



Bayport News

MARCH 2014, ISSUE 25



The Bayport City Council participated in a ribbon cutting event on February 3 to celebrate the new hockey rink system at Perro Park.

The New Hockey Rink at Perro Park is a Hit, Despite the Bitter Cold!

You know true Minnesotans when you see them playing outdoor ice hockey in below zero degree weather, which has not been all that uncommon this winter! Regardless of the cold temperatures, the city is glad to see children and families enjoying the new hockey rink and lighting system at Perro Park. The improvements were made possible with help from a generous grant in the amount of \$97,500.00 from the Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation. Look for additional improvements to other facilities in Perro Park to be completed over the next few years.

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



Despite the bitter cold temperatures the past few months, I am warmed by the fact that our city continues to be fiscally stable and

strong. The City Council and city staff have worked very hard the past few years to reduce expenditures, while maintaining our current level of city services, and undertaking several exciting projects. Amidst numerous challenges, this hard work has paid off and resulted in annual expenditures being under budget for the past three years. In addition, we have managed a \$0 increase to the 2014 property tax levy, which is an accomplishment that benefits the entire community.

In 2014, we will continue to increase community outreach and involvement, reinvest in our parks and infrastructure, expand on cooperative opportunities with surrounding cities, and improve

communication with the public, all while managing a tight budget. Priority projects for the next few months will include pursuing additional improvements to Perro Park, investigating a potential site for a new Fire Hall, and updating city ordinances and enforcement policies. We will also be monitoring river elevations and flood predictions, so the city may assist residents with flood preparation efforts this spring, if necessary.

It has definitely been a long, tough winter, and like most, I am also ready for warmer temperatures and less snow! As nicer weather approaches, I look forward to seeing more of you out and about in the community and interacting with fellow citizens.

Bayport in Bloom Front Entry Garden Design Contest and Workshop

To help inspire participants for the Bayport in Bloom front entry garden contest, a free workshop entitled: *A Beginner's Guide to a Beautiful Front Entry*



will be held on April 5 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Bayport Library. The workshop will include a variety of displays and presentations on garden design principles.

Be sure to visit the city's website for more information on both the workshop in April and the contest in July. Thanks to the Washington County Master Gardeners for organizing these events!

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Community Programs and Events

9th Annual Citywide Garage Sale

The annual citywide garage sale will be held on Friday, June 6, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 7, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Residents interested in participating may contact City Hall or email khuftel@ci.bayport.mn.us.



Boat Trailer Parking Permits Available April 15



Residents may purchase annual boat trailer parking permits beginning April 15 at City Hall. The permit allows parking in designated areas at Andersen Corporation and Lakeside Park from May 1 to September 30.

Permits are \$25.00 each and a valid driver's license must be presented at the time of purchase. The 4th Avenue North boat launch boarding dock is anticipated to be installed in early May, depending on river conditions and may be used for temporary loading and unloading of watercraft and passengers, for up to 20 minutes.

Celebrate Memorial Day at the Parade

Organized by the community, this event commemorates U.S. men and women who lost their lives while serving in the military. The parade will be held on Monday, May 26 at 8:30 a.m. and begins on Highway 95, between Central Avenue and 1st Avenue North and proceeds north through the city to the cemetery.



Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Barker's Alps Park



Don't miss the egg hunt on Saturday, April 19, beginning promptly at 10:00 a.m. Organized by the Bayport Community Action League, this event is geared toward elementary school children, who hunt for prizes throughout the park. The event will be held rain, snow, or shine, so be sure to dress your family appropriately for the weather and bring a basket for your goodies!

Planting for Clean Water Garden Workshops Coming Soon!

The Washington Conservation District is sponsoring a series of free workshops to teach homeowners how to add beauty to their yards using native plants and raingardens. Landscape designers will be available to help with garden design and offer resource information on where to purchase plants and materials for your project. For more information or to register, contact Angie Hong at 651-275-1136 ext. 35 or angie.hong@mnwcd.org. Workshops will be held at the Bayport Library, as follows:



Part 1 - Get Inspired!	April 24	6:00-7:30 p.m.
Part 2 - Start Designing!	April 29	6:00-8:00 p.m.
Part 3 - Ready, Set, Plant!	May 1	6:00-8:00 p.m.

Strengthen Your Connection with the City via Email Updates

The city strives to communicate up-to-date information to residents in several ways, to enhance the quality of life in our community. In addition to the city newsletter and website, the city also offers residents the opportunity to subscribe to our city email notices, which provide brief, periodic announcements for city related emergencies, projects, activities, news, and events. To sign up, visit the city website homepage and click on "Email Notices."

Resident Reminder: Stay Cozy, But Safe Around Recreational Fires

Recreational fires are a great way to enjoy the outdoors. However, burning bans and the regulations below must be observed at all times, to prevent safety hazards and nuisance complaints:



- Fire is contained in a pit less than 30" in diameter and height
- Fire is 10' from property lines and 15' from structures
- Fire is attended by an adult, with water or extinguisher nearby
- Fire burns no more than 4 hours, 5:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.
- Fire is conducted when winds are less than 15 m.p.h.
- Fire is not used to burn yard waste, garbage, household debris

New Ordinance Limits On-street Parking to 24 Consecutive Hours

Unlike many neighboring communities, Bayport does not have snow emergency, seasonal, and/or overnight parking restrictions, which can make it difficult to make repairs and maintain our city streets in good condition. In an effort to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of snowplowing and street sweeping activities, the city recently revised its on-street parking ordinance. The revised ordinance now prohibits vehicles from being parked on the street for more than 24 consecutive hours.



