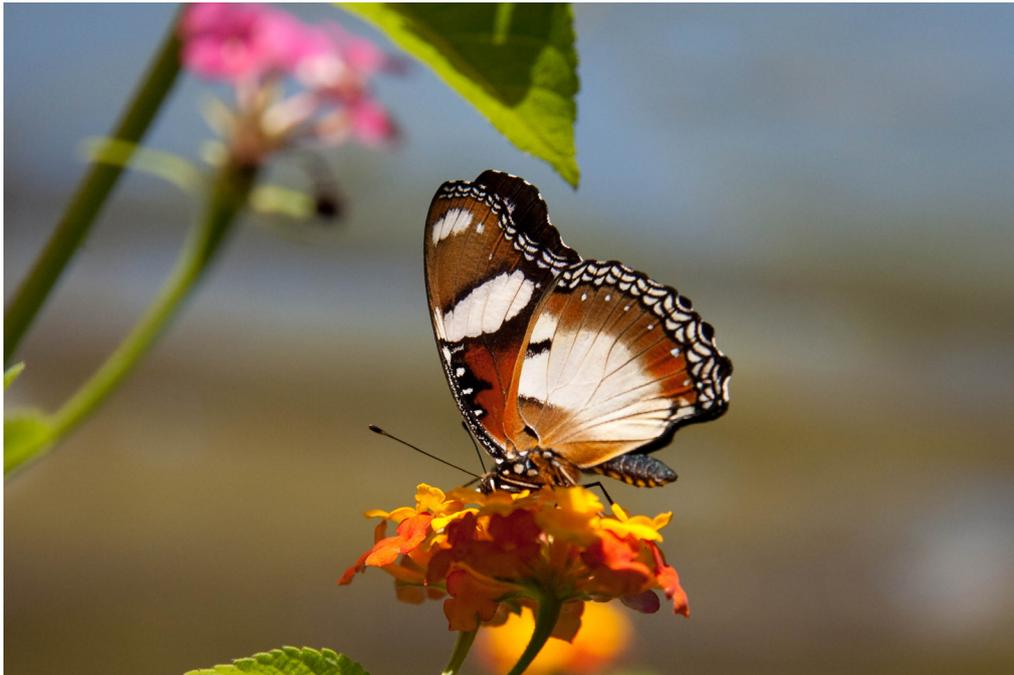




Bayport News

JULY 2017, ISSUE 37



St. Croix Crossing Bridge to Open August 3

Work will finally be complete in the next few weeks and the bridge is scheduled to open August 3! Construction of the bridge commenced in 2013 and is a



shared project by Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Transportation. The new bridge will not only provide a safer, more reliable river crossing, but also improve traffic safety and ease congestion in the St. Croix Valley. The total project cost is estimated at approximately \$635 million. A dedication ceremony has been scheduled for August 2 for federal, state, and local officials to celebrate completion of the bridge. Visit www.dot.state.mn.us/stcroixcrossing for more information.

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



Maintaining Bayport's charm, beauty, and property values goes beyond what you see as you travel around our wonderful community. Its foundation

lies well below the surface. To ensure Bayport remains safe and structurally sound, the city will be focusing on major improvements to the city's water and sewer utility and street infrastructure system over the next several years.

Earlier this year, the city initiated its first significant utility and street project in over a decade. Much of the infrastructure to be repaired or replaced as part of this project is greater than 60 years old, surpassing its life expectancy by several years. Recent televising of sewer mains in association with this project confirmed deterioration in the form of cracks, leaks, and/or intrusion by tree roots, not only leading to the potential for increased backups, but also inefficient operation of our overall utility system. Look for this project to start in late July/early August.

There are significant costs associated with ongoing maintenance, repair, and replacement of our city infrastructure. A portion of your annual taxpayer dollars are specifically allocated in the annual budget toward a capital improvement fund, to finance infrastructure improvements. However, this funding allocation is limited and cannot cover all associated costs without significantly raising taxes across the community.

For this reason, Bayport adopted its special assessment policy in 1991. It adheres to a very common practice across Minnesota cities by imposing special assessments on properties abutting and directly benefitting from large-scale infrastructure improvements, which is considered the most fair,

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Valley Outreach Supports Free Produce Distribution

| SUMMER PRODUCE | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Beets Bell Peppers Lettuce | Tomatoes Corn Cucumbers | Eggplant Green Beans Lima Beans |
| Okra Peas Radishes | Sugar Snap Peas Zucchini Watermelon | Peaches Cabbage Blueberries |
| Cantaloupe White Potatoes Blackberries | Cherries Strawberries (early summer) | 🍴 |

Valley Outreach is a service organization that assists families in need of food, clothing, or emergency financial assistance. As part of their programming

this summer, they will be distributing free, fresh produce at Perro Park from 4:00-5:30 p.m. on July 27 and August 31. To learn more about how to participate in other programs or to volunteer or donate, visit www.valleyoutreachmn.org or contact 651-430-2739. Many thanks to Valley Outreach for their ongoing support and commitment to assist our local community!

