



Bayport News

JUNE 2025, ISSUE 58



Seeking A Representative for the Cable Commission

The city is seeking a resident to be a representative on the Central St. Croix Valley Joint Cable Commission. The commission is a joint powers entity which monitors the operation of cable services, provides administration and renewal of the franchise agreement, and broadcasts public, educational, and government programming. This is a voluntary position, expected to attend quarterly meetings at 6:00 p.m. on the third Monday of the month. Individuals interested should email office@ci.bayport.mn.us.



A Message from the Mayor *by Michele Hanson*



I was recently asked to say a few words at a small ground-breaking ceremony for the new Bayport Elementary School and thought I could take this opportunity to share that speech

among the trees, play under open skies, and explore the world around them right here in Bayport.

Keeping an elementary school near the heart of our city is vital. It ensures that we continue to be a community where children can walk or bike to school, families feel connected, and education remains central to who we are.

with you.

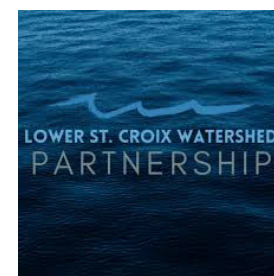
Thank you for joining us on this exciting day. Today, we're not just breaking ground—we're building the future. For more than a hundred years, our old elementary school stood as a cornerstone of this community. It's where generations of local families learned to read, to share, and even to play a little four square.

This new school isn't just a replacement—it's a renewal. A chance to create a space that's built for how our children learn today, with bright, safe, inspiring classrooms and flexible learning spaces. And thanks to its new location, they'll be surrounded by the best kind of learning lab: nature itself.

With Barker's Alps Park just outside the doors, our students will be able to learn

Thank you to everyone who helped envision and plan for this new school—from district administration and city staff, to parents, teachers, and community members. And we can't forget to give special thanks to our friends at St. Croix United Church who so generously provided the opportunity to repurpose this site for a new school. We break ground today not just on a construction site, but on a vision — one built on values we all share: education, community, and hope for the future.

State Funds Amplify Efforts of the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership



In 2020, 15 local government partners in Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, Pine, and Washington Counties came together to form the Lower St.

Croix Watershed Partnership, with a goal of protecting and improving the St. Croix River and surrounding tributaries. Nearly 8,000 square miles of land in Minnesota and Wisconsin drain to the St. Croix River. The Lower St. Croix Watershed consists of 915 square miles, encompassing 127 lakes, over 1,000 miles of rivers and streams, and approximately 152,000 acres of wetlands.

The partnership receives approximately \$1.4 million in state funding biennially to

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Community Programs and Events

Library Movie Matinee – Paddington in Peru



Movie matinees are back this summer at the Library! A showing of Paddington in Peru will be held on July 17 at 2 p.m. The movie is geared toward families with children ages 0-12, but all are welcome. Fresh popcorn and lemonade will be served!

Seasonal Farmers Market at the Village Green

Buy fresh and local every Monday from 3 to 7 p.m. through mid October. Thanks to the farmers, merchants, makers, and the Bayport Community Action League volunteers for sponsoring this event!



Washington County Fair – July 30 to August 5



The Washington County fair has been a tradition since 1871! Events include carnival rides, games, food, shows, vendors, exhibits, and so much more! Visit the website washingtoncountyfair.org for more information.

A Touch of Magic: The Comedy Snake Show

Join us on July 31 at 2 p.m. for another zany comedy show from A Touch of Magic! Laugh along with our favorite entertainers at the Library and at the end of the program, children over age 2 will receive a fun balloon sculpture!



Washington County North Yard Waste Site



Summer hours are now in effect for the North Environmental Center at 6065 Headwaters Parkway in Forest Lake. Leaves, grass clippings, brush, tree waste, and other plant materials are accepted from residential households. Hours are Mondays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. (or dusk), Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Metropolitan Mosquito Control District

The mission of the MMCD is to promote public health and well-being by protecting from disease (and annoyance) caused by mosquitoes, black flies, and ticks, in an environmentally sensitive manner. Specifically, they have been monitoring and controlling mosquitoes in the Twin Cities metro area since 1958. MMCD is governed by 18 elected county commissioners and is funded by property taxes, with a median home paying approximately \$11.00 annually. Last year in the Bayport/Oak Park Heights area, MMCD treated 511 acres of larval habitat, treated 5.5 acres of adult mosquito habitat, and treated 717 catch basins. Education and outreach are an important part of MMCD's efforts. If you know a group or event MMCD should connect with, let them know at mmcd.org.



City Council Tours County R & E Center



All waste generated in Ramsey and Washington counties is delivered to the Ramsey-Washington County Recycling & Energy Center (R&E), where waste is processed to recover recyclables and make fuel for electricity production. Mayor Michele Hanson and City Councilmembers Katie Hill and Carl Bliss joined city staff on April 2 to tour the center, learn how waste is managed, and how to better reduce, reuse, and recycle.

In 2024, the R&E processed 389,705 tons of trash, recovered 11,569 tons of metal for recycling, produced enough fuel to power 12,878 homes for a year, and reduced CO2 emissions by 99,893 metric tons, which is equivalent to taking 22,368 gasoline-powered cars off the road for a year. These efforts are striving to protect the environment and meet the state's 75% recycling goal. To learn more, visit recyclingandenergy.org.

