



Bayport News

OCTOBER 2017, ISSUE 38



Enter to Win the “Focus on Bayport” Photo Contest!

We are looking for residents of all ages and abilities to give us their best shot in the annual city photo contest! Whether your



image was caught on a cell phone, 35mm or Polaroid, we want your pics to showcase the spirit of our community! Qualifying entries must feature a city resident, animal, place, or object captured in Bayport. New for 2017, entries will be accepted in digital format in addition to print, and prizes will be awarded for first place in each category. Visit the city’s website or City Hall for complete contest details. Entries must be received by December 20.

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



Over the past several months, city staff and the City Council have been working diligently to prepare the city’s annual budget for the upcoming year.

The City Council met in several workshops to discuss city priorities for 2018 and adopted a preliminary budget and tax levy on September 11.

Through responsible and careful financial management, the city will continue to provide quality city services in the year ahead, such as around the clock police and fire coverage by our city departments, which are assets valued by the community. We will also continue ongoing initiatives and special projects, including upgrades to city parks, planning for major capital expenditures, and reinvestment in our street and utility infrastructure.

Thanks to conscientious efforts by city officials, we have been fortunate to operate under a conservative budget over the past several years, with minimal increases to the

tax levy. However, I would be remiss if I didn’t acknowledge how much the generous support of foundations, grants, and donations help to offset not only operating costs, but also make community events, beautification efforts, and special projects possible.

We are also very privileged to have many volunteers who contribute their time and talent to enhance city services and programs. Whether it’s supporting library programs, maintaining landscaping on city grounds, coordinating special events, or assisting public safety departments, your hard work and enthusiasm really make a difference!

I continue to be very proud of the city’s accomplishments and appreciate the dedication put forth by staff and fellow councilmembers. I look forward to 2018 as being another successful year filled with great achievements!

New Construction Leads to Increased City Tax Base



New construction in Bayport is estimated to be valued at \$5,261,000 for the year, which is an increase of 305%. A total of

21 building permits for new homes have been issued since last September, which is a major contributor to this increase. Overall, the taxable market value for residential and commercial properties is estimated at \$269,748,400 for 2018, which is an increase of \$30,141,600. The median home value is also estimated to increase to \$210,000 in 2018. What does this mean for taxpayers? The benefit of this increase in value and growth is that the property tax levy is distributed across a greater number of properties, which decreases the tax

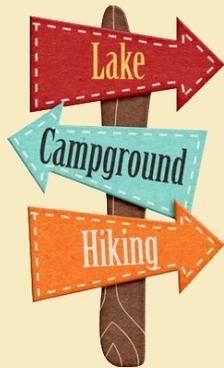
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Community Programs and Events

Free Tuesdays at Washington County Parks



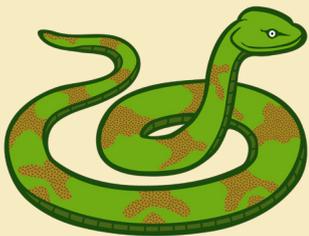
Did you know that on the first Tuesday of each month (non-holiday), you can visit any Washington County park for free without an annual vehicle permit? This program offers a great opportunity to explore a new destination, recreation facility, or outdoor activity. Remaining Free Tuesdays in 2017 are November 7 and December 5.

Code RED Emergency Notification System

Code RED is a mass automated notification system, designed to alert subscribers of emergencies via telephone and/or text message. Severe weather, utility outages, missing persons, gas leaks, and other life safety matters are examples of when the system may be utilized. To sign up, visit the Washington County website.



Fun Fall Bayport Library Programs



October 14-Snake Discovery!

Join us at 1 p.m. to slither into the world of reptiles by touching, holding, and even feeding some scaly critters! Get an up-close look at these creatures and learn what makes them unique!

October 31-Spooky Basement!

Go underground at the library this Halloween from 4-6 p.m. Spooks, tricks, and treats await those who dare!

Fire Prevention and Public Safety Events

October 14-Fire Prevention Week!

Celebrate Fire Prevention Week (October 8-14) at the Fire Department open house event from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Check out the latest equipment and vehicles, and stay for the demonstrations and light refreshments!



