



Bayport News

MAY 2008, ISSUE 9

Lakeside Park Bathhouse Renovation Is Complete

A public open house to celebrate the completion of the bathhouse renovation project is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, 2008 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Residents are invited to tour the renovated building and see firsthand what a great amenity the facility is for Lakeside Park, and the community!

Last summer, the city began the extensive renovation project, which was intended to refurbish several interior and exterior areas of the structure that were in disrepair. The renovations include a new roof, windows, doors, siding, flooring, lighting, and bathroom fixtures, as well as updated electrical and plumbing. The city is especially excited about the gas fireplace, concession area, deck, and patio area, which are new amenities that the public is sure to enjoy.

The city plans to staff the bathhouse with a general park attendant 7 days a week, 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Memorial Day through Labor Day, to sell concessions and provide general



The renovated bathhouse at Lakeside Park overlooks the beautiful St. Croix River.

supervision for the bathhouse area. The bathhouse will also be available for private rental during varied hours, weather permitting, May through September.

The bathhouse remodel is part of a larger, city-wide park improvement project that will be ongoing through 2010. Landscaping and improvements to the beach area at Lakeside Park are scheduled for this summer. A majority of these and other park improvements will be made possible with park dedication funds received from new construction in the city.

Save the Date! Citywide Cleanup is Saturday, June 14th

Got junk? Do not miss this opportunity to dispose of unwanted, non-hazardous household materials free of charge!

When: Saturday, June 14, 2008
8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Where: Vacant lot just south of the Public Works Building, at the intersection of 2nd Ave. S. and Lakeside Dr.

Who: Residents of Bayport (identification required)

For a list of materials that will be accepted, please visit the city's website at bayport.govoffice.com or stop by City Hall for a flyer. Items not specifically listed will not be accepted.

Bayport Fire Department Thanks You!

Thank you for your support and donations at the annual dance fundraiser. The department raised over \$10,000.00, which will be used to purchase a grass fire pump and tank unit. Your generosity and kindness is much appreciated!



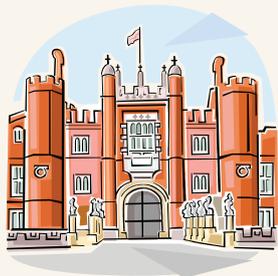
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Community Programs and Events

Children's Summer Book Club

Contact the library at 651-275-4416 for more information or to register for the following programs:



Finishing Grade 6

“Glass Castle” is this year’s book selection. Meetings will be held on June 10, June 24, July 8, and July 22 from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. at the library.

Grades 2 - 5

“Surprises According to Humphrey” is this year’s book selection. Meetings will be held on June 10, June 24, July 8, and July 22 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the library.

Performances for Children at the Library

Join us on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. for the following performances and an ice cream social:

June 12	Dakota Wild Animals (indoors)
June 19	Airplane Annie (indoors)
July 17	Magician Matt Dunn (indoors)
August 14	Banjo Dancers (outdoors)
August 28	Schiffelly Puppets (outdoors)

Citywide Garage Sale and Library Book Sale



Mark your calendar! A citywide garage sale will be held Friday, June 6th, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday, June 7th, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. To participate, stop by City Hall and add your sale to the list by May 30th. A final list and map of all sales will be

available for pickup at City Hall on June 2nd.

Throughout the citywide garage sale, the library will also be having a sale. Be sure to stop by to check out various sale items, including books, CDs, videos, and DVDs.

Safety Day Camp for Kids

Safety Camp teaches safety tips to kids entering grades 3-5 for the upcoming school year. The camp will be held at Lakeside Park on June 16th and June 17th from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. To register, stop by City Hall or contact 651-275-4400. The fee is \$35.00 per child.

Expanded Weekday Parking for Residents with Boat Trailer Parking Stickers

The city and Andersen Corporation have expanded access to boat trailer parking located in the Andersen parking lot at the end of 4th Avenue North, adjacent to the public boat launch. Five spaces will now be available during the week in this lot, in addition to weekend and holiday parking, May through September.

Residents may purchase an annual sticker at City Hall for \$10.00, which allows parking in the Andersen lot and in the designated area at Lakeside Park. Stickers are limited to two per household. A valid driver’s license and watercraft license information must be presented at the time of purchase.

Park Donation Program

By request, the city has established a park donation program. The purpose of the program is to give residents and local businesses the opportunity to donate funds that will be specifically designated for the purchase of benches, waste receptacles, or trees for a city park.



The park donation program is a great way to honor, commemorate, or celebrate a loved one, in addition to beautifying the park. Specific donation amounts have been established for the following, but general donation amounts are always welcome and appreciated:

Tree	\$ 250.00
Waste receptacle	\$ 500.00
Bench (with plaque)	\$1,000.00

Look for new benches, waste receptacles, and trees to start popping up this spring at Lakeside Park, as the city’s park improvement project continues!

Cremains Burial Area Established in Hazelwood Cemetery

The city is in the process of establishing a cremains only burial area in Hazelwood Cemetery. Not only will this area offer more efficient use of the limited cemetery space, it will also provide a more economical burial option.

It is anticipated the City Council will consider a fee structure for these smaller burial sites (30 inches x 30 inches) this spring, and the city hopes to have the new program established by early June. For more information, please contact City Hall at 651-275-4404.

You May Have a Green Thumb, But Do You Have a Blue Thumb?



