



Bayport News

MARCH 2012, ISSUE 18



Rain gardens not only improve water quality, but can also be an attractive landscape feature.

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

Over the past year, I've had the opportunity to represent Bayport as a member of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) Board of Managers. This collaborative organization is made up of representatives from the 10 communities that encompass approximately 20 square miles located in the east-central part of Washington County.

The MSCWMO Board partners with the Washington Conservation District to conserve and protect the water resources of the Middle St. Croix Watershed. In 2011, the city, along with the MSCWMO, installed four rain gardens in an effort to protect and improve the water quality of Perro Creek and ultimately the St. Croix River.

The purpose of a rain garden is to capture and filter pollutants from storm water runoff generated by roofs, streets and driveways. By allowing the runoff to slowly infiltrate into the ground, rather than washing into the storm sewer, these rain gardens will help prevent pollutants from reaching the creek.

Other efforts to improve water quality in

our community are currently underway. A Perro Creek Corridor Spring Cleanup Event is planned for early April. The goal of the cleanup is to remove debris from the corridor, so when the creek begins flowing this spring, the debris will not be washed into the river (see article on this page for more details).

The MSCWMO also offers small cost-share grants to residents to assist with water quality improvement projects. To learn more, please visit www.mscwmo.org or contact Amy Carolan 651-275-1136, ext. 22.

While the MSCWMO provides valuable services to our city, we all need to do our part to preserve the St. Croix River by managing water runoff. Please be responsible while boating, fishing, fertilizing, and enjoying our parks, to ensure the river remains clean and beautiful for years to come!

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Participate in the Perro Creek Corridor Cleanup Event!

Want to know how you can help improve water quality in our community? Participating in the Perro Creek Corridor Cleanup Event on April 10 and 11 is a great start!

Sponsored by the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization and the Washington Conservation District, this event will involve a "hands on" approach to removing debris to prevent pollutants from reaching our local water bodies. The target cleanup area will encompass both private and public property abutting the creek, located within the city limits.



In order to make this event a success, we need your help! Residents along the creek, as well as others interested in helping to improve water quality are encouraged to participate by

contacting Wendy Griffin at 651-275-1136, ext. 24, no later than April 2. Coming together as a community can make great things happen! We look forward to working with you to make a difference!

Thanks for a Great Fire Department Fundraiser!

Many thanks to residents and local businesses for their donations and attendance at the annual dance and fundraiser held on February 18. The department raised over \$12,000, which will be used to purchase two cold water rescue suits. Your generosity and kindness is much appreciated!

Community Programs and Events

Library Resources for All Ages

Our public library is committed to providing programs and resources for all ages, so be sure to contact the library for more information and check them out!



- Children's Story Hour every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. instills reading through interactive participation
- Book delivery provides patrons who are not able to come to the library the opportunity to still enjoy a good book
- Internet access on six computers provides assistance with job searches, research, and school projects
- Brainfuse eLearning program provides tools to assist with skill building, homework, foreign language support, resume writing, and more

Volunteer for the Adopt-A-Park Program



The city is looking for community members and/or organizations to assist with city park beautification and cleanup projects via the Adopt-A-Park program. This program is not designed to replace the city's regular park maintenance, but rather to supplement current services and conserve and redirect resources to make our parks more aesthetically appealing for residents to enjoy! More information is available on the city's website or by contacting City Hall.

7th Annual Citywide Garage Sale

Back by popular demand, the citywide garage sale will be held on Friday, June 1, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 2, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Residents wanting to participate may contact City Hall or email khuftel@ci.bayport.mn.us. A map of all sales will be available prior to the event.



Celebrate Memorial Day at the Parade



Organized by the community, this must see parade commemorates U.S. men and women who lost their lives while serving in the military. The parade will be held on Monday, May 28 at 8:30 a.m. and begins on Highway 95, between Central Avenue and 1st Avenue North and proceeds north through the city to the cemetery.

Are You Planning a Home Improvement Project?

Whether you plan to do the work yourself or hire a contractor, a city permit must be obtained prior to starting most construction or remodeling work on a home improvement project. In general, 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.



More information and permit forms can be found on the city's website or by contacting City Hall. Please be advised that fines may be issued for projects that are started without first obtaining a permit.

DNR Blames Feeding for Recent Increase in Deer Populations in the City

The city has received several inquiries regarding an apparent increase in deer in our area. As such, the city has been working with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to identify the cause for the influx. You may be surprised to know that supplemental feeding of deer by residents is most likely the cause.

Residents may not realize that supplying artificial food to deer encourages them to seek out other food sources in residential areas, such as flowers, trees, and gardens, which can lead to many upset homeowners. The city hopes that by educating residents about the negative effects of deer feeding, we can help manage the population in the community, without pursuing other control measures. We thank you in advance for your efforts!

City Website: Check Out this Valuable Resource for Residents!



Need to reserve a park shelter?
Want to view a meeting agenda?
Need to contact a staff member?

The city's website is a convenient and easy way to access forms and maps, review ordinances, and find answers to many frequently asked questions.

In addition, email information is on the website, which is a great way to submit inquiries and/or contact city staff, at your convenience. Even if you can't visit City Hall in person during business hours, we are still accessible and ready to serve you!

New Stop Signs at 4th Avenue North and 6th Street North Intersection Will Help Improve Safety

Over the last several years, the Police Department has received numerous complaints about accidents and near collisions at the intersection of 4th Avenue North and 6th Street North. The differences in elevation limit visibility for vehicles



approaching the intersection, resulting in a safety hazard for both drivers and pedestrians, especially during inclement weather.

