



Bayport News

OCTOBER 2012, ISSUE 20



Fire safety is just one of the many topics covered at Safety Camp for local youth, which is organized by the Police Department, with help from local sponsors.

Thanks to Safety Camp and Night to Unite Sponsors!

Many thanks to residents, volunteers, and businesses for their donations and sponsorship for these two events, which were held in August. A total of 70 youth attended Safety Camp and enjoyed the “hands on” approach to learning various safety tips. Night to Unite was also a success, bringing together local businesses, community groups, residents, and city staff.

These events would not have been possible without generous donations, which were estimated at \$4,100.00. Your kindness is much appreciated!

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

Volunteering is a rewarding experience and a great way to make a difference in the community. The local volunteer organization, Bayport Community Action League (BCAL), organizes and funds several special events in the city throughout the year, such as Derby Days and the Farmer’s Market, which truly strengthen connections within the community and enhance the quality of life in Bayport. In addition to the efforts of the BCAL, sponsorship and generous donations from local businesses help to not only support these special events, but also make city sponsored activities such as Night to Unite and Safety Camp for local youth possible, which are truly valued and appreciated by the community.

Volunteering to serve on a citizen advisory commission is another great way to get involved and give back to the community. The city is currently seeking residents to serve on the Planning Commission and Cable Commission, which participate in civic engagement and serve

in a liaison capacity to the City Council. The city also has volunteer opportunities within the Police Department to serve as a reserve officer and within the Public Works Department to participate in the city’s adopt-a-park program or assist with annual planting/landscaping.

Coming together as a community can make great things happen! Whether it’s volunteering for a community event or serving in local government, you can make a difference! For more information on how you can get involved, please contact City Hall. We look forward to working with you!

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General Election to be Held November 6



A general election will be held on November 6, 2012. The ballot includes federal, state, county, city, school district, and judicial offices, as well as two constitutional amendments. Bayport incumbents Mayor Susan St. Ores and Councilmembers Dan Goldston and Connie Carlson are running unopposed and seeking re-election for another term.

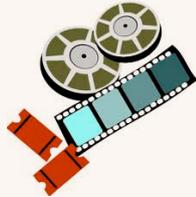
The designated polling place for all Bayport residents to vote is City Hall. Polls will be open for voting from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Residents unable to vote on election day may vote in advance by absentee ballot in person at the Washington County Government Center in Stillwater or by mail. For absentee ballot applications, voter registration applications, and sample ballot information, visit the city’s website or contact City Hall.

Community Programs and Events

It's Movie Time at the Library!

Be sure to contact the library for more information regarding these movies and other events. We hope you can join us!



A Night of Hitchcock

“Psycho” October 29 at 6:30 p.m.

Family Movie Time

“Hocus Pocus” October 25 at 1:30 p.m.

Public Safety Open House



October is fire prevention month and to celebrate, the Fire and Police Departments are hosting a public safety open house on Wednesday, October 31 from 5 – 8 p.m. at the Fire Hall. Tours of the city’s emergency vehicles, resource materials, and treats will be provided by city public safety staff. Be there, if you dare!

City Street Signs For Sale

The city is in the process of replacing its street name signs in order to comply with federal visibility regulations.



The old street signs are available in limited quantities for purchase on a first come, first-served basis. The signs are \$25.00 each, payable with cash or a check to “City of Bayport.” For a list of street signs, please visit the city’s website or contact City Hall.

Credit and Online Payment Program for Utility Bills



Do you seem to misplace your utility bill or forget to make your payment on time? In an effort to better serve our customers, the city now accepts credit or debit cards and auto pay through a bank account for utility bills. You can also sign up to view your account online and receive bills via email. Customers should be advised that a \$2.99 fee does apply

to online and telephone payments. However, this program may help you stay on track and avoid a \$5.00 late fee for payments made after the due date. Visit the city’s website for more information.

What's Your Number?

Proper display of address numbers helps emergency responders arrive at your home or business as quickly as possible, to provide assistance in a police, fire, or medical emergency. Recently, public safety staff has noticed that several properties do not have address numbers posted on their house, garage, or business facing the street or alley. To be sure they are visible for emergency responders, address numbers should:



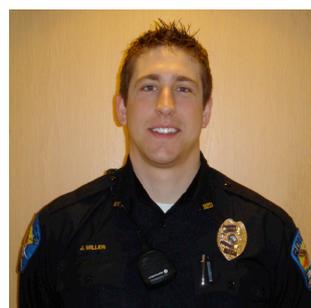
- Be posted on house, garage, building, or monument facing both the street and alley
- Consist of metal, plastic, or weather resistant material
- Contrast with house or building paint color
- Be larger than 3 inches in height

Priority Park Reservations for Residents Accepted January 1 - 15

In an effort to give priority to residents wishing to rent park facilities for the upcoming year, the City Council has adopted a new policy. The policy will give residents the opportunity to reserve a facility beginning January 1 through January 15 of each calendar year, before accepting reservations from non-residents.

As you may know, the popularity and use of our city parks has increased significantly over the past few years. As such, we encourage residents to take advantage of this opportunity to plan ahead and reserve early! Reservation forms, fees, and regulations are available on the city’s website or at City Hall.

