



Bayport News

OCTOBER 2005, ISSUE 4

A Message from the Mayor

By Mayor Rick Schneider

I hope everyone had a great summer! It always seems to go by so quickly. As you know, it has been quite a busy year for the city, and I would like to update you on some of the important issues.

City Budget

The city is currently in the budgeting process for 2006. Sometimes this can be a painful process for city staff and the City Council. However, this year the budget process has been a very pleasant one. Fiscally, Bayport is very strong. I am pleased that we will be able to cut our city tax levy by ten percent (10%), without decreasing any city services.

You may ask how this was accomplished and the answer is by prudent city management, city staff that is conscientious about costs, former City Councils that provided the directive to reserve money to compensate for the Andersen tax loss, and our current City Council for keeping on the path of conservative fiscal management. A very sincere "thank you" to all of you. It does make the job easier when we can provide good news! For those who are interested, a copy of the 2006 budget is available for public viewing at City Hall.

City Water Supply

As you know, we have found our municipal water supply to contain traces of the industrial chemical trichloroethylene (TCE). The most recent series of water monitoring tests indicated a TCE level over 5.0 parts per billion (ppb) at well #2, which exceeds the maximum contaminant level. Therefore, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MNPCA) has stepped to the plate and will provide Bayport with an air stripping filtration system to remove the TCE.



Members of the City Council, Planning Commission, and city staff participating in the groundbreaking ceremony at Inspiration earlier this summer.

Wells #3 and #4, as well as other test points, continue to show little or no trace of TCE. Efforts to blend the city's water will be taken in order to dilute the concentration of TCE well below the acceptable level, until the filtration system has been installed by the MNPCA. We are staying on top of the situation and will move along as expediently as possible.

New Development – Inspiration

Groundbreaking for the new residential development Inspiration occurred early this summer and model homes are in the process of being constructed. The city has received a portion of the park dedication fees from this development, which will be used for city park improvements. By next summer, we will be putting in some of the improvements that were recommended by the citizen advisory board for city parks.

Again, thank you for your input, involvement, and commitment in making Bayport a great place to live!

How Can I Make a Difference in my Community?

Serving on an advisory commission is a great way to get involved and make a difference in your local government and community. Currently, the city is seeking a resident to fill an opening on the Planning Commission.

The general purpose of the Planning Commission is to advise the City Council on infrastructure improvements and planning and zoning issues in the city. Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Persons interested in being considered for appointment should contact City Hall at 651-275-4404.

School Board Election on November 8th

A General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2005 to elect three candidates to the school board for Stillwater Area Public Schools. The designated polling place for residents of Bayport is City Hall, and polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. For more information on this election, please contact the district office at 651-351-8303 or visit their website at www.stillwater.k12.mn.us/834/.

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Community Programs and Events

Annual Author Luncheon

Bayport Library Foundation's Annual Fall Fundraiser Author Event will be held on Saturday, November 12, 2005, at Clyde's on the St. Croix, with seating at 11:30 a.m. Tickets and information are available by contacting the Bayport Library at 651-275-4416.



Downloadable Audio eBooks Now Available

Library users can now download audio eBooks directly to a personal computer! Audio eBooks are digital versions of audio books that are available through the internet. They can be played on any desktop or laptop computer and transferred to a portable digital media player supporting Windows Media Player v9 and above.

Hundreds of audio eBooks are available, including best sellers and award winning favorites. Up to 10 eBooks can be downloaded at a time, for up to 3 weeks. For more information or to get started, log onto www.co.washington.mn.us/library and click on "downloadable audio eBooks".

Toys for Tots

Once again, the city will be participating in Toys for Tots! The program is sponsored by the United States Marine Corps Reserve and its mission is to collect new, unwrapped toys to distribute as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community. Drop off boxes will be located at Bayport City Hall, Croixdale Senior Housing Community, and Oasis Market.



