



Bayport News

OCTOBER 2015, ISSUE 31



Bayport in Bloom Best Residential Front Entry Garden – 915 Inspiration Parkway South.

City Dedicates Perro Park Ball Field as Legion Field

On September 19, a dedication event took place at Perro Park to officially name the ball field as *Legion*



Field. Last year, the Bayport American Legion Post 491 pledged \$15,000 to the city for improvements to the ball field, which included new benches, backstop, and assistance with annual maintenance. The latest improvement is the new *Legion Field* sign and dedication plaque, which were installed in August. We appreciate the Legion's generosity and mission to give back to the community!

Bayport in Bloom Winners



Many thanks to the Washington County Master Gardeners for organizing the second *Bayport in Bloom* Front Entry Garden Contest! Judges

selected 3 winners from a total of 26 nominations based on creative plant selection, maintenance, ecological friendliness, design, and overall visual impact. The first place winners below were recognized at the August 3 City Council meeting and awarded with a gift certificate donated by Rose Floral and a decorative watering can.

Residential Winner

915 Inspiration Parkway South

Commercial Winner

Croixdale - 750 Highway 95 North

Public/Nonprofit Winner

City Hall - 294 3rd Street North

Thanks to all contest participants and congratulations to the winners!

A Message from the Mayor *by Susan St. Ores*



The crisp, cool air is here, which means fall has arrived and it's time to prepare the city's annual budget for the upcoming year. The City

community by increased street maintenance, park improvements, and redevelopment in our business corridor. The 2016 budget allows these initiatives to continue and also provides funding for city staff succession planning and the annual bond payment for the new Fire Hall. We are truly confident that this budget reflects the best interests of Bayport.

Council met in several workshops this summer to discuss city priorities for 2016. On September 8, a preliminary budget and tax levy were approved, which are very lean and include a nominal .37% increase to the city's tax rate.

Property values in our city are projected to increase approximately 8% in 2016, which is one of the highest rates of growth in the county. This increase in value is associated with new residential development, major reinvestments in commercial property, and overall improvement of the housing market. With this property value increase, the city is able to generate additional tax revenue (approximately \$52,000).

Over the past few years, the city has focused on improving the appearance of our

The City Council is excited about our direction for 2016, and we appreciate the continued support to make Bayport a wonderful community! The final 2016 budget will be presented at the December 7 City Council meeting. Questions related to the city's budget can be directed to City Administrator Logan Martin at 651-275-4404.

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Community Programs and Events

Police Department Property Watch Program



Traveling? Participation in the property watch program is encouraged for property owners planning on being away for an extended period of time. This alerts the city to look out for suspicious activity at your home and provides the Police Department

with emergency contact information. Watch request forms are available on the city's website or at City Hall.

Fall Community Education Classes

A variety of education, enrichment, and recreation classes are available through Stillwater Area School District Community Education for individuals of all ages. The class catalog can be accessed at www.stillwater.k12.mn.us or contact 651-351-8300.



Halloween Public Safety Open House



The Fire and Police Departments will be hosting their annual open house on October 31 from 5 – 8 p.m. at the Fire Hall, 301 2nd Ave. N. Be sure to stop by and visit with public safety staff, tour emergency vehicles, and grab some Halloween treats!

Intergenerational Programs at the Senior Center

The Bayport Senior Center is looking for volunteers to assist with intergenerational programming, which connects school children and seniors, to share life experiences and teach important skills, through fun games and activities. The Senior Center is currently working with students at Andersen Elementary on "Cribbage in the Schools," which teaches children a game to play with older adults and promotes use of math skills in an interactive format. Persons interested should contact Sue Elmer at 651-275-8907.



Welcome New Library Director Jill Smith

Jill Smith was hired as the city's new Library Director on September 8. She will replace Mark Blando, who held the position for the past 3.5 years. Jill comes to Bayport from Blaine, Minnesota where she was a Manager for Anoka County Library. Prior to that, she worked for Hennepin County Library. The Bayport Library Board worked with Library Strategies, a firm that specializes in recruitment of library personnel, to conduct the hiring search. Jill has a Master's Degree in Library Science and over 20 years of library experience. Be sure to stop by the library and welcome Jill to our community!



Drinking Water Report and TCE Update



The Minnesota Department of Health recently released the city's 2014 Drinking Water Report, which is posted on the city's website. The purpose of the report is to educate consumers about drinking water and heighten awareness of the need to protect water resources. Monitoring results from the three wells that provide drinking water to the city indicate that no contaminants were detected at levels that violated federal

drinking water standards, which is very positive news. However, as a proactive measure to ensure our water remains safe from the contaminant trichloroethylene (TCE) and in compliance with federal standards, a connection from the city's water treatment plant to Well #3 will be installed within the next year. The project cost is estimated at \$500,000, which will be funded entirely by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Well #4 will not be treated at this time, but will continued to be monitored and only used to pump water in emergency situations.

Volunteers Make Great Things Happen

Perro Park recently benefitted from some TLC, thanks to a group of volunteers from Bethlehem Lutheran Church! The warming house received a new coat of paint and several trees were planted around the playground. The city would not have completed these projects this year without volunteer help, so please accept our thanks!





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New Equipment Improves Quality of City Meetings



Thanks to the Central St. Croix Valley Cable Commission, new cameras and monitors have been installed in the City Hall Council Chambers. The new equipment will drastically improve the visual quality for not only individuals attending and presenting at city meetings, but also for viewers watching the meetings on cable television. The cable commission also hopes to update the broadcasting control room in the near future, which would further improve video quality. Many thanks to the Central St. Croix Valley Cable Commission for funding the new equipment and upgrades, which are estimated at \$12,000!

Former Chief Mark Swenson Retires From Fire Department

In August, Mark Swenson retired from the Bayport Fire Department, with over 25 years of service. Mark proudly served as Fire Chief for the past 3 years, and previously held positions as captain, engineer, and relief association treasurer. Mark was instrumental in helping secure the site for the new Fire Hall from the Department of Corrections, at no cost to the city, as well as assisting with the overall design and layout of the new building. We greatly value and appreciate Mark's contributions to the city and wish him well in his retirement!



Deer Culling Event Continues This Fall

In an effort to control excessive deer populations, the city will again partner with River Valley Deer Management (RVDM) to conduct a culling event this fall. RVDM is a non-profit group of professional bow hunters who will hunt in the vicinity of Point Road, near Andersen Corporation and the Xcel Energy Plant, to help minimize deer in this area. The hunt is anticipated to take place through December, during dawn and/or dusk hours. RVDM will perform the hunt at no charge to the city and offer excess meat not kept by the hunters to residents on a first come, first served basis. All residents are encouraged to give way to hunters and use caution in this area throughout the event.



City Proceeds With Economic Development Project

The city is fortunate to have funds available to complete economic development projects, which were generated from a redevelopment project completed over 20 years ago by Andersen Corporation via a program known as Tax Increment Financing. Since this revenue may only be used to fund further economic development within the city, and must be used by the end of 2016, staff has been pursuing opportunities for potential projects in the downtown business corridor over the past few years.



Recently, the city moved forward with a purchase agreement to acquire the vacant property located at 169 3rd St. N. and adjacent parking lot. The redevelopment concept plan for this property is still in draft form, but it is evident that the building is in severe disrepair and will need to be removed. The Washington County Historical Society has confirmed that the building is not listed on a historic register and a soil assessment and contamination investigation are currently underway. Look for site work to begin this fall, along with concept plans to be presented to the City Council at upcoming meetings.