



Bayport News

SEPTEMBER 2011, ISSUE 16

City Sends a BIG Thanks to Bayport News Donors!

Thanks to local businesses and organizations, the city is excited and proud to bring you this edition of *Bayport News*! We couldn't have done it without the generous donations from Cummins Law Office, \$50.00; Bayport Marina, \$100.00; Bayport BBQ, \$250.00; Andersen Corporation, \$250.00; and Bayport CommunityAction League, \$250.00.

These donations exemplify how coming together as a community can make great things happen! We appreciate the support and look forward to continuing our efforts to enhance communication within the city! For information on how you can help make a difference, please contact City Hall.



Photo by Patti Alt

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

With the 2012 budgeting season well underway, City Council and staff continue to focus on critical services, essential maintenance, and key enhancements to support the goals of the community. We are working together to further improve efficiencies and strengthen our long term financial position, while maintaining critical services and amenities that make Bayport a wonderful place to live and work.

What do you love about this area? What do you believe needs to be improved or changed? What businesses, services, or community amenities would you like to have available? We encourage and welcome your input at a town hall meeting or on the symposium website at www.communitysymposium.com

The city is rich in tradition and has a strong sense of community, and we are all responsible for its future. Change is inevitable, but as we grow and how we grow will depend on us. For more information on the Community Symposium initiative and meeting schedule, please visit the city's website or contact City Hall.



To ensure that our community continues to reflect the qualities we value, the city is participating in a Community Symposium, sponsored by the Greater Stillwater Chamber of Commerce. The goal of the symposium is to bring residents, businesses, and community organizations together, to increase the quality of life in Bayport and the surrounding area.

Park Vandalism Prompts City Crime Watch Efforts

Recently, city parks have been victim to more than 20 acts of vandalism. These acts have resulted in many broken sinks, toilets, and windows and defacing of signage, buildings and general park property.

To help prevent further vandalism, the city will be installing surveillance cameras in the parks this fall. However, we would appreciate your help in reporting any suspicious activity or acts of vandalism as soon as they are observed by calling 911. The police department will also be hosting a series of crime watch events where residents can learn more about recent crime activity and tips on how to prevent crime in the community. Please contact City Hall for dates and times of these events.

Please know that the city takes pride in its parks and has worked very hard over the last few years to improve amenities and buildings for residents to enjoy. We hope you will help the city with its crime prevention efforts!

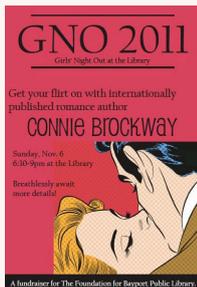
In This Issue

- Community Events.....2
- Deer Feeding3
- School District Election4

Community Programs and Events

Girl's Night Out at the Library

The Foundation for Bayport Public Library is proud to announce that this year's fundraiser will feature local romance author Connie Brockway. Connie has written seventeen full-length novels and four anthology stories.



The event will be held on Sunday, November 6, 2011 from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. at the library. Proceeds will go toward enhancing the library's resources and services. For more information, please contact 651-275-4416.

Fall in to the Farmer's Market

Be sure to visit the market to stock up on hearty fall vegetables and fresh goods, direct from local vendors. The market is held at Perro Park on Monday afternoons and evenings and will continue through October, weather dependent. For more information and recipes, visit www.bayportfarmersmarket.com

Save the Date – Holiday at the Village Green



Mark your calendar for December 7, 2011 to celebrate the arrival of the holiday season in Bayport! Scheduled events include lighting of the trees at Village Green Park, a bonfire, caroling, and a visit from Santa Claus.

Annual Derby Days Celebration

Food, fun, fireworks, oh my! Join us on Saturday, September 17, 2011 as the Bayport Community Action League sponsors a variety of events, which are posted on the city's website. Tickets are available at local businesses throughout Bayport.

Fire Department Open House

Tricks, treats, and fire prevention tips await you and your family at the department's annual open house! Please join us on Monday, October 31, 2011 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Firefighters will be on hand to answer questions, as well as give tours of the fire station and trucks. Be there, if you dare!



City Receives Grant to Upgrade Fluoride Equipment for Water System

The city was successful in obtaining a \$3,252.80 grant from the Minnesota Department of Health to replace and upgrade some of the city's existing fluoride processing equipment. While the proper amount of fluoride control helps to prevent tooth decay, the regulations to comply with both the federal and state fluoride standards require at least daily monitoring of the city's fluoride levels.

The grant will be used to replace old and outdated monitoring equipment, as well as purchase new processing equipment. The city is very excited to be among only a few communities in the state to be awarded this grant!

House Numbers Save Lives!

Whether it may be a police, fire, or medical emergency, proper display of house numbers will help ensure that emergency responders arrive at your home as quickly as possible to assist you and/or your family. The Police Department has noticed that several residential properties do not have house numbers displayed on their home and/or garage facing the alley.



To make sure your house numbers are visible for emergency responders, please make sure they comply with the following:

- Affixed to the house or on a post facing the street
- Made of metal, plastic, or other weather resistant material
- At least 3 inches in height
- A color that contrasts with the house
- Clearly visible from the street and alley

Utility Bills: Pay Early and Save Later

Property owners that have city water and/or sewer are billed for their usage on a quarterly basis throughout the year. Bills are mailed in the form of a postcard at the end of March, June, September, and December, with payment due approximately two weeks after the billing.

Recently, the city has been receiving numerous payments after the due date. To avoid having late charges added to your account, make sure to mail or drop off your utility bill payment so it is received at City Hall by the billing due date. Please note that payments received after the due date will be subject to a \$5.00 late fee.

Are you behind on payments or unable to pay your account in full by the due date? Please contact City Hall to make payment arrangements so we can help you get back on track!