This ordinance will not only provide an opportunity for city crews to prevent excess accumulation of snow and ice, but also yard waste debris, which can result in unsafe conditions for children and pedestrians, as well as motorists and city crews. This ordinance will

also help the Police Department identify abandoned and/or inoperable vehicles, which will eliminate nuisances and improve the overall appearance of our neighborhoods. The city understands that many properties may not have adequate off-street parking spaces to accommodate all vehicles in their household and regularly use the street for supplemental parking. Please know that the city will make several attempts to contact or make arrangements with vehicle owners who are found to be in violation and educate them on the new regulations before resorting to ticketing or towing.



Your cooperation is crucial to keeping our streets clean and safe. Please be proactive by helping to educate neighbors on these new regulations, as well as making sure vehicles are removed from the street after a snowfall of more than 2 inches, until the street has been plowed curb to curb. Together we can make a difference!

Increasing Deer Populations and Artificial Feeding Prompt City to Pursue Enforcement Efforts

You may have noticed an apparent increase in deer populations, particularly on the north side of the city. The influx is most likely due to the recent reduction of deer habitat and natural feeding areas near the site of the new St. Croix River bridge. However, many city residents are still supplying artificial food sources for deer, attracting them into our neighborhoods and encouraging feeding on other food sources, such as flowers, trees, and gardens, which has led to many upset property owners.



Although it may be entertaining to watch deer in your backyard, artificial feeding has many negative effects in residential areas and is not necessary for a deer's survival. By educating residents about the negative effects of deer feeding, we hope to manage the population, without pursuing other control measures. However, the city may be forced to prohibit deer feeding and/or resort to mitigation efforts if deer continue to be a problem.



CITY OF BAYPORT
294 North Third Street
Bayport, MN 55003

CITY HALL

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

PUBLIC WORKS

Hours: Mon.-Fri., 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Phone: 651-275-4410

UTILITY, FIRE, POLICE EMERGENCY

Phone: 911

City offices will be closed to observe the following upcoming holidays in 2014:

Memorial Day May 26
Labor Day September 1
Veteran's Day November 11
Thanksgiving Day November 27
Christmas Eve Day December 24
Christmas Day December 25
New Year's Eve Day December 31

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

First Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. unless noted.

April 7	July 7	October 6
May 5	August 4	November 10
June 2	September 8	December 1

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

Third Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

LIBRARY BOARD MEETINGS

Third Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m.



CITY OF BAYPORT
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Spring Flood Update

Despite the abundance of snow this winter, the National Weather Service is predicting normal elevations for the St. Croix River through mid May.



However, please be advised that this forecast is only preliminary. If you know your property is susceptible to flooding, now is a good time to check with your insurance agent to determine if flood insurance is right for you or to make sure your current flood policy is up to date. Residents may refer to the city's website for updates on potential flooding, flood preparation tips, and access to city floodplain maps.

City Receives Donation for Perro Park Ball Field



The Bayport American Legion Post 491 recently made a \$15,000.00 commitment to the city for improvements to the ball field at Perro Park, which includes new benches, back-stop, and assistance with annual ball field maintenance. This commitment is part of the Legion's mission to give back to the community and was funded by local recreational gaming proceeds. We greatly appreciate the Legion's generosity and look forward to partnering with them on this project!

Spotlight on Potential Site for New Fire Hall

Over the past few months, the city has been investigating potential sites for a new Fire Hall. The desired location has been identified as 4.2 acres at the northwest corner of Stagecoach Trail and 5th Avenue North, on surplus land owned by the Minnesota Correctional Facility. This parcel provides a central location for emergency vehicles to access all of the communities served by the department, which will not only reduce response time, but will also reduce fire insurance costs to many property owners in the area.

Acquisition of this parcel is being coordinated with the state, which requires the parcel be purchased at fair market value. However, the city has also been working with Representative Kathy Lohmer and Senator Karin Housley to author legislation that would allow the state to transfer the land to the city at a reduced or no cost. Updates will be provided in the coming months as this process moves forward.

Know How to Contact the City Before It's Too Late!

Have you ever needed to contact the city about a sewer back-up, snowplowing concern, water issue, or nuisance, but it's after regular business hours? Far too often, the city hears about incidents after they happen, making it difficult to promptly address issues before further damage or danger occurs. For example, some residents recently experienced frozen water lines, but didn't contact the city until hours or days after the conditions occurred, because they didn't know who to call.



Residents should know that the city is always accessible, especially for utility issues and public safety emergencies. However, residents should also know that the best way to contact personnel is through the city's Police Department, which operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, by calling 911.

The 911 call system not only is equipped to handle severe emergencies, they also have dispatchers ready to handle not so extreme, but important issues, and are happy to route calls to the city for assistance. This is the most timely and effective way to get in touch with city personnel to address resident concerns, so please don't hesitate to use this service. The city has also updated its website, telephone message, and this newsletter to better inform residents on city department contact information and business hours. We hope this helps improve our communication and accessibility!