City Scholarship Available in 2006

In conjunction with BFI – Allied Waste Services, the City of Bayport will be offering a \$500.00 scholarship to a local high school senior seeking post high school education at a technical, vocational, community college, or university, beginning in the fall of 2006. Applicants will be evaluated on their grade point average, as well as their involvement with environmental programs in the community. Detailed information regarding the scholarship and how to apply will be available in the spring/summer city newsletter.

Help Keep Our City Free of Trash Debris!

Recently, the city has received some concern from residents regarding the placement and storage of garbage and recycling containers. As a result, we would like to remind residents that these containers should not be placed out for collection until the night before or day of pickup. Also, these containers should be removed as soon as possible, once the trash is collected, and placed out of public view. Not only does this help minimize the loss of trash debris, but it also improves the appearance of our neighborhoods. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!



New Pedestrian Safety Flags at Crosswalks

In response to concerns for pedestrian safety, the City of Bayport instituted a pedestrian safety program on August 1, 2005. Highly visible orange flags have been placed at several crosswalks for pedestrians to carry while crossing Highway 95. Originally intended for use while the Stillwater bridge was closed, the City Council recently voiced continued support of the program, based on positive feedback from residents and visitors to the city. Pedestrians are asked to help keep the program running smoothly by keeping an adequate number of flags on both sides of the street at all times, for easy use.

Crime Prevention Tips

Internet and mail scams

Please be aware of any suspicious letters and/or checks that you receive through the internet or mail. Recent scams have been known to inform individuals that they have won a certain amount of money, but in order to receive the winnings, the individual must pre-pay taxes on the winnings to an overseas address. Be advised that these claims are false and should be reported to the police department.

Watercraft security

Before docking your watercraft at a marina or storing it for the winter season, please remember to remove any valuables. Theft from watercrafts has become an increasing problem in the community. Help eliminate the potential for theft by removing valuables and reporting suspicious activity to the police department.

Vehicle safety

With the holiday season approaching, it is very important to make sure your vehicle is locked at all times and that valuables are removed or placed out of public view. Also, never leave the ignition on your vehicle running when unattended.

Please remember these simple precautions to help prevent you from becoming a victim of theft. More information on these scams and how to avoid becoming a victim is available at City Hall.

Storage and Disposal of Yard Waste and Firewood

When preparing your property for the upcoming winter season, please keep the following in mind:

Storage and disposal of yard waste

Branches, leaves, brush, grass clippings, and other yard waste may only be stored in a garbage container, garage, or storage building. The city's refuse hauler, BFI – Allied Waste, will pickup bags of grass, leaves, small branches, and brush with weekly pickup, between April and November, for an additional charge. However, please be advised that yard waste scheduled to be picked up at the curb must be stored out of public view, prior to the night before collection. For more information about the special collection of yard waste and fees, visit www.bfitwincities.com or call 651-455-8634.



Storage and disposal of cut firewood

Cut firewood may be stored in residential areas, provided it is of reasonable size and solely utilized on the property where it is stored. Bark-bearing elm wood is not allowed to be stored as cut firewood, in the open or within an enclosure, between April 1 and September 15. Cut firewood and woodpiles must be stored in accordance with the following guidelines:



- * Located at least 2 feet from the property line
- * Maintained in a neat and organized manner
- * Maintained in a manner to avoid decay
- * Maintained in a manner to avoid disturbing the health, safety, and welfare of the general public
- * Maintained in a manner to avoid degradation to the property where it is located, as well as adjacent properties

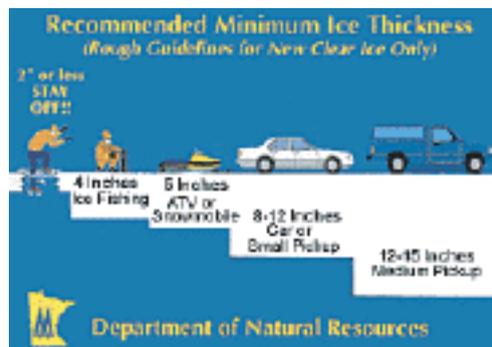
For information about the disposal of large branches, brush, and cut firewood, and related fees, please contact Buberl Recycling at 651-439-8399.

