CITY PROPOSES NEW TAX LEVY

Truth in Taxation Hearing on November 27th!

On September 11, the City Council adopted a preliminary tax levy representing a $720,000 increase. Nearly one-third of this will go toward repayment of debt service for the City’s street reconstruction program. On November 27, the City Council will hold a Truth in Taxation Hearing prior to consideration of the 2019 City Budget and corresponding tax levy on December 11. The City relies on the property tax levy for more than 50% of revenues needed to support its General Fund.

What is the General Fund? The General Fund accounts for about one-third of the City’s total annual budget of approximately $34 million. It represents expenditures and revenues necessary to provide basic services, such as police, fire, public works, zoning and general administration. Proposed 2019 General Fund expenditures total $11,650,000, with nearly half dedicated to Police and Fire services.

Proposed Tax Levy
At $720,000, the proposed levy increase goes to support the following:

- Additional firefighter/paramedic positions (see article on page 10)
- Emerald Ash Borer management program
- Additional park maintenance needs
- Increased fuel costs
- Cost of living adjustments
- New debt service for the street reconstruction program

Impact of the Proposed Tax Levy
In some cases, a resident’s property tax may remain constant, or even go down. This results from commercial development/redevelopment and generally rising property values in the City. Considering the median valued home in White Bear Lake is $222,500, the City’s portion of this home’s property tax would be $414/year, or $34.50/month, which is an increase of approximately $54/year, or $4.50/month.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE
The City to Hold Fall Cleanup Day
Saturday, October 6
7 AM – 1 PM

Household hazardous waste (HHW) not accepted (visit RamseyRecycles.com for HHW collection options). White Bear Lake residents only. Proof of residency required (i.e. utility bill or driver's license).

Location
Former Public Works site at 4200 Hoffman Road; west side of the intersection of Highway 61 and White Bear Avenue.

Acceptable Items
- Air conditioners
- Bicycles
- Appliances
- Furniture
- Batteries
- Humidifiers
- Computers (PCs, monitors, laptops)
- Fluorescent bulbs and ballasts*
- Construction materials
- Mattresses
- Carpentry
- Televisions
- Tires
- Textiles
- Electronics
- Lawn mowers & snow blowers (all fluids drained)

Unacceptable Items
- Brush
- Motor oil
- Propane tanks
- Firewood
- Household hazardous waste
- Paint
- Tree stumps
- Items larger than appliances (fish houses, boats, sheds)

* up to 10 fluorescent bulbs will be accepted

Fees
A fee based on the size and type of load will be charged to help pay for disposal costs. Loads larger than a standard pick-up truck or 4’x 8’ trailer will not be accepted. Pay at the gate with cash or check. For more information, visit the City’s website at www.whitebearlake.org or call Public Works at 651-747-3650.

Save the date for the Spring Cleanup Day on May 4, 2019
Changes Ahead for the Recycling Industry?
Over the past few years, the quality of recycling collected and sorted has declined. This is due to difficulties spotting non-recyclable materials in large single sort carts, and the proliferation of non-recyclable packaging and single serve plastic containers.

Changing Markets
At the beginning of this year, China instituted a new policy that restricts the import of recyclable commodities due to high levels of non-recyclables (frequently called “contamination”) in the recycled materials they purchased to make new products. Since China was importing a significant amount of recycling generated in the U.S., domestic markets are now flooded with material which has dramatically decreased prices. While commodity prices have always fluctuated, these changes are anticipated to be long-term. As revenue for sorted material has decreased, it does not consistently cover the cost of sorting (frequently called “processing”). As a result, consumers are beginning to see additional fees.

How does this affect us?
Even though revenue for material has decreased, the City’s recycling processing facility, Eureka Recycling, is still able to market recyclables collected through the residential recycling program. Over the years, Eureka has prioritized developing relationships with local end-markets who value the quality material they produce. Currently about 80% of sorted material from Eureka goes to markets in Minnesota and 100% stays in North America. While we have all been impacted by the depressed prices for material from flooded domestic markets, Eureka Recycling is not stock piling or sending any sorted recycling bales to landfills or incinerators.

