



# Bayport News

JANUARY 2010, ISSUE 12

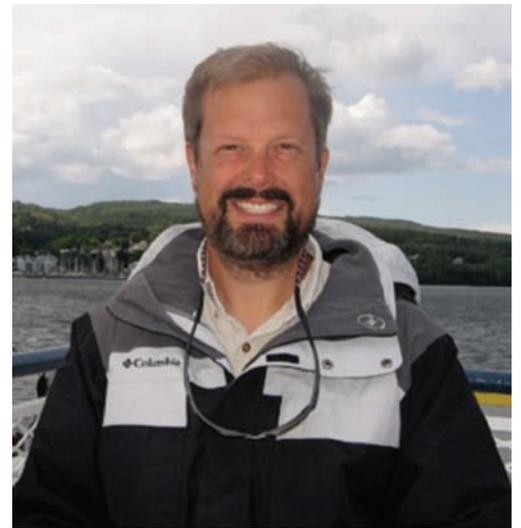
## A Message from the Mayor - *by Mayor Jon Nowaczek*

### *The Road Ahead...*

In 1995, back when he was viewed as the guru leading America onward to a gleaming, enlightened digital future, Bill Gates published his forecasts for a new tomorrow under this self-assured title. Barely 6 months later, the second edition hawked itself at the bookstore under the banner: "Now includes the Internet!"

As shown by the master missing the single most important development in technology in a generation, divining the future can never be much more than an amusing armchair pursuit -- but it's so tempting to read the tea leaves at the start of a new year, I can't resist a few observations!

***The City is in a strong position, but it mustn't be squandered...***



truly have to stand fully on our own feet. "We've always done it that way" has never been a satisfying justification for anything, but that kind of mindset will only be a roadblock to solving the likely loss of nearly \$400,000 in Local Government Aid from the State.

All the low-hanging fruit has already been picked in keeping the budget and taxes stable over the past few years! There can be no "sacred cows" -- everything is now on the table. Through steps such as quarterly departmental reviews, the Riverfront Advisory Commission, and a planned consensus-building exercise, the Council and staff are seeking a new common understanding of our goals and the policies and practices that will be required in this new reality.

***We all have to take responsibility for, and contribute to our future...***

We have strong institutions and traditions in our community, but we cannot rely on someone else to step up

**...continued on page 4**

### Citizen Police Academy Coming In May!



This is your chance to get an in-depth look at the operations of the Bayport Police Department, including both classroom lectures and hands on experiences in law enforcement! The academy will cover traffic enforcement, narcotics and K-9 information, criminal investigations, emergency response, and crime prevention. Participants will also have an opportunity to do a ride along with the department. Individuals interested in participating should call 651-275-4400.

*Above: Local women "lined up" to do a ride along with Officer Wynia, one of the activities to be offered as part of the Citizen Police Academy.*

The City's ledgers show healthy fund balances, but most importantly we have a strong organization staffed with good people. There is always room for improvement, and no shortage of opinion on how best to get the job done, but it is important that we recognize that these are tough, often unpleasant jobs that get done on-time and on-budget. Please join me and the Council in supporting our new City Administrator Mitch Berg and staff, ensuring that they have the resources they need to succeed, with thanks when earned, and with constructive criticism where changes would be beneficial.

We will have to think differently to solve the tough choices 2010 will present... We've been working toward self-sufficiency at the City over the past 7 years, and with the deepening fiscal crisis in the State, this will likely be the year we will

### In This Issue

- Utility Rate Increase ..... 2
- City Scholarship ..... 2
- New City Administrator ..... 3
- Library Scores Star Rating ... 4

## Community Programs and Events

### *Serve as an Election Judge!*



Election judges are paid individuals, trained and certified to administer election procedures at the polling place on election days. Duties include registering voters,

distributing ballots, and recording vote totals.

Election judges must be able to vote, as well as read, write, and speak English, work on election days, and attend scheduled training sessions. An application form and more information can be found on the city's website at [www.ci.bayport.mn.us](http://www.ci.bayport.mn.us) or by contacting City Hall at 651-275-4404.

### *City Scholarship Available for 2010*

The City of Bayport, together with Allied Waste Services, is offering a \$500.00 scholarship to any Bayport resident seeking post high school education in an environmental field. Applicants must provide proof of upcoming enrollment beginning in the fall of 2010.