Beware of Thin Ice!

This time of year, the anticipation of winter activities such as snowshoeing, skiing, snowmobiling, and ice fishing consume the minds of many Bayport residents, and what better place to enjoy these activities but the St. Croix River? However, it is important to remember that thin ice is common in late fall and early winter, and although the ice may appear to be safe, it may be too thin for most winter activities.

Before venturing out on frozen water, please keep in mind that there is no such thing as 100% safe ice. It is also important to remember to avoid areas with visible open water and known water currents, and avoid the ice after dusk, before daylight, and when alone.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources recommends approaching ice with caution and suggests the following ice guidelines for winter activities:



For more information on ice safety, visit www.dnr.state.mn.us. The city hopes these reminders will help make this a safe fall and winter season on the St. Croix River!

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 the following upcoming dates:

- November 11, Veteran's Day
- November 24-25, Thanksgiving
- December 26, Christmas Day (observed)
- January 2, New Year's Day (observed)
- January 16, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- February 20, Presidents' Day

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

- City Hall651-275-4404
- City Hall Fax651-275-4411
- Fire Department651-275-4401
- Library651-275-4416
- Police Dept-Emergency911
- Police Non-emergency ...651-275-4400
- Public Works651-275-4410

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 - 6:00 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.

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

Reminders for Recreational Fires

Although recreational fires are allowed without a permit, the following guidelines must be observed, to help ensure fire safety within the community:

- Fire is contained in a pit, not exceeding 30 inches in diameter and 30 inches in height
- Fire is 10 feet from property lines and 15 feet from buildings and structures
- Fire is constantly attended by a responsible adult
- Fire is not used to burn yard waste, construction debris, or garbage
- Water or fire extinguisher is within 15 feet of fire
- Fire is conducted when winds are less than 15 miles per hour
- All fire bans in Washington County are observed
- Fire is conducted between 5:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m. and does not burn for more than 4 consecutive hours at a time



Burning permits are required for fires that do not meet these requirements and may be obtained by contacting the Bayport Fire Department at 651-275-4401.

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.

Donate a Tree or Bench to a City Park

By request, the city has established a park donation program. The purpose of the program is to give residents the opportunity to donate funds toward the purchase of a tree or bench for a city park, in memory or celebration of a loved one. Donation amounts have been established as follows:



| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Tree | \$ 250.00 |
| Bench (with plaque) | \$1,000.00 |

Also, please know that general donations toward the park fund are always appreciated. Look for new trees and benches, as well as other park improvements, to start popping up in city parks as early as next spring!

Citywide Cleanup Day was a Great Success!

Judging by the collection results listed below, it appears most Bayport households took advantage of the free Citywide Cleanup Day held on Saturday, June 11th, which was a huge success! Many residents are already asking if a cleanup day will be held again next year, and the answer is, it's up to you. This year the collection was free to residents because the city paid for the disposal, but the annual cost of the disposal was approximately \$6,000.00, or \$10.00 per household. In the future, part of the cost for cleanup day dis-

posal may be passed along to each household. If you would like to share your thoughts on the cleanup day, please contact City Hall at 651-275-4404.

Citywide Cleanup Collection Results

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Appliances</i> | <i>138</i> |
| <i>Construction debris</i> | <i>9.58 tons</i> |
| <i>General refuse</i> | <i>33.05 tons</i> |
| <i>Plastic</i> | <i>1,933 pounds</i> |
| <i>Scrap metal</i> | <i>4.27 tons</i> |
| <i>Televisions</i> | <i>3,574 pounds</i> |
| <i>Tires</i> | <i>1,400 pounds</i> |

POSTAL PATRON BAYPORT

THIRD
CLASS
PERMIT
NO. 9

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