What can you do to help?
There are many efforts you can take right now to help make recycling more sustainable and more impactful to the environment and our community. Consider the following:

Recycle only the items accepted by the recycling program. Do not include items you “wish” were recyclable but are not. This can increase sorting costs and result in recyclable material being rejected. If you question whether something is recyclable or not, it is best to throw it in the trash—“when in doubt, throw it out.”

Look for ways to reduce your consumption, especially of single use plastic items like straws, cups, and other packaging. Seek out products that are refillable/reusable or sold in bulk.

Do not place plastic bags in the recycling. They are not able to be processed and cause damage in the processing plant.

Weekly Service!
Recycle these items in your cart · No sorting required! · NO plastic bags, Styrofoam™ or black plastic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>METALS</th>
<th>GO</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food and beverage cans.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Paint cans or containers that held hazardous substances such as paint thinner and automotive fluids.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum foil and trays.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Aerosol cans -non-hazardous (ex. shaving and whipping cream cans).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decorative tins and pie tins.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Scrap metal.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GLASS</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bottles and jars.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Window glass or mirrors, ceramics or pottery, or drinking glasses or cookware.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>CARTONS</th>
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</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLASTIC CONTAINERS</th>
<th>GO</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAPER</th>
<th>GO</th>
<th>NO</th>
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</table>

Trash and Recycling Containers
Please make sure that trash and recycling containers are placed at least three (3) feet apart to allow the mechanical lift space to maneuver. Also, keep the containers behind the curb so streets are clear for City sweepers and plows.

www.whitebearlake.org | 3
Keep Leaves and Grass Clippings
Out of the Street!

While tending to your yard, take a moment to sweep or rake grass, leaves and branches out of the street. Left in the street, they can clog storm drains. When washed into the lake, leaves become a major source of phosphorus, the nutrient that allows algae to bloom in the summer.

Dispose of leaves by composting them in your yard, bringing them to a Ramsey County yard waste site, or bagging them in a biodegradable bag for curbside pickup (see below). Keep leaves and other yard waste out of the trash and never dump them in wetlands or buffer areas—it's illegal.

Disposal of Leaves and Grass Clippings

CURBSIDE COLLECTION:
Curbside yard waste collection service ends for the season on November 30 (weather permitting). Yard waste is picked up on the same day as trash and recycling. Residents have three choices for yard waste collection services. Please call Republic Services at 952-941-5174 to establish curbside service or arrange for a one-time pickup.

Service choices are as follows:
1. **Annual Service:** unlimited service at an annual rate of $75/ year, April 15 - November 30 (weather permitting). A yard waste container is provided by Republic Services.
2. **Seasonal Service:** $30/year for the months of September, October, and November (weather permitting). Residents must provide their own compostable bags.
3. **On-call Service:** $2.50/bag of yard waste. There is a minimum charge of $20.00 (8 bags). Residents must provide their own compostable bags.

Once you sign up for year-round or seasonal service, the service will automatically be renewed each year unless you call Republic Services and cancel.

RAMSEY COUNTY YARD WASTE SITES:
Yard waste can be brought to a Ramsey County yard waste site free of charge. The closest yard waste site is located in White Bear Township at 5900 Sherwood Road. Their hours of operation through November are:
- **Monday, Wednesday, Friday | 11 AM – 7 PM**
- **Saturday | 9 AM – 5 PM**
- **Sunday | 11 AM – 5 PM**

For information on yard waste disposal, visit RamseyRecycles.com or call 651-633-3279, answered 24/7.

Medicine Drop Box

A free medicine drop box is located in the main lobby of the **White Bear Lake Police and Fire Building** at 4701 Highway 61. Drop-off hours are Monday – Friday, 7:30am to 10pm (occasionally closes at 4pm).

**Guidelines**
- Keep medicine in the original container for legal transport. Label any loose medicine in a clear plastic bag.
- Seal all containers in clear plastic bags, ideally one-gallon or smaller size.
- Place the bag with medicine into the drop box.

**Accepted**
Medicines from households are accepted in any form including prescription, over the counter, vitamins, supplements, and pet medicines. Examples include:
- Blister packs
- Pills
- IV Bag
- Liquids
- Sprays
- Inhalers
- Patches
- Vials
- Creams/Gels
- Powders
- Capsules
- Epinephrine pens (unused only)

**Not Accepted**
No empty needles and syringes, no uncapped/unsealed needles and syringes (with or without medicine). For disposal options, visit RamseyRecycles.com or call 651-633-3279, answered 24/7.