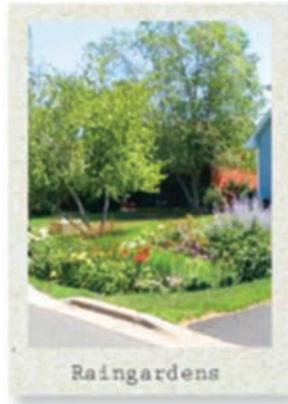
The Blue Thumb – Planting for Clean Water is a program that strives to educate and assist residents in protecting our water quality by

incorporating native plantings into landscaping, gardens, and shoreline stabilization. Since everyone wants clean water, the Blue Thumb program aims to make it easy to plant for water quality.

Whether a novice or a master gardener, a raingarden is a simple landscape addition to any home or business, and a great way to help protect water quality. Raingardens capture rain water from roofs, streets, and driveways and briefly hold the water until it is absorbed by the soil. By allowing the rain water to slowly infiltrate into the ground, rather than washing into the storm sewer, raingardens clean the runoff, to help

prevent pollution to nearby lakes and rivers.

The Blue Thumb website, www.BlueThumb.org provides a variety of resources, including plant selection guides, links to local retailers, how-to manuals, and garden blueprints. The Blue Thumb program has also recently published a book



entitled *The Blue Thumb Guide to Raingardens* that focuses on design and installation for homeowners, which can be purchased locally from the Washington Conservation District.

The Washington Conservation District also provides free site visits to help develop a landscaping plan to protect natural resources. For more information or to schedule a site visit, please call 651-275-1136.

Severe Weather...Is Your Family Prepared?

Spring brings flowers, showers, and often, severe weather. The city encourages you to watch and listen for weather reports and outdoor warning sirens to know when to take shelter and help keep your family safe. Please refer to the following list for suggested shelters:

In a home...

- basement or small interior room on the lowest floor, away from windows
- under a table, work bench, or other sturdy furniture
- a stairwell

In an apartment, school, or office building...

- pre-designated shelter area
- interior room on the lowest floor level, away from windows

In a mobile home or automobile...

- under a permanent structure outside of the mobile home or automobile, away from bridges

Meet Public Works Employee Josh Eisinger



Josh joined the city on December 27, 2005 as a full-time employee of the Public Works Department. In addition to assisting with the daily operations associated with parks, streets, sewer, and water, Josh is the primary individual responsible for reading the city's utility meters.

While Josh isn't wearing his public works hat, you may also find him assisting the community as a member of the Bayport Fire Department. Josh has served on the department for the past 7 years, responding regularly to both medical and fire emergencies.

Born and raised in the St. Croix Valley, Josh now resides in Lakeland with his wife and two stepdaughters, and is anxiously awaiting the addition of a new baby to his family. In his free time, Josh enjoys boating and camping on the St. Croix River and spending time with his family and friends.

We are excited to have Josh on staff with the city. Be sure to say "hi" when you see him out and about in your neighborhood!

City Hall Summer Business Hours

The following hours will be in effect May 27, 2008 through August 29, 2008 (Memorial Day – Labor Day):



7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Monday – Thursday

7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Friday

During non-business hours, please refer to the city's website for a list of staff email addresses, or call the main switchboard at 651-275-4404 and leave a message.

A Message from the Mayor

by Mayor Jon Nowaczek



Investment (noun): the outlay of money usually for income or profit; capital outlay; the sum invested or the property purchased (thanks to Merriam-Webster).

Saving and investing are two related, but distinct concepts, and it's important to understand the differences. Saving, by definition, involves the protection and preservation of money from loss, or restraint in its expenditure. Investing, on the other hand, means to make a long-term commitment toward growing your capital by putting it to work.

The city is in excellent financial health, thanks to the careful management of the current and previous City Councils, and much hard work by our City Administrator and staff in finding economies and efficiencies in our operations. We have been working very hard at saving, and the results of that hard work are fund balances that have grown to generous proportions.

It is, of course, prudent and good management practice to ensure that reserves are set aside to meet unforeseen issues and difficult times that may arise. The League of Minnesota Cities advises maintaining reserves in proportion to 50% of the annual operating budget. Bayport, however, currently has 100% of our annual budget in reserve in the city's general fund alone! We've reached the point where it is appropriate to put some of that excess to work

for us, to invest in the true meaning of the word.

While it may be a happy problem, to create a strategy to guide the use of these excess funds, it is a problem nonetheless. With many competing priorities and interests, finding the right balance is key. While we may spend some funds on improvements to our parks or other facilities, I believe that we should emphasize looking for real investment opportunities, which will generate recurring income for the city, contribute to self-sufficiency, and reduce reliance on taxes.

Some ideas under consideration include purchase of real estate (whether to hold for long term appreciation or as trading cards that may ultimately facilitate other projects) and purchase of property/facilities for a city marina and boat ramp. Although the City Council has held a workshop meeting to explore this topic, no decisions have yet been made.

We must proceed with care and deliberation, and will not enter into any investment without due diligence and research. Please be assured also that this process will follow our well-established standards of openness and transparency, with plenty of opportunity for public input and review. Contact your City Council representatives to voice your opinion, or feel free to drop off a note at City Hall. We look forward to working with you to invest for our future quality of life in this special place we know as Bayport!

Communications Corner



City of Bayport
294 North Third Street
Bayport, MN 55003
Phone: 651-275-4404
Fax: 651-275-4411

CITY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED

- May 26, Memorial Day
- July 3, (12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)
- July 4, Independence Day
- September 1, Labor Day

CITY DEPARTMENTS

- Fire Department651-275-4401
- Library651-275-4416
- Police Dept-Emergency911
- Police Non-emergency . . .651-275-4400
- Public Works651-275-4410

CITY MEETING CALENDAR

- City Council – 6:00 p.m.
 - 1st Monday of the month
- Planning Commission – 6:00 p.m.
 - 3rd Monday of the month
- Library Board – 6:00 p.m.
 - 4th Thursday of the month

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

