

## Carbon Monoxide Alarms Required for Residential Units

Recently, a new state law was passed that requires carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in all single and multi-family dwelling units. CO is an invisible, odorless, and poisonous gas that is a by-product of burning fuel. Household appliances, such as furnaces, ranges, water heaters, and fireplaces produce CO. If not vented properly, these appliances can trap CO in the home. Approved CO alarms must be installed by the following dates:



*New single and multi-family units*

*January 1, 2007*

*Existing single-family units*

*August 1, 2008*

*Existing multi-family units*

*August 1, 2009*

Property owners of single and multi-family units are responsible for installing a minimum of one approved and fully operational CO alarm within 10 feet of each sleeping room. Property owners are also required to replace any required CO alarm that has been removed or found inoperable, to ensure effective detection of CO at all times.

Exposure to low levels of CO can cause headaches, nausea, dizziness, and drowsiness, but exposure to higher levels can be fatal. For more information on CO, contact the Minnesota Department of Health at 1-800-798-9050 or Building Official John Buckley at 651-275-4408 or [jbuckley@ci.bayport.mn.us](mailto:jbuckley@ci.bayport.mn.us)

## Municipal Water and Sewer Extended to Residents at South End of City

Over the years, the city has received multiple requests to extend sanitary sewer and water service to the properties at the south end of the city, along the west side of South Minnesota Street (Highway 95).

Until recently, the project never proceeded beyond the discussion phase, due to high costs. However, this summer the City Council voted in favor of a cost sharing plan, by which a portion of the extension would be paid for by the city and a portion by the affected residents, making the project financially possible.

The entire project involves the extension of a sanitary sewer main, as well as replacement and extension of an existing water main to serve 17 properties. Following the utility construction, all disturbed streets and driveways will be reconstructed and boulevards restored. The project has a tentative completion date of November 1, 2006.

## Winter Parking Reminder

Please help the Public Works Department with snowplowing by making sure all vehicles parked on the street are removed after a snowfall of 2 inches or more, until the street has been plowed curb to curb. Be advised that vehicles parked on the street for more than 24 hours may be ticketed and/or towed.



# POSTAL PATRON BAYPORT

THIRD  
CLASS  
PERMIT  
NO. 9

CITY OF BAYPORT  
294 North 3rd Street  
Bayport, Minnesota 55003-1027