October 31-Tricks and Treats!

Be sure to stop by City Hall to show off your costume to Police, Fire, and Public Safety personnel on Halloween from 5-7 p.m. Goodies are in store for ghosts and goblins galore!

Proper Address Numbers Can Save a Life!

Whether it's a police, fire, or medical emergency, proper display of address numbers helps responders arrive as quickly as possible. Numbers should be at least 3 inches in height, affixed to residential homes, commercial buildings, and garages clearly visible when approaching from a street or alley, in both directions. City public safety personnel have noticed that many properties do not have an adequate address posted and will be issuing door hanger "reminders" to these properties over the next several weeks. Please do your part to keep your family safe. Make sure we know your number!



Radio Read Water Meters Coming Soon



To increase efficiency, the city will be installing a new mechanism on all existing water meters beginning October 15. The device will allow meter reads to be transmitted to the city via a radio system, which will replace the current practice of Public Works staff manually reading each individual meter. The city has contracted with Midwest Test-

ing to complete the installation. All service employees will be in uniforms and vehicles clearly marked with the company name. Properties will receive notification by mail or door hanger regarding a time frame for installation. However, most owners/occupants will not need to be present, as work can be done from the exterior of the property. Thank you in advance for your cooperation to complete this important project!

Meet New Police Officer Larry Cornell

Before being appointed as a part-time Police Officer, Larry volunteered as a city Reserve Officer for 1.5 years. He also works for Washington County as a Seasonal Deputy Sheriff in Water, Parks, and Trails and is a Lieutenant on the Lake Elmo Fire Department. Larry will assist with general patrol, law enforcement, and community policing activities/events. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology with an emphasis in Criminal Justice from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. In his free time, Larry enjoys wood working, snowboarding, horseback riding, and fishing. He currently resides in Stillwater. Welcome Larry!



The New St. Croix Crossing Bridge by the Numbers

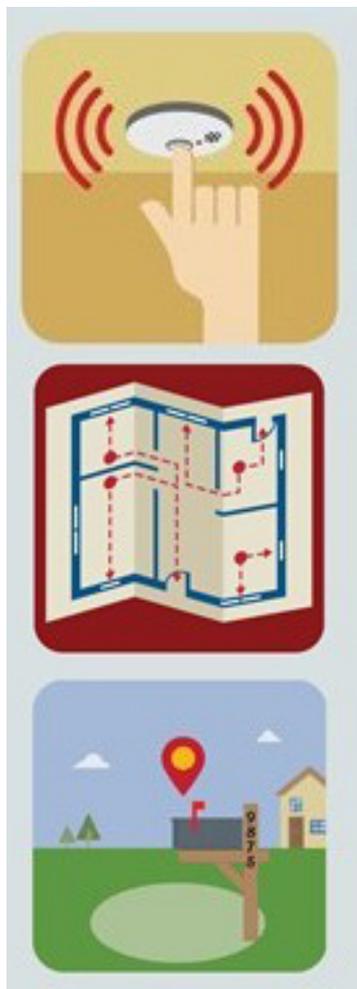
The St. Croix Crossing opened on August 2, replacing the lift bridge in downtown Stillwater, which is now in the process of being converted into a bicycle and pedestrian facility. The bridge project officially began in 2012, but has been a popular topic of discussion in the St. Croix Valley for decades. So, how well do you know the new bridge?



- Height of deck from river: 110-150 feet
- Length: Nearly 1 mile
- Height of towers above deck: About 65 feet
- Width: About 100 feet
- Distance between pier locations: 600 feet
- Pier columns in river: 10
- Concrete material: 563.8 million pounds
- Steel material: 42.3 million pounds
- Length of visible stay cables: 5.2 miles
- Paint material: 22,000 gallons
- Weight of pre-cast deck segment: 180 tons
- Pre-cast deck segments: 988

Every Second Counts: Always Plan for a Way Out!

October is Fire Prevention Month and this year's theme is to plan for and practice a household escape plan in the event of a fire. Once a smoke alarm sounds, you could have less than two minutes to get out safely. Follow the tips below to alert your family of a potential fire and prepare a timely and safe evacuation!



