



Bayport News

FEBRUARY 2020, ISSUE 45



Bayport Fire Hall is New Polling Location for 2020

In an effort to improve parking and overall accessibility for voters, the polling place for 2020 elections has been relocated from City Hall to the new Bayport Fire Hall at 1012 5th Ave. N. Bayport has only one ward and precinct, which means all residents vote at the same polling location. Mark your calendar for the upcoming Presidential Nomination Election on March 3, followed by the Primary Election on August 11, and General Election on November 3. Polls will be open for voting on election days from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



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



Every 10 years, the Census Bureau works to conduct a complete and accurate count of the United States population. The next official Census Day is April 1, 2020. The data collected by the census is critical for states, counties, and municipalities, as it is used to shape political representation, funding of government programs, flow of business and commerce, and the planning and delivery of services to local communities, all of which hold relevance to many facets of our everyday life in Minnesota.

data, resources can be directed or shifted toward communities in need. Census data also promotes commerce, as it provides market research for businesses to guide capital investment, locate manufacturing, retail, and wholesale enterprises, and recruit employees.

Census data determines the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as the size of voting districts for state and local governments. The data guides approximately \$589 billion in federal spending to local communities each year, including more than \$15 billion in Minnesota.

Prior to 2020, most census data was collected by mail or by census workers routed door to door. The upcoming census will also include an online response form, making it easier and more cost-efficient to achieve an accurate and complete count, so watch for outreach efforts from the Census Bureau to begin in March.

The 2020 Census is more than a population count. It's an opportunity to shape the future of our community and I sincerely encourage your participation. Your voice can make a difference.

Census data helps decision-makers plan roads, schools, hospitals, senior centers, and emergency services to best serve changing populations. With accurate demographic

MnDOT Offers Options to Improve Hwy. 95 Safety



Several safety features will be included in the upcoming Hwy. 95 Improvement Project slated to begin in May. Specific traffic calming elements include raised center medians, a protected pedestrian crossing with rapid flashing beacon near Andersen Elementary, reduction of drive lane width, and striped on-street parking stalls. Other safety enhancements include expanded sidewalk widths with ADA pedestrian ramps for better accessibility and upgraded street lights with LED fixtures to increase visibility.

While these improvements are much needed and highly anticipated, the city and MnDOT acknowledge there is an opportunity to pursue further safety upgrades in our community, especially in light of the recent pedestrian fatality at 5th Ave. N.

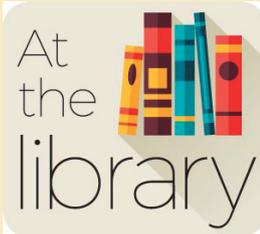
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Community Programs and Events

Book Club and Spring Break Movies at the Library



Feeling the winter blues? Check out the upcoming events at the Library, sure to put some “spring” in your step! Book club discussions listed below are held at 6:30 p.m. and movies are shown at 1:00 p.m. Visit the Library’s website for more information.

Book Club

- April 13 "Lab Girl" by Hope Jahren
- May 11 "Dad's Maybe Book" by Tim O'Brien

Movies

- March 12 Disney's "Frozen II"
- March 13 DreamWorks "Abominable"

Washington County Organics / Compost Programs

To help promote additional household recycling efforts, Washington County (WC) is now offering organic and compost collection bins to residents. Organics starter kits are free and include a 2 gallon pail and 10 compostable bags to collect food waste. Backyard compost bins are also available at a reduced cost of \$44.00 and hold up to 125 gallons of yard waste. For more information on the program and drop off disposal sites, visit the WC website.



Police Department Property Watch Program



Planning to be away for an extended stay? Be sure to submit a property watch form to the city, so we can be on the lookout for suspicious activity and contact you in case of an emergency. Forms are available on the city’s website or contact City Hall.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Barker's Alps Park

Don't miss the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 11! Organized by the Bayport Community Action League (BCAL), this event is for elementary school age children, who hunt for prizes throughout the park. Visit the BCAL website or Facebook page for details on timing of the event and possible relocation due to inclement weather. Also, be sure to bring a basket for goodies!



Update on Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

Last fall, EAB was discovered in the city during a routine tree trimming project. Since that time, the city has been working with the Department of Agriculture to survey ash trees on public property and identify the level of infestation. A total of 363 trees were surveyed, primarily within boulevards, parks, and the cemetery. Of these trees, 10 were confirmed to be infested and 5 potentially infested with EAB. The city is in the process of developing an EAB Management Plan in response to the infestation. However, in the interim, the infested trees identified will be removed. Visit the city’s website for general EAB information and a map of infested trees. Questions? Contact Public Works Director Matt Kline at 651-275-4410 or publicworks@ci.bayport.mn.us.



Upcoming Forums: Your Voice Matters!



The upcoming public forums are a great way to provide input on important city projects and make a difference in our community. Questions, comments, and general input are welcome and encouraged!

- March 30 A Library Facilities Master Plan forum will be held 5:00-7:00 p.m. to solicit input on future building upgrades.
- April 9 A Highway 95 Improvement Project open house will be held 4:30-6:30 p.m. to provide overall details on the project, as well as bike and pedestrian safety enhancements.

