



# Bayport News

MAY 2007, ISSUE 7

## A Message from the Mayor *By Mayor Jon Nowaczek*



### *Water Update*

Finally, the headlines we have been waiting for...the fix is in for the city's water! Our new air stripper water treatment system is online, and the numbers from the latest test are right where we want them! The trichloroethylene (TCE) is well below the maximum contaminant level of 5.0 parts per billion. We are happy to say that the initial results were a non-detect!

We can now close this long and contentious chapter in our history, with many thanks to the hard-working and dedicated folks at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Minnesota Department of Health, and our own City Council and staff for the decisive and timely action that has brought this new facility to reality. It is spring time in Bayport, and it is only fitting that this season of renewal brings restored confidence in our water system.

### *New Website Services*

Service is the main reason for a city's existence, and we are always looking for opportunities, tools, and techniques to help us improve the quality of the services we deliver every day to our citizens. Good communication is key, and we are leveraging the technology of the Internet to strengthen links with the community.

We are working on developing a new e-mail mailing list through the city's

website, which will send subscribers periodic announcements for scheduled street maintenance, city projects, and important notices. We expect this service to be available in the next few weeks, so be sure to check the website for instructions on how to subscribe.

In addition to the email list, we have been working steadily to expand and improve the transparency and access to the workings of our city government. With meeting agendas and minutes, ordinances, permit information and applications, and frequently requested information already on our website, our ultimate goal is to have all documents of public interest available and searchable on the website in the near future. As always, your comments and suggestions on how to improve the website are encouraged and appreciated.

### *Park Improvements*

Finally, look for the first tangible signs of progress this summer as we begin to execute our improvement plans for Lakeside Park. Funded by park dedication fees from the Inspiration development and other building projects, we are taking a measured, prudent approach balancing our long list of upgrades with our fiscal means.

In our fast-paced world today, it is so important to set aside time to slow down and "smell the flowers." Whether it is a picnic in one of the refurbished picnic shelters, throwing a ball with the kids, or just taking a relaxing stroll, come on down and sample the good life in Bayport!

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## **Are You Planning a Home Improvement Project?**

Whether you plan to do construction or remodeling work yourself, or hire a contractor, a permit must be obtained from the city prior to starting any work on an improvement project. Permits are required for sheds, garages, roofs, siding, interior and exterior remodeling, windows, decks, porches, fences, swimming pools, fireplaces, water heaters, air conditioners, and furnaces.

For more information, visit the city's website or contact City Hall at 651-275-4404. Please be advised that fines may be issued for projects that are started without first obtaining a permit.

## **Derby Days to be held on September**

**14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>**



Don't forget to mark your calendar for this annual community celebration, sponsored by the Bayport Community Action League. For more information or to volunteer for this event, please visit

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

## **Women Veterans to be Honored in Bayport Memorial Day Parade**

The Bayport Senior Center would like to invite women veterans, especially those over the age of 65, to ride in the Bayport Memorial Day Parade on May 28th. For more information, please contact Sue Schultz at 651-275-8907.

# Community Programs and Events

## Performances at the Library

Join us on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. for the following performances and an ice cream social:

|           |                             |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| June 21   | Alpha Betty                 |
| July 12   | Como Zoo "Goin' Bananas"    |
| July 26   | Puppeteer Diane Gasch       |
| August 9  | Science Museum of Minnesota |
| August 30 | Goofy Girl Magic            |

## Summer Enrichment Programs for Children

### Kindermusik – Ages 1- 3

Thursday mornings, May 31 – June 28

### Summer Book Club – 7th graders

Thursdays, June 14 – June 28

### Acting Camp – Ages 7-9

August 13 – 17, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

### Reading Incentive Program – Up to age 12

Children read 15 books and create a report or poster to share at a pizza party on August 22 at 5:00 p.m.

For more information or to register for a program, contact the Bayport Library at 651-275-4416.

## Safety Camp for Kids

Safety Camp is a day camp that teaches safety tips to all children entering grades 3-5 for the upcoming school year. Safety camp will be held at Bayport's Lakeside Park on Monday, June 18th and Tuesday, June 19th from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The registration fee is \$25.00 per child, which includes lunch, snacks, t-shirt, study guides, games, and a goody bag. Children are asked to bring a bicycle and helmet to camp. To register, stop by City Hall or contact 651-275-4400.

