



Bayport News

JANUARY 2013, ISSUE 21

Think Spring! Reserve a Park Facility Now for Your Special Event

Looking for a great place to hold a reunion, shower, graduation, or birthday party? Look no further than one of our city parks to host your event!

The city is now accepting reservations from residents for the beach house, picnic shelters, and game fields/courts. To check availability, please contact City Hall. Information on all park amenities, as well as reservation request forms, fees, and policies are available on the city's website. Facilities book up early, so for best availability, we recommend making your reservation as soon as possible!



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

With the passing of Councilmember Mark Ostertag, the citizens of Bayport lost a respected city leader, dedicated member of the fire department, skilled craftsman, loyal friend, loving family member and much more.



As a Councilmember, Mark was reliable, well prepared and a valued team member. His contributions to our discussions were

wise beyond his years. And along with his intelligence and thoughtful insight, Mark made our City Council meetings fun.

Over the two years that our City Council has served together, we have worked to implement a flood management

plan, increase community outreach and involvement, establish human resource policies, expand cooperation with surrounding communities, launch a downtown beautification project, and improve communication with the public, all while managing a tight budget. Mark was an instrumental member in all of these initiatives, and he was particularly passionate about the upcoming improvements to Perro Park and engaging children in community activities.

Mark gave so much of himself to the community, which is respected and admired by all. It was a pleasure to know Mark and an honor to serve with him.

City to Increase Pet Ordinance Enforcement

Due to growing health and safety concerns related to pets, such as failure to license, leash, vaccinate, and/or pick-up waste, the city will be increasing enforcement of pet regulations in 2013. To avoid possible impoundment of your pet and/or fines of up to \$200.00, be sure to abide by the following:



- Cats/dogs over 3 months must be licensed by February 1 of each year and display a city license tag on collar
- Cats/dogs over 6 months must be vaccinated for rabies
- Pets on public property must be under direct control of their owner and/or leashed
- Pet owners on public property must have a method to pickup and properly dispose of pet waste

Pet information and city ordinances are available on the city's website.

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Community Programs and Events

Changes to Library Loan Periods for 2013

To help give customers timelier access to popular materials, the library will be reducing loan periods by one week, effective January 2, 2013, as follows:

Item	Loan period
Books	2 weeks
Magazines	2 weeks
Audiobooks	2 weeks
Music CDs	2 weeks
DVDs	1 week
Ebooks	1 or 2 weeks
E-audiobooks	2 weeks



Be sure to contact the library or visit their website at www.bayportlibrary.org for more information.

Free Fire Inspections Available



Are you concerned with fire safety in your home or business? The Bayport Fire Department offers free inspections to help identify potential fire hazards and make suggestions on how you can improve fire safety. For more information, contact City Hall.

Code RED Emergency Notification System

As a supplement to the city's email notification system, residents can also sign up to receive emergency notifications via the Code RED system by phone or text message. Utility outages, missing persons, snow and flood emergency notices, gas leaks, and other life safety matters are some examples of when the system may be utilized. For more information or to sign up, visit the city's website.



Property Watch Program for Residents



Going on a long business trip or vacation? Property watch request forms are available for residents planning on being away from their home for an extended period of time.

This program helps alert the Police Department to be on the lookout for suspicious activity and provides a

method for the city to contact the homeowner, should an emergency occur. Forms are on the city's website or at City Hall.

Meet the New Daytime Crew for the Police Department

Officer Jay Jackson and his police K-9 partner Keylo have recently moved to the day shift! Officer Jackson has been with the department since 2000, primarily working the night shift. K-9 Keylo joined the crew in 2009 as a passive narcotic and human tracking dog.



The addition of Keylo to the Police Department was made possible with generous donations, which cover the entire cost of his food and veterinarian care. In addition to his regular shift, you may see Keylo participating in activities such as youth safety camp, Night to Unite, community watch meetings, and school presentations. Keylo is very friendly and loves children, so be sure to say hello when you see Officer Jackson and Keylo patrolling your neighborhood!

Update on 2013 Budget and Tax Levy

The City Council recently adopted the 2013 city budget, with a final tax levy increase of 2.15% over last year, to fund the operations of the city and its departments. What does this mean for the average residential taxpayer? Because of changes in property valuations over the past few years, projections indicate that approximately 84% of residential homestead properties will see their city taxes remain the same or decrease from last year. For more information on the city's budget, visit the city's website or contact City Hall.

Perro Park Master Plan is Underway



In October, the city began the preliminary planning process to develop a master plan for Perro Park, which included an assessment of current facilities and uses and suggestions for potential upgrades and improvements. This information

will be used to help identify priorities for the park, as well as create concept layouts that incorporate suggested improvements, for consideration by residents and the City Council. A public open house to review and comment on the preliminary concepts is expected to be scheduled for late January or early February.