Holiday Trash Pickup

Trash and recycling will NOT be picked up on the following observed holidays:
- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday, November 22, 2018
- Christmas Day – Tuesday, December 25, 2018
- New Year’s Day – Tuesday, January 1, 2019

Pick up service will be delayed one day if it falls on the holiday and continue one day off the regular schedule through the end of the week. For example, New Year’s Day falls on a Tuesday, Tuesday pickup moves to Wednesday, Wednesday pickup moves to Thursday, and so on.

FREE Christmas Tree Collection

During the first two full weeks in January (January 7 through January 18), Republic Services will collect live Christmas trees from White Bear Lake residents on the same day as regular trash service. Set live trees out for collection next to your trash container on your regularly scheduled collection day. This service is provided at no additional cost to residents.

**Preparation:**
- Remove all decorations and stands.
- Place live trees next to your trash container by 6:00 a.m. on collection day to ensure collection.
- Wait until the day before or the day of your collection to set out your tree so it doesn’t get stuck in the snow or ice.
- No artificial trees.

Live Christmas trees can also be recycled at a Ramsey County yard waste collection site. For more, visit RamseyRecycles.com, or call the Recycling and Disposal Hotline at (651) 633-EASY (3279), answered 24/7.
Elections

2018 Elections: The Primary has passed and the General Election will be here on Tuesday, November 6, 2018. Prepare to vote so you can take part in our democracy!

Register to Vote: To vote, every voter must first register. You may pre-register to vote for the General Election until October 16. Register online, or update your registration at mnvotes.org. Your registration remains current until you move, change your name or do not vote for four consecutive years. You may also register to vote at your polling place on Election Day with the proper documents.

Early Voting: Beat the crowds by voting early, Oct 30 – Nov 5! Now all White Bear Lake residents can cast their vote before Election Day at designated locations in Ramsey County. The White Bear Lake Library, Maplewood Library and the Arden Hills Public Works facilities are the most convenient locations. Visit www.ramseycounty.us and search “elections” for hours of service and additional voting locations.

Where do I vote on Election Day? You must vote in your designated polling location if you choose to cast your vote on Election Day. Below is a list of White Bear Lake polling locations. If you are not sure which ward you live in, search your address online at mnvotes.org to find your polling location, or search “elections” at www.whitebearlake.org for an interactive Ward Map.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>White Bear Lake City Hall, 4701 Highway 61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ramsey County Library, 2152 2nd Street (moved from the Armory)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sunrise Middle School, 2399 Cedar Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Golfview Building, 2449 Orchard Lane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church, 1965 County Road E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Looking Ahead

2019 Elections: The City of White Bear Lake is represented by a Mayor and five (5) Councilmembers. The Mayor is elected “at-large”, or city-wide, and each Councilmember represents one of five wards. The Mayor and Councilmembers serve 4-year terms, with elections held during the odd-numbered years. In 2017, elections for Mayor and Councilmembers from Wards 2 & 4 were held. In 2019, elections for Wards 1, 3 & 5 will be held.

White Bear Lake License Bureau

July 25th, 2018 marked one year since the State of Minnesota rolled out MNLARS, its new licensing and registration system. White Bear Lake License Bureau staff continue to work diligently to assist customers, despite longer transaction times.

Please note, due to a glitch in MNLARS, the License Bureau cannot process the transfer of special plates, (i.e. personalized or critical habitat plates). State issued notification cards can be completed if you wish to know when this service becomes available again. Feel free to stop by the License Bureau today to fill one out.

Open Monday – Friday from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, and Saturday from 8:30 am – noon, the City’s License Bureau serves the public as a Deputy Registrar on behalf of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety by providing licensing services for the following:

- Motor vehicle registration
- Driver’s license renewals
- Instruction permit renewals
- MN ID card applications
- Off-road vehicle & ATV
- Matoska Park Launch Permits (bring your trailer sticker or plate number)

For written test, road tests, or enhanced driver’s licenses, please visit the State’s website for locations near you: dps.mn.gov.

Questions? Contact the License Bureau at 651-429-8525.

DMV Transactions in White Bear Lake Help Fund Infrastructure Projects!

