



# Bayport News

OCTOBER 2010, ISSUE 13

## Voters will elect a Mayor and City Councilmembers on November 2, 2010

Three positions on the Bayport City Council will be filled Tuesday, November 2, 2010 when voters cast ballots in the general election. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the city's polling place, Bayport City Hall.

The mayor seat is for a term of two years and begins in January. The seat is currently held by Jon Nowaczek, who is not seeking re-election. The candidates for mayor, in alphabetical order, are Judy Seeberger and Susan St. Ores.



The two City Council seats are each for a term of four years and begin in January. The seats are currently held by Dan Johnson and Torry Kraftson, who are not seeking re-election. The candidates for City Council, in alphabetical order, are Michele Hanson, Don Hoye, Judy M Johnson, Mark L Ostertag, Aaron Prichard, and Joe Ritzer.

To save time on election day, residents may want to consider voting during off-peak hours, which are usually between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. We hope to see you at the polls!



*Pictured from left to right are outgoing Councilmember Dan Johnson, Mayor Jon Nowaczek, and Councilmember Torry Kraftson.*

## A Farewell from Councilmember Kraftson

I have enjoyed serving on the Bayport City Council for the past 4 years and the Planning Commission for 3 years prior to that. Due to priorities at home and work I have decided not to seek reelection. I would like to thank the Bayport residents, city staff, and my fellow councilmembers for making it a great learning experience.

It has been a pleasure working alongside Mayor Nowaczek, and Councilmembers Johnson, Seeberger, and Carlson. We each brought our own interests and expertise to the City Council and have worked well together as a team. Though we didn't agree about everything, we always strove to be professional in our deliberations and to serve the best interests of the City of Bayport. Our biggest accomplishments have been the improvements at Lakeside Park and at Barker's Alps Park.

I have enjoyed working with our city staff. We are fortunate to have department heads and staff who work diligently in their respective positions to serve the city. Our new administrator brings some great experience, open-mindedness, and a positive attitude.

The City Council and department heads worked together this past year to complete a strategic plan. The planning process allowed for collaboration between the City Council and staff and helped carve out direction for our future. It will take good leadership and vision to guide the city through the challenging economic times we are facing.

I would like to encourage all residents to reflect on the things we value in our community and not to take them for granted. We have a beautiful small town, a scenic river valley, great businesses, and a staff that serves our city well. We have great organizations such as the Bayport Community Action League (BCAL) that put on events to bolster our sense of community.

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## Community Programs and Events

### *Save the Date - Girls' Night Out!*



Girls' Night Out at Bayport Public Library is Sunday, November 7, 2010 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. Join us "in the stacks" for an evening of wine, small bites, pampering, girl time, and a silent auction, all to benefit The Foundation for Bayport Public Library.

Award-winning Author Erin Hart, who writes mysteries set in Ireland from her home base in the Twin Cities, is the evening's guest. Erin will mingle and visit, sign books, and speak formally about her newest book, "False Mermaid." Tickets are \$40.00 and available at the library or [www.SupportBayportLibrary.org](http://www.SupportBayportLibrary.org). For more information, please contact Pam Hoyer at 651-342-1136 or [pamhoyer@gmail.com](mailto:pamhoyer@gmail.com)

### *Free Foreclosure Prevention Assistance*

If you have fallen behind in your mortgage payments, help is available. The Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) administers a free counseling program to assist individuals facing foreclosure. For more information, call 651-458-0936.

### *Emerald Ash Borer Workshop*

The city will be holding a free workshop on Thursday, October 21, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Bayport Public Library to educate residents and the public on the hazardous Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The session will provide tips and tools to identify standing ash trees and the EAB beetle, as well as quarantine methods. For more information, contact Yaminah Oliver at 651-275-4404 or [yoliver@ci.bayport.mn.us](mailto:yoliver@ci.bayport.mn.us)



### *Fire Prevention Open House*

The Fire Department will be hosting an open house on Sunday, October 31, 2010 from 4:00-8:00 p.m. at the fire station. Stop by to pick up some treats and fire prevention tips to help keep your family safe!

## The Foundation for Bayport Public Library Launches New Website

Online donation portals have become a vital fundraising tool for non-profit organizations and The Foundation for Bayport Public Library is pleased to announce the launch of its new website at [www.SupportBayportLibrary.org](http://www.SupportBayportLibrary.org)



The site, designed to educate people on the foundation's mission, goals, and events, has a direct online giving portal utilizing PayPal's services. It also has a "services calculator" that allows patrons to determine the value of the services they receive from the library. The calculator was developed by the Massachusetts Library Association and the foundation is grateful for its use. Just borrowing a couple of books and movies in a single month can equal \$138.00 in services. To learn more about the foundation, check out the services calculator, and more at [www.SupportBayportLibrary.org](http://www.SupportBayportLibrary.org)

## Stop Water Leaks and Save Money!

Did you know that even the smallest water leak in your home may end up costing you big bucks on your water and sewer bill? For instance, a leak as small as 1/32 of an inch could waste up to 170 gallons of water in a 24 hour period!



The most common form of water leakage inside a house is from a toilet. If you suspect your toilet is leaking, stop by City Hall during business hours to pick up a free dye kit that helps detect leaks.

Another good way to detect a leak is to check your water meter at night before bed and in the morning when you wake up. If it has moved, you most likely have a leak and should contact a licensed plumber, who can provide you with further assistance.

