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Holiday Tree Recycling
Residents can use the following options to dispose of real holiday trees:
Curbside collection: Real holiday trees will be picked up curbside the first two weeks of January. Set trees out next to your trash container on your regularly scheduled collection day. This service is provided at no additional cost to residents. For more information, visit the City’s website at www.whitebearlake.org or call Jen Morse, Utility Billing Clerk at 651-429-8565.

Ramsey County yard waste collection sites: Real holiday trees can be recycled at a Ramsey County yard waste collection site. For more information, visit RamseyRecycles.com or call 651-633-EASY (3279), answered 24/7.

Help Shape the Future of White Bear Lake!
Throughout the summer, City staff engaged with hundreds of residents at community events and learned what people love about White Bear Lake, and how the City should change between now and 2040. After several months of broad engagement, efforts are transitioning into outlining our priorities for the future. Nevertheless, we still want to hear from you!

Take our online survey at www.tinyurl.com/wblsurvey2. This second survey for the comprehensive plan process asks you to prioritize spending on public improvements, assess our current priorities, and think about your vision for the City’s future.

If you would like to engage with the process in a deeper way, contact Samantha Crosby, Planning and Zoning Coordinator at 651-429-8534. We are currently exploring how to best use the strengths of our residents; this may include providing feedback on draft chapters, participating in an in-depth conversation, or talking to your friends and neighbors.

We will begin the formal public hearing process later this winter. If you would like to receive updates, please email compplan@whitebearlake.org.

City Proposes 2018 Tax Levy
Truth in Taxation Hearing on November 28th
At its regular meeting on November 28th, the City Council will hold a Truth in Taxation Hearing prior to consideration of the 2018 City Budget and corresponding tax levy on December 12th. The City relies on the property tax levy for 50% of the revenues to support its General Fund (intergovernmental revenues account for 25%, with the remaining revenue dependent upon licensing, fees, transfers and charges for service).

What is the General Fund?
The General Fund accounts for revenues and expenditures necessary to provide basic City services, such as police, fire, public works, planning, zoning and general administration.

Proposed 2018 General Fund expenditures total $10,232,000. Nearly 57% of General Fund expenditures in the proposed budget are dedicated to Public Safety related services.

(continued on pg 4)
The City Council, through its Housing and Redevelopment Authority, unanimously approved a Revolving Loan and Grant program (RLGP) along the County Road E Corridor for small businesses to leverage private investment in this area. The program provides loans up to $40,000 for a term of up to 10 years at two percent (2%) interest rate. The program requires a 100 percent match by an authorized local financial institution located within the corporate limits of the City of White Bear Lake. A secondary aspect of the program is the Building Facade Grant Program which aims to encourage aesthetic enhancements, with up to $3,000 in grant funds for exterior facade improvements per project. If your business is interested, please contact Jacquel Nissen, Housing and Economic Development Coordinator at 651-762-4838 or jnissen@whitebearlake.org to learn if your project qualifies.

New City Website
Check out the City’s new website! The website is new, but the URL (website address) is still the same: www.whitebearlake.org. The City’s new website offers improved navigation with quick access to the most popular services, including Utility Billing, Building Permits, and contact information.

For enhanced transparency, people can sign up for a subscription service called “Notify Me”. This new feature delivers news and updates straight to you, rather than you searching for them. The new site also provides improved mobile adaptability, translation capability and has mechanisms in place to facilitate ADA compliance.

Send in Your Photos!
Send in your high resolution photographs of our beautiful community for possible inclusion on the new website!

PHOTO GUIDELINES
- Email .jpg picture files to clerk@whitebearlake.org
- Pixel size must be at a minimum: 1920px by 1200px
- Participants grant permission to the City for use of submitted photos with credit

To see photos that others have submitted, just search “pictures” at www.whitebearlake.org
Questions? Contact Kara Country, City Clerk at 651-429-8508

Streets, Parks, Trails and more!
*Long-range planning for our capital needs*

A beautiful summer and fall, indeed! More and more residents each year are getting out to enjoy the parks, trails, beaches and boardwalk; and we continue to hear from our residents about the importance of these public amenities.

Plans to construct another segment of the Sather Trail, from Lions Park to South Shore Blvd, are in the works for next summer, and design work for the final segment along South Shore Blvd will begin this fall. The City will also undertake significant improvements at the Sports Center next year, furthering its commitment to the youth of our community and its desire to attract new families as empty nesters move out of their homes.

There have been significant public improvements over the last ten years, including but not limited to Highway 61 median improvements, the public boardwalk at the waterfront, park upgrades, and construction of a new Public Works Facility. Most of the infrastructure improvements, however, are not as apparent to the public eye.

While not as attention-grabbing, investments in the Water Treatment Plant, underground sewer and water utilities, equipment replacement for Public Safety and Public Works, and preservation of our roadways are critical to the City’s primary charge to provide basic services. Maintenance of the City’s infrastructure requires long-range capital planning with careful attention to financing strategies. *(continued on page 4)*

County Road E Revolving Loan and Grant Program for Small Businesses
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Public Works Department Prepares for Winter

An important task of the Public Works Department is snow removal. The City removes snow from streets, alleys, parking lots, sidewalks, cul-de-sacs, trails, skating rinks, and the downtown area with a variety of equipment from small trucks to tractor loaders and snow blowers.