Next time you have a DMV transaction, bring it to the White Bear Lake License Bureau. Local DMVs retain $6 for each tab renewal and $10 for all other transactions. The City of White Bear Lake directs its License Bureau revenues toward funding for street and park improvements. Keep your dollars local by conducting your business at the White Bear Lake License Bureau.

White Bear Lake City Council Pictured left to right: Bill Walsh, Ward 1; Steven Engstram, Ward 5; Mayor Jo Emerson; Dan Jones, Ward 3; Doug Biehn, Ward 2; Kevin Edberg, Ward 4

www.whitebearlake.org | 5
The Sports Center was first opened to ice skating activities on December 10, 1989. The building was purchased by the City and converted from a tennis club into an ice arena at the request of the Hockey Association and other skating enthusiasts. In addition to donations and fundraising efforts from the community, the City of White Bear Lake issued $1,480,000 in general obligation bonds to fund the conversion in 1989.

After nearly 30 years, the Sports Center was in need of significant renovations to stay in operation. The facility was originally built with a refrigeration system that used R-22, a gas that is no longer being produced due to its potential to deplete the ozone. While reclaimed R-22 can still be purchased, its growing scarcity means increased prices. The cost of installing a new refrigeration system in the Sports Center was significant and the process equally challenging. Tubes conducting a new coolant snake throughout under a concrete floor that was poured using laser-leveling technology. Conditions had to be perfect – and they were!

The Sports Center renovation project was made possible through a partnership with the White Bear Lake Hockey Association. The Association provided nearly half of the funding needed, donating $500,000 up-front toward the project, and committing to another $2 million toward repayment of $3.2 million that was financed through City’s sale of bonds.

By the time this newsletter reaches you, the first new sheet of ice will be formed. In addition to replacement of the refrigeration system and rink floor, improvements include new LED lighting, remodeled restrooms to meet current ADA standards, new bleachers, new HVAC, new wall/roof panels and insulation.

The newly remodeled Sports Center will again be home to the White Bear Lake Hockey Association, White Bear Lake Figure Skating Club and the White Bear Lake Girls High School Hockey Team. In addition to a well-developed skate school program, open skating and skate rentals are available. The Sports Center also offers racquetball / wallyball / dodgeball courts, an exercise room, a meeting room and is a great place to host your child’s next birthday party!
Join the White Bear Lake Hockey Association and skating community in celebrating!

GRAND RE-OPENING
September 29

Bingo: 1-3pm
Ribbon cutting: 3:30pm
Free Open Skate: 4 - 6pm
Beer gardens, food, kids games, a cornhole tournament and music until 9pm

For more information about the Sports Center, please visit www.whitebearlake.org or contact staff at 651-429-8571. The Sports Center is located at 1328 Highway 96 East.
Public Safety Events

**Citizen’s Police Academy – FREE**

**Monday Evenings · 6 PM – 9 PM, Oct. – Nov.**

Police Department Training Room – 4701 Miller Ave (Use 3rd Street entrance)

Eight week academy providing an in-depth look into the operations of the White Bear Lake Police Department. See article to the right.

**Fire Prevention Open House**

**Saturday, October 6 · 10 AM – 2 PM**

White Bear Lake Fire Station 2 – Corner of McKnight Rd. & Cty Rd. E.

In recognition of Fire Prevention Week, join your local Fire Department during this open house and enjoy fun activities while learning about fire prevention.

**Annual Halloween Pumpkin Carving Contest**

**You be our judge! Last week of October**

Online at: www.facebook.com/WhiteBearLakePoliceDepartment

It’s that time of year again! Visit the White Bear Lake Police Facebook page during the last week of October to vote for your favorite pumpkin. Be sure to click on the individual pumpkin photos to cast your vote! All pumpkins will also be on display in the lobby of the Public Safety building.

**Credentialed CPR Class – Heart Saver CPR/AED**

**Monday, November 5 · 5:00 PM**

White Bear Lake Fire Station 2 – Corner of McKnight Rd. & Cty Rd. E.

This American Heart Association certified class covers adult, child and infant CPR, airway obstruction and an AED module. Great for anyone wanting to learn CPR, but also meets the criteria for the lay responder who needs a card credential such as day care providers, police and lifeguards. Class size limited, register at whitebearlake.org.