Application forms, including a detailed description of application requirements, are available at local high schools and the city's website at [www.ci.bayport.mn.us](http://www.ci.bayport.mn.us). The application deadline for the scholarship is April 26, 2010.

### *Free Home Foreclosure Counseling*

Washington County is offering counseling and information workshops to anyone who wants to learn more about the foreclosure process, ask questions, and/or get advice from foreclosure prevention counselors. The workshops are free of charge and no pre-registration is required.

Individuals are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. For a list of scheduled workshops and more information, visit [www.wchra.com](http://www.wchra.com) or call 651-458-0936.



## Rental Information for Lakeside Park Beach House

The reservation process and fee schedule for the Lakeside Park beach house has been streamlined. The interior seating area of the beach house can now be reserved



for any 4-hour period, during park hours, for a flat fee of \$50.00 for residents and \$150.00 for non-residents. There is also a \$100.00 deposit, plus an optional \$25.00 fee for use of the fireplace.

Please be advised that depending upon the reservation date and time, the concession area may be open to the public during all or part of the reservation period. Also, please keep in mind that there is a maximum occupancy of 50 people for the building. A rental application and more information can be found on the city's website at [www.ci.bayport.mn.us](http://www.ci.bayport.mn.us)

## Police Department K-9 Program



In November of this year, Kelyo, our K-9 dog and newest member of the Police Department, attended human tracking training. Keylo can now help search for lost residents, suspects, and potential walk-away inmates from the prison.

Keylo has settled in nicely with the department over the past year and staff really appreciates his many talents. The Police Department wishes to extend a special thanks to members of the community and local businesses for your continued support and donations to fund the K-9 program!

## City Utility Rate Increase For 2010

The city recently completed a municipal utility rate study, after it became apparent the long term forecast to operate the city's water and sewer system would result in a net loss. As part of the rate analysis, the city looked at past increases and found that commercial and industrial rates were increased in 2005. However, residential rates have not increased in over a decade.

As such, the City Council felt it was appropriate to implement an increase for both residential and commercial users. The rate increase will be put into effect the first quarter of 2010.

What does this mean for a typical resident? An average residential household, with a usage of 22,500 gallons of water per quarter, would see an approximate increase of \$15.00 on their utility bill, or an increase of approximately \$5.00 a month.

## New Requirements for Yard Waste Bags

Effective January 1, 2010, state law now requires residents in the Twin Cities area to use either paper or plastic compostable bags for their yard and organic waste. By using paper and compostable plastic bags rather than traditional black plastic bags, the amount of plastic being sent to local composting facilities will be greatly reduced. As a result, local composters will have less plastic to screen out of their finished compost, therefore reducing processing costs and enhancing the quality of the finished compost.

Compostable bags are distinct from regular bags because they are either made of brown Kraft paper or usually clear or a green-tinted opaque plastic. Most local home improvement, grocery, and hardware stores carry these bags, but when purchasing, make sure the package



says “compostable”. Packages marked “biodegradable” are not compostable and do not meet state law requirements. As such, these bags will not be accepted by waste haulers or compost drop-off sites.

For more information on the new compostable plastic bag requirements, visit [www.RethinkRecycling.com](http://www.RethinkRecycling.com)

## Greetings from City Administrator Mitch Berg



As the new City Administrator to the City of Bayport, I am always humbled by the great responsibility bestowed on me to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community. Although I have some eight years of city experience, the challenges cities are facing today come as no easy task. Providing basic services to residents, i.e. water, sewer, snow plowing, fire, and police protection, with increasing budget constraints, is perhaps the greatest challenge that both myself and staff here at Bayport are facing, but are certainly willing to tackle.

With the help of former City Administrator Mike McGuire, city staff, and the City Council, the city has formulated a budget for 2010 which will result in a slight decrease in property taxes for many prop-

erty owners within the City of Bayport. While the economic climate seems dire by the news media, the city’s overall economic health is strong.

Nevertheless, staff is cognizant of the increased pressures many of our residents and business owners are facing in the light of a worsening economy. As such, the city will continue to look at cost-saving measures to help minimize impacts to property owners within the city.

Over the past year, the city has taken a proactive approach to prepare for the shortfall in state aid by making subsequent adjustments to the city’s budget and implementing a variety of cost-saving measures. In 2009, all of the non-union employees agreed to take a week off without pay. As a result, the city was able to reduce its labor costs by 200 hours. As 2010 approaches, city staff and the City Council are already working to address ways to save the city additional dollars, such as controlling the skyrocketing cost of health care.