TEST SMOKE AND CO ALARMS!

Make a point to test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms each month. These alarms are your best alert for early smoke and fire detection.

PLAN AND PRACTICE THE DRILL!

Draw a floor plan for all levels of your home and review it annually with family members. Make sure to locate all doors and windows and maintain accessibility to these exits at all times.

The best way to remember your escape plan is to practice it! Use the buddy system to make sure young children, elderly, and/or disabled residents have the help they need to escape quickly and safely.

IDENTIFY A SAFE MEETING PLACE!

Be sure your escape plan includes a safe place outside and away from the home for the family to meet. The meeting place should be highly visible and easy to remember, such as a large tree, mailbox, swing set, etc.



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.
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

November 6 December 4
Meetings held at City Hall, 6:00 p.m.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fire Dept. Open House	October 14
Library Snake Discovery	October 14
City Halloween Events	October 31
County Park Free Tuesday	November 7
County Park Free Tuesday	December 5
Lighting of Village Green	December 6
Photo Contest Deadline	December 20

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS (OBSERVED)

Thanksgiving Holiday	November 23
Christmas Eve Holiday	December 25
Christmas Day Holiday	December 26



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Increased City Tax Base

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levy burden for most taxpayers. The city will soon be finalizing the operating budget and levy for 2018. The increased tax base will not only help continue to fund quality city services property owners

have come to expect and enjoy, but also fund new and special projects. Look for an update on the adopted budget and levy in the next edition of the city newsletter.

Keep It Out of the Street!

It's that time of year when it is really important to keep our streets, alleys, and sidewalks clear of unnecessary



materials! Accumulation of yard waste and snow, as well as refuse carts left at the curb, not only interfere with street sweeping and snowplowing, they also impede maneuverability and visibility for motorists and pedestrians. By taking a little extra time and care, you can make a positive impact and improve the safety and appearance of our city!

- Yard waste is not allowed to be blown or accumulate on any right-of-way
- Snow 2" or more and ice must be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours
- Refuse carts must be removed from the curb by 10 p.m. the day of collection

New Playground Debuts at Barker's Alps Park!



Installation of the new playground equipment is complete! Features include a multi-tiered platform system with slides, overhead horizontal climbing bars, vertical linking ring climbing bars, standing twist swing, and sliding poles. Freestanding play

items include a carousel, see-saw, rock and ride orbit spinner, and swings. The sand playground surface will be replaced with engineered wood fiber mulch, contained by a new composite barrier curb. This project was part of the city's capital improvement plan (CIP) for 2017. Look for additional park CIP projects to be implemented over the next 5 years.

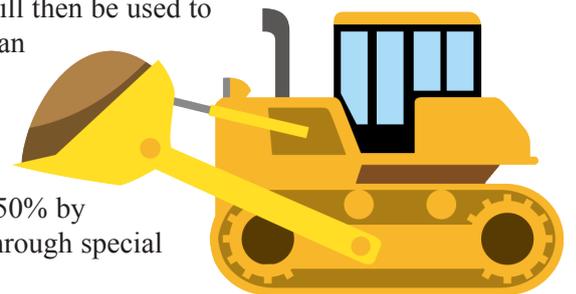
What Should I Know About Infrastructure Projects?

How are projects identified and selected?

The city is in the process of completing an analysis of current city infrastructure, including storm sewer, sanitary sewer, and water mains, roads, sidewalks, and fire hydrants. Each component will be studied in depth and rated for condition. This information will then be used to develop an implementation plan for the next 10 years.

How are projects funded?

Most infrastructure projects are split 50% by the city and 50% by benefitting property owners through special assessments.



Why is maintenance and replacement so important?

It is critical to keep infrastructure safe, but also in good working order. Fortunately, regular maintenance like hydrant flushing, sewer jetting, and street sealcoating has allowed the city to prolong the use of most infrastructure well beyond its life expectancy (in some cases 30-75 years), postponing the need for complete replacement. Thanks to these efforts, the average property owner will not likely experience more than one infrastructure replacement project in their neighborhood during their residency.