Public Works personnel are involved in the snow removal process with the goal of keeping the City’s streets safe during the winter months. Some things to remember about snowplowing in the City of White Bear Lake include:

1. The City initiates snow plowing operations when there are three or more inches of snow on the ground.
2. All vehicles must be parked off the street until the streets have been completely plowed from curb to curb.
3. Snow from driveways, parking lots, and sidewalks needs to be piled into your yard. It’s against the law to shovel snow into streets and alleys (as per City Ordinance 903.010).

For more information regarding the City’s snow removal policies and procedures, visit the City’s website at www.whitebearlake.org.

911 Dispatch Transitioning to Ramsey County

At its regular meeting on September 28, 2017, the City Council authorized the City Manager to negotiate terms of an agreement with Ramsey County for emergency dispatching services. The topic was initially introduced at a Council work session earlier this year, followed by several months of research and discussion that led to a decision this fall.

White Bear Lake is currently the only city in Ramsey County that does not contract with the County for emergency dispatching and continues to rely primarily on single-seat dispatching. As calls for service continue to increase, technology evolves, and industry standards change, it is no longer viable to operate a metro area dispatch center under the single-seat model. The difference in costs associated with the increase in staffing levels needed for a two-seat dispatch center, along with the replacement of capital equipment, compared to the cost of contracting with Ramsey County, would have exceeded $2.1 million over the next five years.

While the transition to Ramsey County for dispatching services will be a cultural and operational change for our Police and Fire Departments, safety and service to the community will not be compromised. The Ramsey County Emergency Communication Center is the largest in the Midwest and has capacity in numbers, yet efficiencies of scale. There are also advantages to being more directly connected to other police and fire agencies through a central communications center, as reliance on mutual aid response continues to grow throughout the region.

It is anticipated that this transition will be complete by mid-2018 and seamless to the caller. As is the case now, all calls to 9-1-1 will be dispatched to White Bear Lake Police and Fire personnel.

Improving Pedestrian Safety

The City of White Bear Lake is committed to enhancing pedestrian safety. With strong support from the public, multiple City departments are working together to make positive strides towards improved walkability throughout town.

5th Street Sidewalk

The Engineering Department uses each construction project as an opportunity to improve conditions for pedestrians. This past construction season we added sidewalk along the north side of 5th St. The photos to the right illustrate the conditions before and after the project. Our staff greatly appreciates feedback, so please email sidewalk requests to Jesse Farrell, Assistant City Engineer at jfarrell@whitebearlake.org or call 651-429-8531.

“Stop For Me” Campaign

Crossing 4th Street to enjoy a treat at Cup and Cone should be a little easier now after the summer-long “Stop For Me” campaign reminded motorists to stop for pedestrians. Over 100 tickets were issued for those that violated crosswalk law. Increased awareness of the law and attentiveness for crosswalk users were two important goals of the Police Department’s safety campaign.
**Administrative Offices**

City Hall ...................................... 651-429-8526  
Administration ............................ 651-429-8508  
License Bureau .............................. 651-429-8525  
Passports ..................................... 651-407-5300  
Building ....................................... 651-429-8518  
Planning ..................................... 651-429-8561  
Engineering ................................. 651-429-8531  
Police .......................................... 651-429-8550  
Fire ............................................ 651-429-8568  
Public Works ................................. 651-747-3650  
Sports Center ............................... 651-429-8571  
Armory Reservations ...................... 651-429-8538  
City Website ......................... www.whitebearlake.org  
Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

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**2018 Tax Levy (continued from pg 1)**

**What does the proposed tax levy increase support?**

While the vast majority of revenues raised through the tax levy support the General Fund (88%), the levy also raises revenue to help support the City’s infrastructure. Due to a significant decline in interest revenues over the past ten years, additional sources of revenue are needed to support capital replacement. The proposed levy increase begins to address this issue.

**Proposed Tax Levy Increase**

1. $80,000 for General Fund operations (1.64% increase)
2. $146,000 additional revenue for Equipment Fund
3. $226,000 to shift reliance on reserves for operations

As the lowest ranked community for “per capita tax levy funding” among 44 communities with populations between 16,000-32,000 surveyed statewide, the City remains committed to providing efficient, comprehensive municipal services while maintaining its investment in roads and critical infrastructure.

While challenges related to capital funding for projects remain, the City is committed to careful planning and judicious financing.

Stay engaged by following the City on Facebook or Twitter, and keep an eye on the website for information on future public meetings related to long-range planning.

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**Long-Range Planning (continued from pg 2)**

With the loss of significant interest revenues (over $2 million less in annual interest revenues compared to 10 years ago), and a strategic shift in tax levy and local government aid allocations from capital to operational expenses, (which helped to keep the tax levy down over the last decade), capital fund reserves are in need of rebuilding.

Future capital improvement financing must come, in part, through bonding, which will necessarily impact future tax levies. The City Council will be reviewing the City’s 5-year Capital Improvement Program and adopting a corresponding long-range financial plan this winter.

Join us in our discussion as we review the 5-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and corresponding long-range financial strategies. The draft CIP will be available on-line the first week of December, with a public hearing scheduled for the February 27, 2018 City Council meeting. For more information, contact Ellen Richter, City Manager at 651-429-8516.

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**Report Sewer Backups**

Call the City’s Public Works Department first and foremost to report a sewer backup!  
Normal hours: 651-747-3650 (M-F, 7am - 3:30pm)  
After hours: 651-429-8511