Deer Feeding in the City: Hurting or Helping?



Did you know that supplemental feeding of deer actually compromises a deer's ability to live in the wild? Even though it may appear that they need additional food sources to survive, deer are equipped with many physical and behavioral traits that help them adapt to changing weather conditions and food supplies.

When people feed deer, they often interrupt these behaviors and instincts and deter deer from seeking appropriate protection from the elements and natural food sources.

Most people do not realize that deer feeders also encourage overeating and domination amongst deer populations. Stronger deer often chase away younger, older, or weaker deer from the feeder, which often defeats the whole purpose of the feeder.

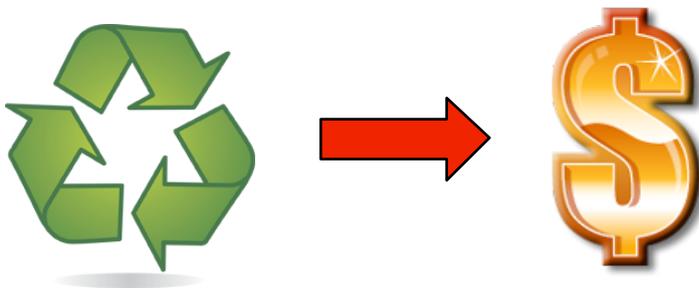
Deer that are artificially fed are also more tame and likely to seek out other food sources in residential areas, such as flowers, trees, shrubs, or gardens, which can lead to many upset property owners. Feeding areas can also create a hazard by luring deer across roadways, increasing the potential for a deer-vehicle collision, injury, or even death.

Although it may be entertaining to watch deer feeding in your backyard, supplying an artificial food source for deer can have many negative effects and is not necessary for their survival. The city appreciates your efforts to protect and manage the deer population in our community!

Recycle, Reduce, and Get Rewarded!

Thanks to Washington County, the city has been fortunate to receive a grant over the past several years to help encourage recycling efforts in the community. A monthly recycling incentive award is funded by this grant. The purpose of the incentive award is to randomly reward a

resident to increase recycling habits and reduce unnecessary waste in the community. In 2011, the city received \$4,132 in recycling grant funds, which not only funded the incentive award, but also helped fund the citywide cleanup day, city newsletter, and purchase recycled paper



resident with \$30.00, who is found to be participating in the city's curbside single-sort recycling program. This incentive has been very successful in encourag-

ing residents to increase recycling habits and reduce unnecessary waste in the community. Keep up the great work and you just may be the next to be rewarded!



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CITY HALL OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

City offices will be closed to observe the following upcoming holidays in 2011:

September 5	Labor Day
November 10	Veteran's Day
November 24	Thanksgiving Day
December 26	Christmas Day

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

September 6	October 3
November 7	December 5

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

September 19	October 17
November 21	December 19

LIBRARY BOARD MEETINGS

September 22	October 27
November 17	December 29

Park Reservations for 2012 Accepted January 1

Planning a reunion, company picnic, wedding shower, or birthday party for next year? Well, look no further than one of our city parks to host your special event!

Lakeside Park has a beach house and four picnic shelters and Barker's Alps Park has one picnic shelter that can be reserved for a minimal fee. Ball fields and game courts are also available for rent on a first come, first served basis.

Rental of park facilities has increased significantly over the past few years. For best availability, we recommend making your reservation as soon as possible, after January 1, 2012, for the upcoming year. For rental reservation forms, fees, and general park information, please visit the city's website or contact City Hall.

Library Fundraiser was a Great Success!

The Foundation for Bayport Public Library (FBPL) would like to thank the community for supporting their recent Pillars & Pages campaign, which raised over \$30,000 and secured an additional \$15,000 from the Katherine B. Andersen Fund of the St. Paul Foundation. The donations will be put into the endowment fund to help secure the future of the library. FBPL greatly appreciates the community's generosity and commitment to the library!



School District Election to be Held November 8

A general election will be held on November 8, 2011 for residents to vote on matters related to Stillwater Area Public School District 834. The purpose of the election is to seek additional funding from the community for the district.



The designated polling place for Bayport residents is City Hall. Polls will be open for voting from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

New voter registration applications can be found on the city's website. For more information, please contact the district office at (651) 351-8340 or visit www.stillwater.k12.mn.us

Resident Reminders: Back to School Safety Tips!

Watch your speed!

Promote safe streets throughout the community by obeying posted speed limits, especially in residential areas and school zones.

Yield to pedestrians!

Please be aware of crosswalks and areas where vehicles may be loading or unloading passengers, especially near a school zone, day care center, or bus stop. Pedestrians are encouraged to use the orange crossing flags posted at various crosswalks along Highway 95.

Lock it up and put a name on it!

Be sure to lock up bikes, recreational equipment, and belongings and do not leave these items unattended. Also, clearly label valuables with a name, address, and/or telephone number, in case they are misplaced or stolen, so they can be returned to the proper owner.



Spotlight on City Tax Levy and Property Taxes

The tax levy is the amount of money the city needs to collect from property owners, in order to fund the city's day-to-day operations. The city collects this money from property owners on an annual basis, as part of their property taxes.

Property owners should know that many other factors, which are beyond the control of the city, may contribute to an increase or decrease in their total property tax bill. Some of these factors include changes to state tax classification rates, property values, and taxes implemented by other entities. In Bayport, property owners are subject to

taxes mandated by the Stillwater Area Public School District, Washington County, Middle St. Croix Watershed District, Metropolitan Council, and others, which can all affect whether property taxes increase or decrease.

As you know, the city has made an effort to reduce expenditures and increase revenues over the past few years, without having a significant impact to services or property owners, and we intend to continue these efforts. This includes maintaining the city's tax levy at a relatively flat rate for 2012. For more information on this topic, please visit the city's website.

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