



Bayport News

SEPTEMBER 2018, ISSUE 41



Vote in the General Election on November 6, 2018

The Bayport Mayor and two Councilmembers will stand for election this year. The Mayor seat is currently held by Susan St. Ores, who is seeking re-election for her fifth term. Susan is challenged by Robert McManus. The two Councilmember seats are currently held by incumbents Michele Hanson and Patrick McGann, who have served on the City Council for the past 8 and 6 years, respectively. Both Michele and Patrick are seeking re-election for another term, challenged by John Dahl, who currently serves on the city's Planning Commission. For new voter registration forms, absentee voting, or to view other races on the ballot, visit www.co.washington.mn.us.



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



I wanted to take this opportunity to provide an update on a topic that is top of mind for the City Council, city staff, residents, and business owners, which is the increased traffic and safety concerns along Highway 95. It was anticipated that traffic would increase in and around Bayport after the opening of the St. Croix Crossing bridge, but the level of increase due to changes in traffic patterns, construction detours, and a higher speed limit at the north end of the city have created serious safety concerns for our community.

First, I would like to acknowledge the thoughtful ideas that have been brought to my attention by citizens and business owners over the past year on how to address the increase in traffic and improve safety. I want you to know that your voices have been heard and the city has been actively pursuing efforts to help improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, as well as incorporate speed calming features for motorists. Because Highway 95 is a state road, the city does not have jurisdiction over

infrastructure improvements or traffic control measures, including the installation of stop signs, traffic signals, medians, or turn lanes. However, the upcoming MnDOT Highway 95 Improvement Project slated for 2020 has provided a welcome opportunity for the city to communicate ongoing concerns related to traffic and safety and explore opportunities to implement certain enhancements to address these concerns.

To date, plans for the project include upgrades to sidewalks and curb ramps, a raised center median including a pedestrian refuge crossing and a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon near Andersen Elementary, and striping of on-street parking stalls. The city has worked diligently with MnDOT to incorporate these features into the project, which will help create a more constrained, urban corridor feel, resulting in speed

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Minnesota Kids "Mayor for a Day" Essay Contest



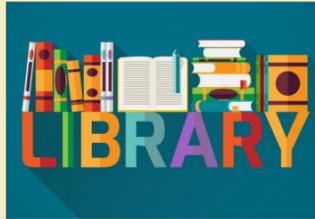
What would our Minnesota cities look like if kids were in charge? Find out by encouraging youth in Grades 4-6 this school year to take part in the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) "Mayor for a Day" Essay Contest! To enter, participants must compose a one page handwritten essay that describes what they would do to make one of the services their city provides even better! Mailed entries must be submitted directly to LMC and postmarked by October 12, 2018. LMC will select 3 winners based on creativity, originality, and legibility to receive \$100 and be published in Minnesota Cities magazine. For contest details and essay form, visit the city's website or www.lmc.org.

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Community Programs and Events

Upcoming Library Programs and Events



The Library has some great programs scheduled for this fall! Sign up for the new Book Club led by Library Director Jill Smith, featuring *Bel Canto* by author Ann Patchett or check out one of the other fun classes or events listed below!

Pre-registration may be required for certain programs and space may be limited. Please be sure to contact the Library for details.

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Sept. 24 - 6 p.m. | New Book Club Kickoff |
| Oct. 6 - 1 p.m. | Schiffelly Puppets |
| Oct. 13 - 12 p.m. | Mobile Sign Workshop |
| Oct. 16 - 1 p.m. | Painting Class for Kids |
| Oct. 18 - 1 p.m. | School Break Matinee Movie |

Stillwater Area Community Education Classes

Whether you are interested in fitness, cooking, crafts, music, basic education, professional growth, or planning for retirement, the Stillwater Area Public Schools Fall Community Education program offers enrichment classes for all ages and abilities! For more information, contact 651-351-8300.



October Fire Prevention Week Open House



This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign is "Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere," which focuses on three steps to reduce the likelihood of a fire and tips to escape safely. To educate and celebrate, the

Fire Department will be hosting an Open House on October 6, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Light snacks, tours, and demonstrations will be provided, so please join us!

Halloween "Spooky" Basement at the Library

Tricks and treats await little ghosts and goblins within the depths of the Library's "Spooky" basement on Halloween Eve, October 31, 5 – 8 p.m. Be there, if you dare!



Be Safe, Be Smart, Be Seen: Use a Pedestrian Crossing Flag!

What started out as a pilot project over 10 years ago, the Pedestrian Crossing flags have become part of the everyday downtown streetscape in our community. With increased traffic, the flags seem to be getting more use than ever, which is great! That said, please remember to always wait for traffic to completely stop before proceeding through the crosswalk. Motorists that may be unfamiliar with our city or the flag program still may not stop at marked crossings. Also, if you see one side of the crosswalk has more flags than the other, please bring extra flags with you, to keep them available on both sides of the street, accessible to all users. Remember, the more we use the flags, the more familiar they will be to motorists and alert them to stop at pedestrian crossings, so keep up the good work!



Recent MPR Article Omits Mention of City's TCE Treatment Facility



A recent Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) article identified Bayport's municipal water system as being contaminated with the chemical solvent trichloroethylene (TCE). Unfortunately, the article failed to indicate that in 2007, the city installed a treatment facility to remove all TCE from the municipal water system, in order to provide safe drinking water that meets or exceeds Minnesota Department of Health testing and standards. If you

have questions regarding TCE or the city's treatment process, please contact Public Works Director Matt Kline.

