



# Bayport *brief*

Winter 2020-2021

## The *mayor's minute*



Thank you, Bayport citizens, for your strong support re-electing me as your Mayor. I am truly honored and remain committed to serving you. I would also like to congratulate Councilmember Connie Carlson on her re-election and welcome new Councilmember elect Ethan Gilmore.

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The uncertainty of 2020 challenged us all with significant impacts to commerce, education, and family. Given these difficulties, I would like to recognize the innovation, adaptability, and resilience shown throughout our community. Your efforts truly reflect the qualities of Bayport.

With two vaccinations in distribution and at least three more in final clinical trials, we can be hopeful and optimistic for 2021. As we move through this transition, please continue to support one another and our businesses. Many are still encountering hardships and will benefit from your patronage, and the much-needed volunteer work. Best wishes to all for a healthy and happy 2021!

## *what's new?* Expanded Hours for Recreation Fires



Recreation fires have become increasingly popular for families seeking close to home, outdoor fun. In response, the city recently expanded recreation fire hours to 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. daily for up to 6 consecutive hours. Please keep in mind fires must be contained to a 36 in. diameter pit with a 24 in. height, and setback 10 ft. from lot lines and 25 ft. from structures. Fires must be attended by an adult 18 years of age at all times and shall consist of only clean, dry wood. Visit the city's website to view the full recreation fire ordinance.

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## *community spotlight:* General Election Results



The Mayor and two City Council seats were elected on November 3. Incumbent Mayor Susan St. Ores and Councilmember Connie Carlson were both re-elected to serve another term. New Councilmember elect Ethan Gilmore will replace John Buckley. Below is a summary of Bayport statistics and results of the election.

Total voters	1,607	Connie Carlson	891
Absentee ballots	856	Ethan Gilmore	591
Susan St. Ores	1,060	Trischa Heitman-Ochs	551
Mayor write ins	232	Council write ins	13

## City Budget, Levy, and Capital Improvement *update*

The City Council adopted the 2021 city budget, levy, and capital improvement plan on December 7. The budget was set at \$3,411,964 and levy at \$1,493,034, both of which include a modest increase from last year. The budget incorporates small increases in funding for public safety departments, equipment and vehicle replacement, planned infrastructure improvements, Emerald Ash Borer mitigation, and park enhancements.

The tax impact to homeowners will vary depending on individual property values, but the median household is estimated to see an increase of approximately \$53.00. The ability to maintain existing city services, as well as fund new improvements and special projects with a relatively small tax impact is possible through continued responsible fiscal management by the City Council and city staff. Comments or questions related to this topic may be emailed to City Administrator Adam Bell at [abell@ci.bayport.mn.us](mailto:abell@ci.bayport.mn.us).



## COMMUNITY *updates*

<p><b>JANUARY 1 THROUGH 25</b></p>	<p><b>RESIDENTIAL CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP</b> Non-artificial trees may be placed at the curb for pick up by Tennis Sanitation, provided the tree is not bagged and all lights and decorations have been removed. Trees over 6 feet tall must be cut in half prior to pick up.</p>
<p><b>JANUARY - MARCH</b></p>	<p><b>PERRO PARK ICE SKATING RINKS</b> The rinks are anticipated to be open daily until 9 p.m. beginning the first week in January, weather permitting. Due to COVID, the warming house will not be open to the public this season.</p>
<p><b>JANUARY 14</b> To learn more or register, visit the Library's website.</p>	<p><b>KICK-OFF DATE FOR WINTER LIBRARY PROGRAMS</b> United Through Music Tween Group: Thursdays, 4 p.m. Connect virtually with youth in grades 6-8 to engage in songwriting, music apps, and sharing favorite songs.  Sprouting Melodies: Thursdays, 9 and 10 a.m. Learn how to use music to calm, stimulate, interact, and bond with a baby or toddler in this series of virtual classes taught by a licensed musical therapist.</p>

### *get involved!* Citizen Volunteer Opportunity



The city is seeking a citizen representative to serve on the Central St. Croix Valley Joint Cable Commission. The commission is a joint powers entity which serves as a customer service liaison between cable customers and the local cable provider. The citizen representative serves in voluntary capacity, attending quarterly meetings. A full description of the position is posted on the city's website. Individuals interested in being considered for appointment may submit a letter of intent to Office Specialist Mary Goulette [office@ci.bayport.mn.us](mailto:office@ci.bayport.mn.us)

### Know Your Snow *responsibilities!*

Snow and ice make sidewalks not only difficult to navigate, but also limit accessibility. It is the responsibility of all residential and commercial property owners and occupants to clear snow and ice from public sidewalks bordering their property within 24 hours of accumulation. Keep in mind that for corner lots, this may involve multiple sidewalks. As a courtesy, the city has previously assisted with sidewalk snow and ice removal in high pedestrian traffic areas and within the business corridor, as staffing and workload permit. However, property owners are ultimately responsible for these sidewalks and are expected to address snow and ice conditions in a timely manner.



### *covid-19 relief funds* Support Distance Learning at Andersen Elementary



This fall, the city donated \$21,000 to Andersen Elementary for the purchase of mobile touchscreen smartboards, to improve distance learning for students. The boards supplement traditional chalkboards to relay lessons to students virtually. The donation was made possible through the city's allocation of federal CARES Act funding, which is intended to help support unbudgeted expenditures in the community resulting from the pandemic.

### *staff feature:* Tom Ruzich

Congratulations to Tom Ruzich, who was recently promoted to the position of Community Service Officer in the Police Department! Tom has served the city as a volunteer police reserve officer since 2012, so many may already recognize him as a friendly, familiar face, helping with community events such as the Memorial Day Parade, Youth Safety Camp, and Toys for Tots. Welcome to your new position, Tom!



### American Legion: *thank you!*



Thanks to a generous donation from the Bayport American Legion Post 491, the Village Green was decorated full of new holiday lights this year, making the season extra bright!! The generosity is much appreciated and certainly enjoyed by all!

### MCF: A Word from the Warden

In a recent press release, Warden Guy Bosch reported on the status of COVID in the Bayport facility, noting a majority of inmates are "past-positive" despite the reported 700 cases since late September. In addition to a lockdown to control spread, they doubled outside air flow into the heating system, increased health staff, and continue to pursue additional mitigation strategies and protocols in hopes of returning to a state of normal programming as quickly as possible. To view the full press release, visit the city's website.



## CITY CONTACTS *and services*

For the protection of our community, most city buildings remain closed to the public. Please refer to the contacts below to assist with essential city services by phone, email, or appointment.

**CITY HALL GENERAL INFORMATION  
PERMITS / LICENSES / UTILITY BILLING**  
651-275-4404 or [office@ci.bayport.mn.us](mailto:office@ci.bayport.mn.us)

**LIBRARY CURBSIDE PICKUP / APPOINTMENTS**  
651-275-4416 or [jsmith@ci.bayport.mn.us](mailto:jsmith@ci.bayport.mn.us)

**PUBLIC WORKS STREETS / TREES / UTILITIES**  
[publicworks@ci.bayport.mn.us](mailto:publicworks@ci.bayport.mn.us)

**PUBLIC SAFETY / POLICE / FIRE / EMERGENCY**  
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