Meet New Police Officer John Miller



John Miller was promoted to full-time Police Officer on April 1, 2012, after serving with the Police Department on a part-time basis and as a volunteer reserve. John is replacing the position previously held by Officer Dave Wynia. In addition to general night patrol and law enforcement, John is responsible for coordinating defensive tactics and the volunteer police reserve officer program.

John has a degree in criminal justice from Vermilion Community College and has been involved in law enforcement for two years. Born and raised in Scandia, MN, John enjoys hockey, hunting, fishing and spending time at his family cabin. Be sure to welcome John aboard when you see him in your neighborhood!

Resident Reminders: Fall Tree Trimming and Yard Waste Disposal

Tree trimming is very important, as it removes dead and low hanging branches, encourages balanced, upright growth and helps prevent power outages. Property owners are responsible for trimming trees on their property and along power lines that run from a utility pole



over their property, to a private building. The city works with Xcel Energy to trim trees on most public property, boulevards, and rights-of-way.

Please remember to use extreme caution when performing any tree trimming, but especially near power lines. Also, never allow a ladder or other equipment to touch a power line or try to remove dead limbs or branches away from power lines. If you need assistance with tree trimming on private property, be sure to call a professional contractor (a list of city-licensed contractors is available at City Hall).

To report an apparent diseased tree or a tree in need of trimming within a boulevard or on public property, contact City Hall. If you encounter a downed power line, immediately call 911.

Once trimmed, please gather tree branches and leaves from your property and the street, and dispose of them properly. Contact the city's waste hauler, Allied Waste, for fees or to arrange for curbside pickup. Yard waste materials can also be dropped off at many local recycling sites listed on the Washington County website at www.co.washington.mn.us

Update on 2013 City Budget and Tax Levy

On September 3, 2012 the City Council adopted a preliminary levy increase of 2.15% over last year, to fund the operations of the city and its departments. What does this mean to the average residential taxpayer in the city? For property owners with an estimated home market value of \$250,000 or less, projections indicate a slight decrease in city taxes over last year. However, please note that many other factors, which are beyond the control of the city, may ultimately increase or decrease a property owner's total tax bill, including changes to state tax classification rates, property values, and taxes implemented by other entities.

Over the past few years, the city has made an effort to reduce expenditures and

increase revenues, without having a significant impact to services or property owners, and we intend to continue these efforts. The final budget and levy will be discussed at the December 3, 2012 City Council meeting, at which time the City Council may consider further reductions to the levy, before final adoption. For more information on this topic, please visit the city's website.



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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 2012:

November 12.....Veteran's Day
November 22.....Thanksgiving Day
December 24.....Christmas Eve Day
December 25.....Christmas Day

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. unless noted.

November 13 December 3

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

Meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. unless noted.

November 19 December 17

LIBRARY BOARD MEETINGS

Meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. unless noted.

October 25 November 29
December 27

CITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Farmer's Market July – October
Halloween and Public
Safety Open House October 31
General Election November 6
Holiday at Village Green ... December 5

Are You Testing for Fire Safety?

Smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors save lives. But remember, proper installation and maintenance is necessary! Be sure your home is properly equipped with smoke and CO detectors to ensure early detection. Also, test and check batteries in these devices once per month. Just a few easy steps can help save you and your family, so make testing part of your routine!

Photo Contest Captures the Best of our City!

Congratulations to the winners of the first annual "Focus on Bayport" photo contest! Images were judged anonymously by the City Council and Patti Alt, a local professional photographer.



"Inspiration Newborns"
by Don Hoye



"NJ Cafe"
by Becki Haviland

Thanks to the residents of all ages who participated. We look forward to continuing this contest annually and showcasing the talent of our residents!



"Derby Days Fireworks"
by Grace Zimmer



"Dew on Spider Web"
by Grace Zimmer

So grab your camera and capture your favorite image of our city!

Mark Swenson Appointed as New Fire Chief

Mark Swenson was promoted to Fire Chief on August 6, 2012. Mark has been a member of the Fire Department for over 23 years and has held a variety of positions including captain, engineer, and relief association treasurer. As Fire Chief, Mark will be responsible for the budget, recruiting and retaining staff, equipment replacement/ maintenance, and representing the department at city/community meetings.



Mark resides in Oak Park Heights and works as a Value Stream Supervisor at Andersen Corporation. In his free time, he enjoys yard work and fishing. We are excited to have Mark on staff and

appreciate his willingness to serve in this capacity. Also, many thanks to Mike Bell for his excellent service the past 8 years as Fire Chief and 22 years on the department.

Spotlight on the City's Fire Department

The Bayport Fire Department is almost 150 years old and has always been a leader in fire service. The department consists of a Fire Chief, two Assistant Chiefs, four Captains, and nineteen fire fighters.

In addition to Bayport, the department also serves the communities of Oak Park Heights, Baytown, and West Lakeland. The service area encompasses approximately 26 square miles of territory, and includes several large facilities, such as two state prisons, Andersen Corporation, Xcel Energy King Plant, and Boutwells Landing.

The call volume for the Fire Department has increased significantly over the past

few years, receiving close to 1,000 calls for service annually. The most common fire calls and medical emergencies often involve difficulty breathing (heart attack or stroke) and vehicular accidents. In addition to responding to service calls, the department also hosts several open house events and visits day care and senior centers to help educate the public on the importance of fire safety.

The membership has a very high level of professionalism and is dedicated to providing exceptional service to our residents. If you are interested in serving on the Fire Department, please visit the city's website or contact City Hall.

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