State Announces Prison Closure in 2029

On May 15, the city learned, along with the rest of the public, that the State of Minnesota plans to close the Minnesota Correctional Facility located in Bayport in phases over four years, with a full closure by the end of June 2029. While little has been shared about how this will happen, the city has been in communication with the Department of Corrections and state legislators to underscore the significance of this change in our community and advocate for our involvement in any planning efforts for future site development. Look for updates in upcoming editions of the city newsletter.



Lower St. Croix Watershed *Continued from page 1...*

help support watershed restoration efforts. In addition, the partnership leverages funds from local governments, private landowners, and grant programs to maximize the impact of state funds.

In 2024, the partnership was successful in matching \$711,352 in state funding and securing an additional \$27 million to assist with improving and protecting the watershed. The Lower St. Croix Partnership has also been incredibly effective at reducing phosphorus pollution. In its first four years, partner-led projects reduced phosphorus in local waterways by 10,959 pounds per year, which is nearly double the achievement outlined within the partnership’s 10-year plan. The success of the partnership has been attributed to collaboration across different levels of government and with the public, bringing together urban and rural communities, allowing for a wide variety of project approaches and a blending of ideas, expertise, and funding. To learn more about the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership, visit lsc1w1p.org.



City Council Adopts New Rules for Recreation Vehicles



On June 2, the City Council adopted new regulations for operating recreational vehicles within city limits, including ATVs, UTVs, golf carts, and snowmobiles. The ordinance aims to align with state law, as well as identify vehicle types and conditions under which they can be operated. Without adopting local regulations for golf carts, state law prohibits operation on any public streets. *Continued on page 4...*

Washington County CDA Programs and Assistance

The mission of the Washington County CDA is to improve the lives of residents by providing access to affordable housing and supporting community and economic development in local municipalities. The four main focus areas of their affordable housing mission include preserving existing housing stock, expanding supply, increasing accessibility, and identifying available land. The CDA also provides loan programs for home improvements to help fund emergencies, rehabilitation, repair, renovation, and septic repair/replacement. To learn more about programs and loans offered by the CDA, visit washingtoncountycda.org.

Core CDA Programs



PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

- Senior Housing
- Workforce Housing
- Public Housing
- Transitional Housing



HOUSING ASSISTANCE

- Rental Assistance
- Supportive Housing
- Family Self-Sufficiency



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Community Grants
- Housing Finance
- Redevelopment
- Homeownership



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Open to Business
- Predevelopment Finance
- Marketing



CITY HALL GENERAL INFORMATION PARKS / PERMITS / LICENSES / UTILITY BILLING

Monday-Thursday 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
651-275-4404
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www.ci.bayport.mn.us

LIBRARY
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jsmith@ci.bayport.mn.us
www.bayportlibrary.org

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www.bayportfire.org

POLICE DEPARTMENT
651-275-4400
jjackson@ci.bayport.mn.us

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EMAIL UPDATES / NOTIFICATIONS**
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CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS
First Monday of the month
City Hall – 6 p.m.
Valley Access Cable Channel 16
www.youtube.com



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Rec. Vehicles *Continued from page 3...*

With the new ordinance, golf carts are now legally allowed to operate on city streets and alleys, but with some limitations and safety precautions. However, it should be noted that state law still prohibits recreational vehicles from operating on county and state roads (unless designated as an approved trail). For Bayport, this includes 5th Ave. N. and Hwy. 95.



Below is a brief summary of the new regulations related to operation on city streets and alleys, provided all other motor vehicle laws are observed. Operators must be 18 years of age and observe a speed limit of 20 mph on streets and 10 mph on alleys.

Hours

*Golf cart: Sunrise to sunset (not in low visibility)
 ATV/UTV/snowmobile: 6 a.m. to 12 a.m.*

Permit

*Golf cart: City permit required
 ATV/UTV: DNR registration/sticker required
 Snowmobile: DNR registration/sticker required*

Equipment

*Golf cart: Slow vehicle emblem; rearview mirror
 ATV/UTV/snowmobile: Head, tail, and brake lights*

The full ordinance is posted on the city’s website. To inquire about the registration process for a golf cart, please contact City Hall.

Gary Lorence, A True Bayport Hometown Hero!

In the last city newsletter, we asked citizens to nominate a local hero that embodies the spirit of our community. This month, we would like to recognize resident Gary Lorence and share a nomination letter submitted by a fellow resident. *I would like to nominate Gary Lorence for Hometown Hero! He is the “Flag Man” of Bayport. Countless times we have seen him outside his house, holding an American flag and waving to everyone driving by, sharing love of country and community! Seeing him standing out there, in all seasons, is truly inspiring and uplifting. He spreads joy, patriotism, love, and community cheer. Our children look to see him when we drive past, and love waving back to him. He is definitely our Hometown Hero!!*



Groundbreaking for Bayport Elementary School

On May 6, the City Council and staff joined Stillwater Area Public Schools at a groundbreaking event for the new Bayport Elementary! Since May, the project has progressed significantly with utility and parking lot improvements. In addition, the city has been awarded a Safe Routes to School grant to fund a sidewalk connection along 5th Ave. from 8th St. N. to the school site, to improve accessibility and safety for students walking or biking to school. The school is scheduled to open next year.