## Citywide Garage Sale

Mark your calendar! A citywide garage sale will be held Friday, June 1st, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 2nd, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. To participate, stop by City Hall and add your sale to the list by May 25th. A final list and map of all sales will be available for pickup at City Hall and the Holiday Station on May 31st.



## Protect Yourself from the Dangers of Lightning

Did you know that lightning kills and injures more people than any other summer weather threat? Most injuries related to lightning occur in outdoor areas, although many injuries happen in the home. That is why it is so important to seek shelter when thunder and lightning storms approach, to protect yourself from becoming injured.

The best places to seek shelter are inside large buildings or a metal vehicle. Be sure to avoid high ground, water, and open spaces. When indoors, avoid contact with metal objects and wires that connect to the outdoors, such as those in telephones and computers. When outdoors, crouch down close to the ground, but do not lie flat, and do not seek shelter under a solitary object, such as a tree or pole.

Every thunderstorm produces lightning, and most fires caused by lightning occur in June, July, and August. Injuries and deaths caused by lightning fires are rare, but it is always best to prepare your family by developing a disaster plan and locating escape routes from your home, should a lightning fire occur. Remember, preparation and protection are important tools that could save your life!

## Free Woodchips

Throughout the year, the Public Works Department chips tree limbs and branches and offers the woodchips to residents free of charge. The woodchips are available on a first come, first served basis, and are located at the vacant lot just south of the public works building. For more information or assistance, call 651-275-4410.

## City Appoints Laura Eastman as Interim Police Chief

Laura Eastman was appointed Interim Police Chief on March 5, 2007. Laura has been employed with the city for the past 2½ years, most previously serving as Police Sergeant for the Bayport Police Department. Laura replaces John Gannaway, who recently resigned after nine years of employment with the city, to take on the role of Police Chief for the City of Stillwater.



Laura has a background in criminal justice, with over 17 years of experience in law enforcement and corrections. She previously held positions with the Minnesota State Patrol, Washington County Sheriff's Office, and the Minnesota Department of Corrections, specializing in fugitive transport.

In her free time, Laura enjoys camping, fishing, and traveling. We are encouraged by Laura's energy and drive, and are excited to have her on staff. Please feel free to stop by and welcome her to the position!

## Extreme Makeover - Lakeside Park Gets a Facelift!

In 2006, the city hired the landscape architecture firm of Sanders, Wacker, Bergly and local architect Mark Lenz of MLA Architects to help develop a design plan for proposed improvements to Lakeside Park. Over the past year, the City Council prioritized the many improvements planned for the park, and this year's improvements include a complete remodel of the bathhouse, additional playground equipment, replacement of the roofs on three of the existing picnic shelters, new signage, and landscaping.

Construction plans and specifications for this year's improvements are in the process of being developed and will be distributed for bid in early May. A bid is anticipated to be awarded in early June, with construction to begin shortly thereafter.

Because of the extent of the remodeling involved with the bathhouse, it will not be in use for the remainder of the year. However, improvements to the park shelters and other facilities will be scheduled so as to interfere with park

usage as little as possible during the summer months.

Additional improvements to Lakeside Park, as well as improvements to other city parks are planned through 2010. A majority of the improvements will be made possible with the park dedication funds received from the Inspiration development and new construction in the city.

The master park improvement plan for Lakeside Park is available for viewing at City Hall. A floor plan of the remodeled bathhouse, and examples of the materials that will be used for construction are also on display at City Hall.



*Design concept of proposed bathhouse*

## New Regulations for Hazelwood Cemetery

In response to suggestions and recommendations from the community, the city has made the following changes to the regulations at the Hazelwood Cemetery:

- ✓ Upright headstones are allowed on two or more adjoining side-by-side graves.
- ✓ Only wreaths of natural material will be permitted November 1st - March 1st.
- ✓ Unused gravesites can be sold back to the city from the registered owner at 50% of the current gravesite price, with transfer costs shared equally by the owner and city.
- ✓ A U.S. flag, a maximum of 36 inches in height, and in good condition, may be displayed at a gravesite.
- ✓ Gravesite mementos and memorabilia, including artificial flowers, balloons, personal affects, etc., are not allowed to be displayed at any gravesite. (These items may be placed at the gravesite during internment, but will be removed by city staff.)