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Community Programs and Events

Night to Unite at Lakeside Park - August 1



Don't miss Night to Unite on Monday, August 1, 5-8 p.m. at Lakeside Park! This evening of festivities is intended to increase awareness about public safety programs, as well as celebrate and strengthen neighborhood and community partnerships. Meet and greet city staff, residents, and business owners in

our community. Featured events include vendor booths with exhibits, games, demonstrations, food, and prizes. We hope to see you there!

Washington County Fair - August 2-6

The Washington County Fair will be celebrating its 146th anniversary this year! Head out to the fairgrounds August 2-6 to enjoy a variety of exhibits, carnival games and rides, music, food, and entertainment. Daily admission is \$7.00/adult and \$4.00/children.



Spanish Flamenco Performance - September 9



Sample a taste of Spain! Enjoy a demonstration of Spanish Flamenco dancing with local guitarist Michael Hauser and a dancer from Zorongo Flamenco Dance Theater. The performance will be held at the library on Saturday, September 9 at 1 p.m. and is appropriate for all ages. Thanks to funding from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, admission is free and no reservations are required.

Derby Days and Craft Fair - September 16

Bayport Community Action League is excited to announce Saturday, September 16 as the date for this year's Derby Days festivities! Events will include the popular "Duck Derby" race on Perro Creek and fireworks over the St. Croix River. Also, be sure to check out the new craft fair as part of the activities. Look for more event details to be posted on the city's website in September.



Resident Reminders: What Not to Deposit in your Curbside Recycling Cart!

If you are like most property owners and doing your part to recycle, you may find that your curbside recycling cart is nearly full on pickup week, while your trash cart is almost empty. Thanks to new product packaging, most household consumables can and are being recycled, which is terrific for the environment! But as a reminder, the following SHOULD NOT be deposited in your single-sort curbside recycling cart:



- Aerosol cans
- Aluminum foil
- Batteries
- Ceramic
- Dishes/cookware
- Egg cartons
- Food waste
- Frozen food boxes
- Mirrors
- Motor oil bottles
- Napkins
- Paper plates
- Pizza boxes
- Plastic toys
- Shredded paper
- Styrofoam
- Tissue/wrapping paper
- Window glass

Please Help Keep the WILD in Wildlife!



Artificial feeding of wildlife not only makes it difficult to control populations in our community, it actually compromises an animal's ability to live in the wild. It's also against the law! Despite numerous efforts to educate property owners on the negative effects, artificial feeding by residents is still an ongoing problem with both deer and geese. Please stop hurting these animals and start helping keep them healthy and safe and prevent over population and disease!

Meet New Public Works Director Matt Kline

Matt Kline began employment with the city in January as the new Public Works Director. Matt has over 15 years of municipal Public Works experience in the areas of utilities, parks, streets, and equipment. He has a Bachelor's degree in Biology and a Master's degree in Public Administration. Matt will direct all functions of Public Works and oversee contractors involved with city projects. He resides in Hudson with his wife and two children. In his free time, Matt enjoys spending time at the cabin, woodworking, and fishing. Matt also is involved with coaching his daughters' softball teams and working as a volunteer for Hudson Rotaract. Be sure to welcome Matt to Bayport when you see him out and about in your neighborhood!



Save Our Pipes – Don't Flush That Cloth or Wipe!

Pre-moistened disposable wipes and other materials that are often advertised as “flushable” continue to be the cause of clogs and backups in the city’s sewer pipes. Even though wipes and other materials may go down the toilet, they are not breaking down as they move through the system, leading to blockages and obstructing proper sewer flow. This not only can lead to costly maintenance and repairs to the sewer mains and service lines, but also a messy and unpleasant surprise for property owners who may experience a sewer backup.



Please don't be part of the plug up! Refrain from flushing anything other than bodily waste and toilet paper down the drain. This includes cleaning, baby, and sanitary wipes, paper towels, facial tissue, napkins, feminine hygiene products, diapers, and medical bandages, as well as cooking grease, fats, and oils. If you experience a backup, it is best to call the city first to help determine the source, before contacting a plumber. The Public Works Department may be able to alleviate the clog by jetting the sewer main, which could save you time and money!

Be Smart About Outdoor Water Use This Summer!

Despite what many may think, our region’s water resources are not unlimited. Excessive water usage, especially during the summer months, has led to a significant decrease in groundwater levels in Washington County, making efforts to conserve water more critical than ever. By practicing easy, responsible habits, you can not only prevent a hefty water bill, but also help limit and prevent unnecessary outdoor water use in our community!