"Focus on Bayport" Photo Contest

Whether your image was caught on a cell phone, digital, 35mm, or Polaroid, we want your photos to showcase the spirit of our community in the "Focus on Bayport" Photo Contest! Qualifying entries must feature a city resident, animal, place, or object captured in Bayport. Prizes will be awarded for first place in each category. Visit the city's website or contact City Hall for complete contest details. Entries are due December 20. We look forward to your participation!



Rent the City Nature Center Building for Your Next Holiday Gathering or Special Event!

The Nature Center is a beautiful, cozy, 4-season city building available for rent by the general public year-round. It is equipped with a climate controlled open assembly area, gas fireplace, small kitchenette with sink, microwave, and compact refrigerator, two handicap accessible restrooms, and banquet tables/chairs to seat up to 32 people. The Nature Center is located in the Inspiration neighborhood and ideal for hosting a small gathering, meeting, or special event. Visit the city's website for more detail on building amenities and photos. To inquire about availability, please contact City Hall.



Fall is Here and the Holidays are Near: Tips for a Safe and Happy Season!

It's hard to believe, but the holidays will soon be upon us. If you are like most, you probably have a long "to do" list to prepare for the festivities and possible travel. But before getting caught up in the hustle and bustle of it all, please take some time to review these helpful tips for a safe and happy holiday season.



OUT ON THE TOWN...

Shopping, dining out, or taking in a show?

- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash
- Keep purses, wallets, and parcels secure
- Monitor credit card transactions for fraud
- Store valuables in vehicles out of view
- Keep an exterior/interior house light on



TRAVELING AFAR...

Taking a journey south, abroad, or outstate?

- Sign up for the city Property Watch program
- Arrange for mail pickup and snow removal
- Set exterior/interior house lights on a timer
- Lock all doors and windows
- Be alert to weather and travel conditions



STAYING AT HOME...

Gift wrapping, cooking, or entertaining?

- Store gifts away from doors and windows
- Never leave candles/fireplaces unattended
- Keep sidewalks clear for visitors
- Be mindful of fraudulent solicitors



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: khuftel@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., 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Fri., 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sat., 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 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.
Email: mkline@ci.bayport.mn.us
Phone: 651-275-4410

UTILITY, FIRE, POLICE EMERGENCY

Phone: 911

CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATES

October 1	December 3
November 13	

LIBRARY BOARD MEETING DATES

October 16	December 18
November 27	

UPCOMING EVENT DATES

Fire Dept. Open House	October 6
Election Candidate Forum	October 17
Library Spooky Basement	October 31
General Election	November 6
Lighting of the Green	December 5
Photo Contest deadline	December 20

CITY HALL HOLIDAYS (observed)

Columbus Day	October 8
Veteran's Day	November 12
Thanksgiving	November 22
Christmas Eve	December 24
Christmas Day	December 25



CITY OF BAYPORT
 294 North 3rd Street
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 www.ci.bayport.mn.us

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Perro Creek Water Quality Improvement Project Update

Recently, residents have inquired about the perceived lack of maintenance along the creek in Perro Park. The increased vegetation is actually intentional and part of a pilot project with the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization to improve water quality.



Introducing a vegetated “buffer” strip along the creek not only stabilizes the bank, minimizing erosion, but also filters sediment and pollutants from runoff. This helps prevent excess nitrogen and phosphorus from entering the creek and the St. Croix River. The mix of native vegetation included in the buffer strip also provides good habitat and a food source for wildlife and pollinator species.



This project is definitely a work in progress and will take some time and effort to get established.

The goal is to extend the native planting buffer along the creek in Perro Park over the next 3 years. The city hopes this project will demonstrate the importance of water quality improvements and how property owners along the creek can contribute to these efforts. Many thanks to Girl Scout Troop 56631 volunteers for their help on this important project!

A Message From the Mayor *Continued from page 1...*

reduction, increased pedestrian awareness, and traffic calming behavior. By working with MnDOT we have also secured commitment for a traffic study of Highway 95. The purpose of this study will be to determine whether the volume of vehicles traveling along this corridor warrants further traffic control measures.

What started as a basic mill and overlay of Highway 95, has now become a true improvement project, thanks to MnDOT’s partnership with the city. This project is also a good example of the city’s continued efforts to collaborate with MnDOT to balance the safety of all users traveling within our community and region.

As a city, we are also increasing the presence of our Police Department along the Highway 95 corridor, including traffic and speed enforcement. Additional pedestrian crossing flags, crosswalk signage, and more frequent use of a speed monitoring device will also help augment patrol efforts and increase safety.



As citizens, I encourage you to be considerate and mindful of all users when traveling in our city. Reducing your speed, yielding to pedestrians and bicyclists, and increasing

awareness of your surroundings will go a long way to create a safer environment for all. Please continue to bring ideas and challenges forward, so we can carry on conversations with MnDOT on ways to improve traffic and safety in our community. This topic is an ongoing dialogue and we want to keep everyone informed. Look for updates to be provided in upcoming editions of the city newsletter and at City Council meetings.