The city is also looking into creating a cremains burial area within the cemetery. For more information, please contact City Hall at 651-275-4404.

## Communications Corner



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

### CITY HALL OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

City offices will be closed on:

- May 28, Memorial Day
- July 4, Independence Day
- September 3, Labor Day

### CITY DEPARTMENTS

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Fire Department . . . . .              | 651-275-4401 |
| Library . . . . .                      | 651-275-4416 |
| <b>Police Dept-Emergency . . . . .</b> | <b>.911</b>  |
| Police Non-emergency . . . . .         | 651-275-4400 |
| Public Works . . . . .                 | 651-275-4410 |

Visit the city's website at  
<http://bayport.govoffice.com>

## TCE Treatment Facility is Complete

The city has recently completed construction of an air stripping facility to treat the trichloroethylene (TCE) found in the municipal water system. A majority of the project was funded by a grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the facility will be fully operational by June 1, 2007.

The air stripping facility includes a large fan that blows air through several perforated trays or flow channels of water, to create small bubbles. Because TCE can be separated from water by exposing it to air, these air bubbles actually remove the TCE from the city's water.

The treated water is collected in a tank and pumped back into the municipal water system. The TCE that is transferred into the air is then discharged into the atmosphere. More information and photos of the facility are on display at City Hall.

## Conserve Water and Lower Your Utility Bill

City water bills can really increase in the spring and summer months, as a result of the warm weather and outdoor water use. To help keep usage to a minimum, here are some conservation tips you may want to consider:

### Outdoors

- Adjust sprinklers to ensure that only lawns and gardens get watered, not the house, sidewalk, or street
- During dry weather, water the lawn in the early morning or late evening, to minimize evaporation
- Use a hose with a shut-off nozzle when watering the lawn or washing the car
- Avoid mowing the lawn to a height of less than three inches, as this makes the roots work harder and require more water



### Indoors

- Take shorter showers and place a bucket in the shower to catch excess water for watering plants
- Install a toilet dam to cut down on the amount of water needed for each flush
- Operate dishwashers and washing machines only when fully loaded
- Store water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap for cold drinking water



## Tips for Tree Trimming

Tree trimming is very important, as it removes dead and low hanging branches, encourages balanced, upright growth and helps prevent power outages. At a minimum, branches should be trimmed around buildings and power lines. However, when trimming trees or working around power lines, always be mindful of the following:

- Never try to remove dead branches or pull trees or limbs away from power lines
- Pole-to-building service lines are fully energized and can be dangerous – do not go near these lines yourself

- Never allow a ladder, antenna, roof rake, aluminum siding, rain gutter or other objects to touch power lines

If you encounter a downed power line, call Xcel Energy immediately at 1-800-895-1999. Please be advised that Xcel Energy does not trim trees along lines that run from a utility pole to a building. If you need assistance with general tree trimming, especially near power lines, be sure to call a professional contractor. For a list of contractors that are licensed in the city, contact City Hall at 651-275-4404.

## Dig Safely!

On occasion, you may notice small colored flags and/or colored paint marks in your yard or within your neighborhood. These flags and paint marks are placed in yards to identify utility lines for gas, electric, cable, and telephone lines.

Whether digging by hand or with machinery, state law requires that all utility lines be located in a project area, prior to digging. To request a free utility locate, contact Gopher State Locate Service at 651-454-0002.

## Watering Regulations in Effect May 1st

City watering regulations are now in effect through September 1st. Residents may not water between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Residents with even house numbers may water on even-numbered calendar days and residents with odd house numbers may water on odd-numbered calendar days before 3:00 p.m. and after 8:00 p.m. Thank you in advance for your cooperation to help conserve city water.



**BAYPORT  
POSTAL PATRON**

THIRD  
CLASS  
PERMIT  
NO. 9

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