Although there is no doubt that this will be another challenging year for the city, I am excited to be on board and look forward to being a part of the community!

## Help “Unclog” the City Sewer System!

Did you know that when fats, oils, and grease are dumped down the drain, they solidify and clog the sewer pipes, which can result in frequent backups? Although oil and grease are the biggest threat, they are not the only enemies to our sewer system. Other objects can cause equal, if not more damage to the system and to your home if disposed of improperly.

To help keep our sewer system functioning properly, PLEASE DO NOT dispose of the following down drains, toilets, or garbage disposals:

- Meat fats
- Cooking oil, lard, grease, butter
- Disposable diapers and wipes
- Rags, towels, clothing, cloth items
- Feminine hygiene products
- Food scraps

Oils and grease should be disposed of in a metal can, before being placed in the trash. Other items should be disposed of directly into a trash receptacle. The only substances that should be disposed of in the municipal sewer system are wash water, human body wastes, and toilet paper. The city thanks you in advance for your cooperation!

## Mark Your Calendar for the Farmers Market!



If you haven’t done so already, be sure to check out the Bayport Farmers Market this year, which is scheduled to open in July! It’s a great way to meet your neighbors while shopping for fresh goods, direct from local vendors. The market is held at Perro Park on Monday afternoons and evenings. For more information, visit [www.bayportfarmersmarket.com](http://www.bayportfarmersmarket.com)

Message from the Mayor...continued



and do the work. It's not enough to make a donation to a cause; the community needs your brain, your insight, your creativity and energy!

There are so many needs and so many ways to contribute, there is truly something for everyone: Join the BCAL; be active in initiatives through your church; become a member of the Library Board or other Board or Commission; participate in service clubs and in local government. We've developed a limiting mindset that money is all important, and that we can pay someone else to make the world go around. In the final analysis, we are the community, and the community is us. What kind of quality of life do we want? Only we can make it happen. We're ready for the road ahead. Let's roll!

Cable Commission Citizen Representative Opening

The city is seeking a resident to be a citizen representative on the Central St. Croix Valley Joint Cable Commission. This is a voluntary position, expected to attend meetings every other month, on the third Wednesday, at 7:00 p.m. Individuals interested in being considered for appointment should contact City Hall at 651-275-4404.

Bayport Library Recognized with a Star Rating

A good library will never be too neat, or too dusty, because somebody will always be in it, taking books off the shelves and staying up late reading them.

~Lemony Snicket

Did you know that Bayport Public Library (BPL) is one of eight Minnesota libraries recognized with a star rating in Library Journal's first annual Index of Public Library Service? Of 7,115 libraries rated nationwide, only 256 earned star ratings.

A friendly and responsive staff and strong customer service, along with warm and inviting facilities are the qualities library leaders cite as essential to providing patrons with an outstanding library experience. Sound like a library you know?

BPL's star rating is a well-deserved honor, and it reinforces what BPL patrons have known all along: we are fortunate to have a treasure among libraries in our community. Bayport Public Library is the heart of our village, a source of knowledge and learning and a gathering place that's both kid- and adult-friendly.

The Foundation for Bayport Public Library was established in 1990 as a non-profit corporation for the sole purpose of supporting BPL.

Foundation Articles of Incorporation state:

The Foundation for Bayport Public Library is organized and shall be operated exclusively to provide financial support to the Bayport Public Library. (The) purpose of this corporation shall be to provide for services and facilities over and above what the traditional tax base funding of the Bayport Public Library has provided.

As a public library, BPL is subject to Minnesota Statutes, which state that the library cannot receive more than 50 percent of its funding from private sources (donations). Therefore, the best way to support the library is to make your contribution through the Foundation because contributions made to the Foundation are not subject to the 50 percent limitation. Making your donation to the Foundation ensures that BPL receives the most benefit from your gift.

You may wish to consider a donation to the Foundation for Bayport Public Library in memory of a loved one, to honor a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion, or as part of your estate planning. For information please visit the BPL website or contact the library at 651-275-4416.

PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID 1 oz  
PERMIT #9

CITY OF BAYPORT  
294 North 3rd Street  
Bayport, Minnesota 55003-1027  
651-275-4404 | 651-275-4411 Fax  
www.ci.bayport.mn.us