**Safety Information Night for Parents – Free**

**Thursday, November 8 · 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM**

White Bear Lake Area High School So. Campus – 3551 McKnight Rd.

In partnership with the White Bear Lake Area School District, this parents only session provides important information on topics affecting youth today. See article to the right.

**Holiday Gift Card Drive**

**December 2018**

White Bear Lake Police & Fire Department Lobby – 4701 Highway 61 N.

In collaboration with the White Bear Lake Area School District and the White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation, the Police Department will have a gift card drop box in the lobby. Drop off your gift card donations during the month of December. We thank you for helping those in need!

**Blood Drives – Various dates**

**October 19, 2018, December 18, 2018 & April 5, 2019**

White Bear Lake City Hall Lobby – 4701 Highway 61 North

Make your appointment between the hours of 9 AM – 2 PM at redcrossblood.org. Check-in is at City Hall.

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**Citizens Police Academy**

**Monday Evenings, October – November 2018**

Police Department Training Room – 4701 Miller Avenue

The White Bear Lake Police Department is sponsoring a Citizen’s Police Academy this October! This eight week academy is offered to residents, those employed in our city, and community partners. The objective of the academy is to advance a better understanding of policing in the City of White Bear Lake and to foster a closer partnership with the community.

Citizens will have an opportunity to get an in-depth look into the operations of the White Bear Lake Police Department. The Citizen’s Police Academy will meet every Monday evening from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm for eight weeks beginning in October. The course will cover a variety of police and EMS topics and procedures, consisting of both classroom lectures and “hands on” experiences into Law Enforcement.

Those interested, please contact Sergeant Jon Vette at JVette@whitebearlake.org or download registration forms at whitebearlake.org/publicsafety/page/citizens-police-academy

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**Safety Information Night for parents is back this year!**

We partnered with the White Bear Lake Area School District yet again for this important session geared for parents only.

This FREE event, beginning with a free pizza dinner will be hosted at South Campus High School on Thursday, November 8th: beginning at 5:30 PM. Breakout information sessions will cover the topics of Human Trafficking, Youth Mental Health, Internet Safety, and Youth Drug Use and Awareness. Additionally, we will host a Traffic Safety Information table to answer your questions on teen driving laws and keeping your teens safe on the road!

**DO NOT MISS THIS EVENT** – it is only offered once a year, and provides you with one on one interaction with officers and staff who are experts on these important topics.

Daycare registration will be available for children 3 years old and older who are potty-trained. To register for daycare, please send an email to JVette@whitebearlake.org and include your children’s names and ages.

Contact Sergeant John Vette at 651-429-8539 for more information!
Crosswalk Safety and Stop Sign Enforcement
The Governors Highway Safety Association (GSHA) estimated the number of walkers killed in this country in 2017 was nearly 6,000, which hit a 33-year high. Last year, and again this summer, the White Bear Lake Police Department conducted extra-dedicated efforts to enforce stop sign violations and enhance pedestrian crosswalk safety.

Pedestrian crosswalks are commonly found outside of schools, in retail areas and throughout many neighborhoods. Their purpose is to allow walkers to safely cross the street. Some crosswalks even include yellow posted signs and a flashing light system to warn drivers to slow down and stop for persons about to cross. Common sense dictates that obeying the crosswalk rules will help keep our community members safe, and state law was created to support that belief.

Know the Law!
Minnesota State Statute asserts that when crosswalks (both marked and unmarked) are not controlled by four-way traffic control lights, drivers must stop and yield to pedestrians crossing the roadway. Drivers must remain stopped until pedestrians have clearly passed the lane.

It is important to teach our children proper safety tips as well. When crossing the road, pedestrians should not dart out into traffic when it would be impossible for drivers to yield in time. Following these rules as both drivers and pedestrians will help prevent crashes and help keep everyone safe.

Please follow these safety tips:

**Motorists should:**
- Drive at safe speeds and drive attentively – scan the road and sidewalks ahead for children, bikers and pedestrians.
- Always STOP and yield to pedestrians at all crosswalks and intersections.
- Pay extra attention when making a right hand turn on red at intersections with traffic signals.
- Never overtake or pass a vehicle that is stopped for a pedestrian.