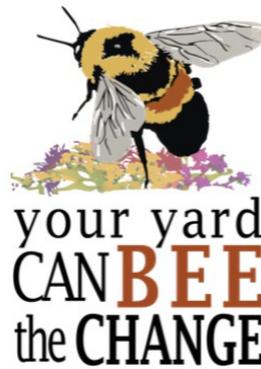
Nick Teske Promoted to Full-time Officer

Nick has been with the Police Department since 2018, volunteering as a reserve and working as a part-time officer. He has previous work experience with the Washington County Sheriff's Office and has a Bachelor's Degree in Law Enforcement from Mankato State University. In his free time, Nick enjoys fitness, golf, football, and spending time outdoors with friends and family. He currently resides in Stillwater. Congratulations on your full-time promotion, Nick!



Planting for Pollinators: Lawns to Legumes Program

Blue Thumb is proud to partner with Minnesota's Board of Water and Soil Resources to promote and implement the new Lawns to Legumes program. The program is aimed at helping residents convert a portion of their lawn to flowering plants, to provide habitat and forage for the federally endangered Rusty Patched Bumblebee and other at-risk pollinators.



The next grant cycle for individuals to request funding assistance through the Lawns to Legumes program begins March 1, 2020. Projects selected will be awarded up to \$350.00 in funding, which will be in the form of a reimbursement, and will require a cost-share by the applicant. For more information, visit www.bluethumb.org. If selected for funding, please be sure to contact City Hall to inquire about city ordinances and/or landscaping restrictions that may apply to your specific property, prior to planting.

Practice Sustainable Snow/Ice Treatment and Removal!

A common treatment for snow and ice accumulation is often ice melt or salt. Unfortunately, most of these treatments contain chemicals, which pollute our local water bodies and cause harm to aquatic life. By practicing responsible, sustainable efforts to treat and remove snow and ice accumulation, you can not only make a positive impact on the environment, but also improve the safety of our community!



KEEP IT CLEAR!

Snow and ice accumulation make sidewalks not only difficult to navigate, but can also impede visibility and limit accessibility. It is the responsibility of occupants to clear snow and ice from public sidewalks bordering their property within 24 hours. Also, please help keep fire hydrants and mailboxes clear, to aid emergency responders and postal carriers.



ICE MELT AND SALT: LESS IS MORE!

When application of a treatment product is necessary to combat ice accumulation, keep in mind that a little goes a long way. Using more product does not mean more melting! Remember, it only takes 1 teaspoon of salt to pollute 5 gallons of water. Apply salt responsibly, using less than 4 pounds of salt per 1,000 square feet of area as a guide.



TEMPERATURE MATTERS!

Most salts stop working at temperatures below 15 degrees and can actually cause wet pavement to refreeze at temperatures below 0 degrees. For best results, apply treatment at warmer temperatures. As an alternative to ice melt or salt, consider using sand to help provide traction during extreme cold weather, but always be sure to sweep up excess matter.



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: office@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., 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
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.
Phone: 651-275-4410
Email: mkline@ci.bayport.mn.us

UTILITY, FIRE, POLICE EMERGENCY

Phone: 911

CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATES

March 2	August 3
April 6	September 8
May 4	October 5
June 1	November 9
July 6	December 7

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

UPCOMING EVENTS/CITY HOLIDAYS

PNP Election	March 3
Library Facilities Forum	March 30
MnDOT Open House	April 9
Easter Egg Hunt	April 11
Memorial Day	May 25
Citywide Garage Sale	June 5-6
Farmers Market	June-October

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MnDOT Offers Options to Improve Hwy. 95 Safety

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On February 3, MnDOT presented some additional traffic calming features that could potentially be implemented along the Hwy. 95 corridor. These included

added raised medians and rapid flashing beacons at key intersections and a potential traffic signal at 5th Ave. N. MnDOT noted that all of the options presented resulted in both positive and negative impacts, some of which had the potential of creating additional problems rather than providing a solution to address the existing safety concerns.

Over the next few months, the city and MnDOT will work to evaluate these options and determine the best course of action to proceed. An opportunity may exist to incorporate the feature(s) as part of the upcoming improvement project, depending upon scope and budget. MnDOT's options are posted on the city's website and individuals interested in providing input are encouraged to contact City Hall or email office@ci.bayport.mn.us.



Coming Soon: Phase II Lakeside Park Playground!



Phase II of the Lakeside Park playground is slated for installation this spring! This final phase consists of three freestanding play structures, aimed at complementing the new multi-tiered platform system installed last fall. Features include a geometric net climbing structure, oscillating motion swing, and a rope suspension bridge. Thanks to all who participated in the open house on January 21 and provided input on these exciting new features!

What Should I Know About Snowplowing?

Can I park on the street in the winter?

On-street parking is allowed year-round, provided vehicles are not parked for more than 24 hours and are removed from the street after a 2 inch snowfall, until the street has been plowed curb to curb. Also, vehicles shall not be parked in areas that have not been plowed. Violators may be ticketed or towed.



What happens if my property is damaged by a city snowplow?

Mailboxes and grass are the only structures allowed to be placed in the right-of-way, and if impacted by snowplow activity, they will be repaired in spring, as weather permits. The city is not responsible for damage to other structures placed in the right-of-way, such as landscaping features, rocks, planters, mulch, sprinklers, etc.

Why is so important to stay alert and give way to snowplows?

Snowplows have an important job to do, to keep our streets safe and maneuverable. Always be on the lookout for plowing activity and use caution when approaching snow clouds or piles created by plows. Most importantly, be sure to give plow drivers plenty of room to ensure they have adequate visibility – allow at least 5 car lengths between your car and a plow!