PRACTICE CONSERVATION!



- Observe city regulations by watering before 3:00 p.m. and after 8:00 p.m. on odd and even days by address, May 1-September 1
- Water early in the morning to prevent evaporation
- Limit lawn watering to 1 inch per week
- Hand water lawn, garden, and landscaped areas
- Use a hose with a shut-off nozzle to control flow

PLANT AND LANDSCAPE SMART!



- Select lawn grasses like fescue which require less water as opposed to bluegrass varieties
- Maintain lawn at 3-5 inches in height to promote a strong and healthy root system
- Incorporate native, drought resistant plants, as well as non-vegetative features into landscaping
- Mulch gardens to maintain moist soil

IRRIGATE WISELY!



- Inspect and repair clogged, broken, or missing sprinkler heads
- Adjust sprinklers to water lawn only and avoid overspray onto a street or driveway
- Operate irrigation systems only when necessary, not on a fixed schedule



CITY OF BAYPORT
294 North Third Street
Bayport, MN 55003

CITY HALL AND POLICE

Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Phone: 651-275-4404
Fax: 651-275-4411
Email: khuffel@ci.bayport.mn.us
Website: www.ci.bayport.mn.us

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Hours: By appointment
Phone: 651-275-4401
Email: aeisinger@ci.bayport.mn.us
Website: www.bayportfire.org

LIBRARY

Hours: Mon., 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Tues., 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Wed./Thurs., 12:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Fri., 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Phone: 651-275-4416
Email: jsmith@ci.bayport.mn.us
Website: www.bayportlibrary.org

PUBLIC WORKS

Hours: Mon.-Fri., 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Phone: 651-275-4410
Email: mcline@ci.bayport.mn.us

UTILITY, FIRE, POLICE EMERGENCY

Phone: 911

CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATES

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| August 7 | November 6 |
| September 11 | December 4 |
| October 2 | |

Meetings held at City Hall, 6:00 p.m.

2017 COMMUNITY EVENT DATES

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Night to Unite | August 1 |
| Washington County Fair | August 2-6 |
| Library Flamenco Event | September 9 |
| Library Book Sale | September 16 |
| Derby Days/Craft Fair | September 16 |
| Library Snake Discovery | October 14 |
| Library Spooky Basement | October 31 |
| Public Safety Open House | October 31 |
| Lighting of Village Green | December 6 |



CITY OF BAYPORT
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A Message from the Mayor

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equitable, and consistent method of financing these projects. The policy defines procedures and methods for applying assessments. By having a defined policy, the city can ensure assessments are

calculated and applied uniformly over time and ensure long-term financial stability of the city. To learn more about special assessments, please refer to the article on this page.

A comprehensive study of the city's utility and street infrastructure will be complete early next year, which will assist in determining the schedule for future projects. This will also help property owners plan financially for potential assessments and projects in their neighborhood.

Look for project updates to be shared in the newsletter and at City Council meetings. Property owners impacted by a potential project and/or assessment will also receive direct written correspondence from the city regarding the proposed improvements. With your support, we will address these critical projects to maintain and reinvest in our community.



Help Be the Solution to Perro Creek Pollution!

Yuck! This summer, an abundance of sand, silt, grass clippings, leaves, and other yard waste has been found in Perro Creek. Unfortunately, a majority of this debris is a result of inadequate vegetative infiltration buffers along the creek banks and/or inconsiderate yard maintenance, such as depositing yard waste directly into the creek. You can help reduce runoff into the creek by mulching, composting, or bagging yard waste and refraining from blowing or hosing down sidewalks, patios, and driveways. Also, encourage neighbors abutting the creek to plant an alternative to sod along the banks, such as a native vegetative buffer, which will help filter and prevent debris from entering the creek. Thanks in advance for being a solution to Perro Creek pollution!



What Should I Know About Special Assessments?

What is a special assessment?

A special assessment is a charge imposed for a public improvement that benefits a particular property, such as repair or replacement of abutting streets, sidewalks, or water and sewer utilities.



Why are special assessments used?

Public infrastructure projects are often costly, and therefore are not feasible to finance using general city operating funds. Special assessments enable the city to place a proportionate share of the project cost on the properties that most directly benefit from the improvement, keeping annual taxes lower overall for property owners. Special assessments are used by most cities and are considered the most fair, equitable, and consistent method for funding public improvement projects.

How are assessments paid?

Property owners have the option to pay special assessments in full at any time to avoid or reduce interest charges. The city certifies any unpaid assessments to Washington County, which are then payable as part of a property's annual tax bill. The assessment period for most infrastructure projects is 10 years.