Recently, city staff conducted a traffic analysis of this intersection, to assess whether stop signs may be warranted. Based on the analysis, the findings indicated that it would be in the best interest of the city to post stop signs on 4th Avenue North.

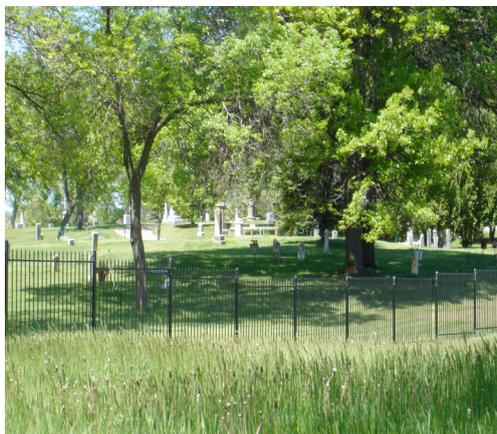
The new stop signs will initially be marked with flags to alert drivers of the change. However, please use extra caution in this area, reduce speed, and look both ways several times when approaching and proceeding through the intersection. We thank you in advance for your cooperation to improve and promote safety in our community!

Cremaains Area at Hazelwood Cemetery Offers a Convenient, Cost Effective Burial Option

Located on 5th Avenue North, Hazelwood Cemetery is an established municipal cemetery that offers St. Croix Valley residents a peaceful setting for their burial needs. In an effort to create a more environmental and economical burial option, the city established a cremaains area within the cemetery several years ago.

The cremaains area is located in the north-west corner of the cemetery and gravesites are assigned in numerical order by the cemetery sextant. The 30-inch by 30-inch sites are designed to accommodate one burial urn, and the current purchase price is \$300.00. The cemetery also offers traditional gravesites for \$700.00 in various areas of the cemetery.

Experiencing the death of a loved one can be both an emotional and stressful time. To assist your family and ensure



your burial requests are honored, the city encourages families to consider planning ahead for their burial arrangements.

To learn more about Hazelwood Cemetery, burial options, or for assistance with your preplanning needs, please contact City Hall.



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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 upcoming holidays in 2012:

May 28Memorial Day
July 4Independence Day
September 3Labor Day
November 12Veteran’s Day
November 22Thanksgiving Day
December 24Christmas Eve Day
December 25Christmas Day

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

April 2	July 2	October 1
May 7	August 6	November 13
June 4	September 4	December 3

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

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

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

LIBRARY BOARD MEETINGS

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

April 26	July 26	October 25
May 31	August 30	November 29
June 28	September 27	December 27

CITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Perro Creek Cleanup April 10, 11
Memorial Day Parade May 28
Citywide Garage Sale June 1, 2
Farmer’s Market July – October
Safety Camp for Kids August 6, 7
Night to Unite August 7
Primary Election August 14
Derby Days September 15
General Election November 6

New City Utility Rates

City utility rates will increase to \$3.64/1,000 gal. for water and \$3.70/1,000 gal. for sewer begin-



ning the first quarter of 2012. What does this mean for residents? The average household usage is 18,000 gallons per quarter, which will result in an increase of approximately \$15.00 per utility bill.

This rate increase is necessary to offset the city's cost to maintain its infrastructure and equipment to provide safe drinking water. The city will be conducting a study in the next year to ensure utility users are being charged adequately for these services. Look for more information in an upcoming newsletter.

Residents Needed to Serve as Election Judges



The city is seeking election judges to work in the upcoming 2012 elections. Duties include registering voters, distributing

ballots, explaining voting procedures, and staffing the polling place. Election judges must be eligible to vote, able to read, write, and speak English, and available to work between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on election days. More information is available on the city's website or by contacting City Hall.

Public Works Answers Top Resident Questions

Q: Why does my street always seem to get snowplowed last?

A: The city has a policy that defines when and in what order city streets are plowed based on traffic counts, incline, visibility, and safety hazards. Minor arterial streets in residential areas may not be plowed for several hours after a snowfall, so residents should plan accordingly.

Q: How do I report problems with a street light?

A: The city inspects street lights numerous times per year, but some problems can be hard to notice. Residents are encouraged to contact City Hall to report any problems in their neighborhood.



Q: Why doesn't Perro Creek run all of the time?

A: The creek is a manually controlled outlet for storm water collected from various retention ponds in the community. When water levels are high, the creek helps redirect the water from these ponds to the St. Croix River, to prevent overflow. When water levels are low or drought conditions exist, the creek is not needed to help control these ponds and therefore may not run as frequently.

Spotlight on the 2011 City Audit

The city's financial records are audited annually by a public accounting firm, in accordance with state law. The purpose of the audit is to make sure the city is being fiscally responsible, that expenditures and revenues are accounted for, and that the city is operating within its established budget.

Currently, the city is nearing completion of the audit for 2011. A financial report detailing the findings of the audit will be prepared and presented to the City Council in the next few months.

As you may know, the city has made a conscious effort to reduce expenditures

and increase revenues over the past few years without having a significant impact to services and property owners. While the city continues to face budget challenges and reductions in Local Government Aid (LGA), staff and the City Council remain committed to providing the services residents have come to expect and enjoy.

The 2011 audit financial report will be posted on the city's website. For more information or questions related to the city's audit process, please contact City Hall.

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