City Tree Assessment Identifies Several Hazardous Trees in Need of Removal

As part of a plan to proactively address disease, pests, decay, and other tree issues, the city recently commissioned an independent consultant to complete an inventory and health assessment of city trees located in our parks, boulevards, and Hazelwood Cemetery. The inventory revealed that ash trees account for 37% of boulevard trees and 31% of park and cemetery trees, which are susceptible to infestation and damage by the emerald ash borer beetle.



Hazardous Tree Assessment & Arborist Reports

Fortunately, many of the city’s ash trees have not yet seen severe effects of the beetle, but will most likely need to be replaced over time. The inventory also identified 8 boulevard trees and 26 trees within the parks and cemetery that have decay and are susceptible to falling down, posing a safety hazard and liability risk.

The trees that have been identified as hazardous are marked with a red dot and will be removed beginning this winter, as time and budget permits. The Public Works Department will also be performing routine tree trimming throughout the city this winter, so be sure to yield to crews in your neighborhood. A copy of the city’s tree inventory and assessment is available for public view at City Hall.

Resident Reminders: Sidewalk Snow Removal, On-Street Parking, and ATV Safety

Sidewalk Snow Removal

Property owners adjacent to or abutting a public sidewalk are responsible for removing snow and ice within 24 hours. Please keep in mind that for corner lots, this may involve multiple sidewalks. Also, snow should not be shoveled or blown onto city streets.

On-Street Parking

Vehicles parked on the street must be 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.



ATV Safety

Snowmobiles and all-terrain recreational vehicles are only allowed on private property, with written permission from the owner, and on city streets/alleys on the right hand side of the traffic lane, with the flow of traffic, at a speed less than 15 MPH. Recreational vehicles are not allowed on public park land or sidewalks at any time.



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CITY HALL OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

City offices will be closed to observe the following holidays in 2013:

New Year’s Day	January 1
Martin Luther King Day	January 21
President’s Day	February 18
Memorial Day	May 27
Independence Day.....	July 4
Labor Day	September 2
Veteran’s Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	November 28
Christmas Eve Day	December 24
Christmas Day	December 25

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings held at 6:00 p.m. unless noted.

January 7	July 1
February 4	August 5
March 4	September 3
April 1	October 7
May 6	November 4
June 3	December 2

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

Meetings held at 6:00 p.m. unless noted.

January 22	July 15
February 19	August 19
March 18	September 16
April 15	October 21
May 20	November 18
June 17	December 16

2013 CITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Memorial Day Parade.....	May 27
Farmer’s Market	July – October
Night to Unite	August 6
Derby Days and Taste of Bayport	September 21
City Public Safety Open House	October 31
Lighting of the Green	December 4

Fundraisers and Donations Make Popular City Events Possible

The Fire Department organizes multiple fundraisers throughout the year, such as the annual dance, to raise money for the department. Proceeds from these activities, as well as general donations, not only help purchase much needed equipment, but also make other community events possible.



Treats and supplies for the open house in October were solely funded by donations and fundraiser proceeds. The 40 year tradition of Santa's arrival by fire truck in November was another success, thanks to Ace Hardware in Stillwater, and their continued sponsorship of the entire event. The Fire Department is proud to make these events possible without the use of tax dollars and thanks the community for their help in supporting these popular traditions!

Grab Your Skates... Family Fun Awaits!

Looking for a great way to get some exercise and enjoy the outdoors this winter? Then be sure to check out the pleasure and hockey ice skating rinks at Perro Park! Both rinks are anticipated to be open through February, weather permitting, with open skating from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily. See you on the rink!



Spotlight on TCE Groundwater Study

In 2007, the city installed a treatment plant to remove the contaminant trichloroethylene (TCE) from the city's water system. When the treatment plant was installed, only city well #2 contained elevated levels of TCE. However, recent water monitoring tests conducted by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) are now showing an increase of TCE in well #3, located in Village Green Park, and well #4, located in Lakeside Park. To address this issue, the city secured a grant to assist with funding a TCE groundwater contamination study, which was completed in September and revealed several TCE treatment options to consider for well #3 and #4.



Is there an immediate concern with the city's water supply?

No. Although TCE levels are increasing, they are still below the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maximum contaminant level, as well as the MDH health risk limit.

The recent study indicates it will be approximately 3–4 years until concentrations reach maximum contaminant levels for well #3 and another 6–7 years for well #4. However, the city would like to take action to address the TCE in these wells as soon as possible.

What is the plan to treat the TCE?

The groundwater study presented five different options to remove the TCE from well #3 and #4. The City Engineer's preferred and recommended treatment option, and most cost effective, is to connect well #3 to the existing TCE treatment facility by a dedicated water main and to discontinue use of well #4.

What are the next steps?

The city is in the process of preparing engineering plans, to better understand the costs involved with implementing this project, and to assist with applying for state bonding funds and other financial assistance, to reduce the cost to the city's utility users. Updates on this project will be included in the city newsletter, website, and at City Council meetings.

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