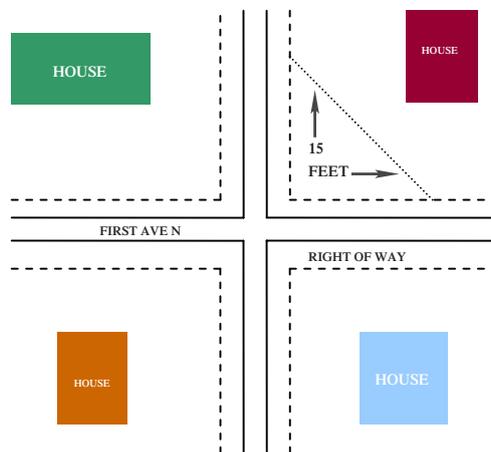
Please be advised that the city does not waive utility bills with excessive charges due to a leak, so it is in your best interest to watch for leaks and test often. Catching leaks early will not only save you money, but it will also help conserve water and protect the environment.

## Help Unobstruct a Street Intersection Near You

Over the past year, city staff has received numerous phone calls from residents concerned about impaired or blocked visibility at street intersections, resulting in some near miss traffic accidents in the city. The source of the problem is primarily attributed to overgrown shrubs or trees that have not been pruned or trimmed in several years.

To ensure adequate visibility at intersections, the city has adopted an ordinance, which states that nothing shall be placed or allowed to grow in excess of 2 ½ feet within 15 feet of two intersecting public rights-of-way. In order to address resident and safety concerns, staff will be inspecting all areas of the city for visually impaired intersections. Letters will then be sent to property owners specifying the hazard and the corrective action(s) necessary to comply with city code.

The city will offer no cost removal of obstructing bushes, shrubs, trees, etc. from public right-of-way/boulevard areas. The city will then restore these areas with black dirt and grass seed



to permanently eliminate the hazard. Property owners will be responsible for trimming or removing vegetation on their property that impedes visibility within this 15 foot buffer, and restoring the area with sod or vegetation that complies with the ordinance.

If you have concerns about obstructed intersections, please contact City Hall at [khuftel@ci.bayport.mn.us](mailto:khuftel@ci.bayport.mn.us) or 651-275-4404. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation to help keep our neighborhood streets safe!

## Ask the Public Works Department...

**Q:** Is it okay to blow my grass clippings and leaves into the street?

**A:** No! Grass, leaves and yard debris clog and pollute the city's storm sewer! This debris must be bagged and disposed of at a yard waste facility or collected by the city's waste hauler.

**Q:** What are the regulations for on-street parking during the winter?

**A:** All vehicles parked on the street must be removed after a snowfall of 3 inches or more, until the street has been plowed curb to curb. Vehicles parked in violation of this regulation may be ticketed and/or towed.

**Q:** Who is responsible for clearing the sidewalk in front of my house?

**A:** 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 shall not be shoveled or blown onto city streets.

The Public Works Department appreciates your help and thanks you in advance for your efforts!

## Congratulations to Vern Thompson on his Recent Retirement

After 33 years of employment with the Bayport Public Works Department, Vern Thompson retired on August 31, 2010. As one of four full-time public works employees, his duties included maintenance of city parks, streets, water and sewer utilities, buildings, grounds, and infrastructure.

Residents and city staff will miss Vern's knowledge of the community, as well as his jovial personality. Thanks to Vern for all of his years of service and taking pride in his work. We all wish him well in his retirement!



## 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!

Beginning in late December, the rinks are open daily from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., weather permitting. See you on the rink!

## A Farewell from Councilmember Kraftson

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As councilmembers, we don't know how many people are watching our meetings on television and what they are thinking about the issues. It can be discouraging to see the empty seats in the City Council chambers and to hear more critical feedback than positive. I would encourage everyone to support their councilmembers with positive feedback, especially those who will be elected in November.

Finally, consider ways you can serve the community, whether it is serving on one of our commissions, joining the BCAL, volunteering in the churches or school, helping a neighbor, or keeping your neighborhood clean. There is a resident who serves as a tremendous role model by picking up litter every morning throughout the city.

Let's all work together to continue making Bayport a great place for generations to come. Thanks for allowing me to serve you on the City Council.

## The Battle to Address Shrinking City Revenues Continues

In May of 2010, the City of Bayport adopted an amended 2010 budget, in order to address an approximate \$350,000 shortfall in revenues. This included laying off part-time staff, reducing hours at the Library and City Hall, and requiring all non-union employees to take 72 hours of unpaid leave. One of the biggest challenges city staff will continue to face for the remainder of 2010 and in to 2011 is how to address additional shortfalls in revenue and improve the efficiencies of the city without creating noticeable effects on essential public services.

In addition to those cost saving measures already mentioned, the city has also implemented the following:

- A hiring freeze for full-time employees
- An early retirement incentive to reduce full-time staff
- A program to reduce employee health care insurance costs
- A joint powers agreement with Washington County to purchase fuel at a discounted rate
- A program with the City of Stillwater to jointly bid city projects/services
- A contract with the City of Lakeland to provide building inspections/services



The 2011 preliminary budget can be found on the city's website at [www.ci.bayport.mn.us](http://www.ci.bayport.mn.us). Residents looking to share budget ideas are encouraged to contact City Administrator Mitch Berg at [mberg@ci.bayport.mn.us](mailto:mberg@ci.bayport.mn.us) or 651-275-4404.

## Riverfront Advisory Commission Update



Thanks to hard work by city residents, goals and objectives for the city's riverfront are taking shape! The nine member commission was formed by the City Council in 2009 and tasked with examining the pros and cons of various land use options and amenities to possibly incorporate along the city's riverfront, including but not limited to, a municipal dock, marina, boat launch, and fishing pier.

The commission is in the process of refining the goals and objectives for public input. An open house to receive comments on the goals for the riverfront is anticipated to be held in the next few months. Check the city's website for updates and details at [www.ci.bayport.mn.us](http://www.ci.bayport.mn.us)

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