**Pedestrians should:**
- Always cross at an intersection, never in the middle of the street.
- Obey traffic control lights at an intersection.
- Use pedestrian crossing buttons at an intersection and only cross when the signal indicates it is safe.
- Wear brightly colored clothing when out walking, running, or biking on the roadway – day or night.
- Clearly indicate that you want to cross the roadway by stepping up to the crosswalk and wait for vehicles to stop (do not approach crosswalk until everyone in your party is ready to cross).
- Watch for traffic from all directions while crossing to protect against distracted drivers.

Your safety is important to us! As a result, officers will continue to be vigilant for those violating these traffic laws and will most likely issue citations. By working together, we can help save lives and prevent injuries by reducing pedestrian vehicle accidents in our city. For more information on school bus and pedestrian safety, please visit the Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety’s Web site at: www.dps.state.mn.us/ots

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Dog Etiquette 101
Stroll through quaint downtown White Bear Lake and you will quickly spot a bowl of water set out to welcome your pooch. In fact, the desire to accommodate dogs downtown and throughout the community led to a citywide ordinance amendment in 2015 to allow dogs on outdoor patios of consenting restaurants.

Some view dog friendliness as part of the city’s charm, while others have encountered issues created by irresponsible owners who do not follow the rules.

**Obey the laws!** Please obey these simple laws to avoid ill will toward dogs and responsible dog owners. When people do not follow the rules, privileges may be lost.

**Leash Required!** Dogs must be leashed at all times! This includes the Matoska Park waterfront. Even if your dog is swimming in the lake, he or she must be on a leash. With rising water levels and diminishing beachfront at Matoska, new leash laws were put into place last year to keep dogs from interfering with other activities at that busy location (people swimming, buoys, kayaks, etc.) and wandering onto nearby private property.

Did you know it can be dangerous to mix leashed and unleashed dogs? Leashed dogs often feel threatened by free dogs and become defensive, which can lead to altercations between dogs and owners. Remember, your dog has animal instincts that cannot always be controlled. For the safety of all, please obey the leash law at all times!

Dogs in White Bear Lake can only be leash-free in designated areas of Lakewood Hills Park and Varney Lake, where they must be under voice command. This exception was made to allow people to work with their hunting dogs.

**Scoop the Poop!** Always have a device with you to collect and properly dispose of your dog waste. Leaving it behind is disrespectful to other pedestrians, property owners, responsible pet owners and the environment.

**License Required!** No person shall own a dog 3 months or older without a city-issued dog license. Submit an application with proof of immunizations to the White Bear Lake Police Department. All dog licenses expire on December 31st of each even numbered year and may be renewed the first of every odd numbered year.

Follow these rules and help maintain a dog friendly community!
Emergency Medical Service - Duty Crews

What began as an all-volunteer fire department in 1888, the White Bear Lake Fire Department now serves over 39,000 people, providing fire and ambulance services to the City and surrounding communities of White Bear Township, Dellwood, Birchwood, and a small portion of Lino Lakes. For decades, the department relied entirely on dedicated community volunteers and eventually, paid-on-call emergency responders.

Calls for emergency services continue to increase with 80% being medical in nature. This increase in demand is due to a number of factors, including an aging population, the addition of senior facilities in the area, and an increasing number of mental health related calls. In addition to rising demands for service, there are more competing demands on the time of paid-on-call emergency responders who also have family obligations and/or outside careers and commitments.

In 2014, the City Council approved the addition of four (4) full-time emergency responders to help address increases in demand for services. This resulted in the placement of two (2) full-time emergency responders at each station, creating what is known as a “combination department” which utilizes both full-time and part-time personnel for emergency responses. Since adding the first full-time responders in 2014, calls have increased nearly 30%. Today, the department is on pace to respond to an average of 11 calls per day, or approximately 4,000 calls annually.

To meet the current needs of the community, create greater efficiencies and reduce the burden on the part-time members, the City Council authorized the addition of four (4) full-time Paramedic/Firefighter positions this summer. The City Council is then considering the addition of four (4) more full-time Paramedic/Firefighter positions with the adoption of the proposed 2019 budget. The goal is to reach the full complement of a combination department comprised of twelve (12) full-time Paramedic/Firefighters with continued but reduced reliance on part-time responders.

The impact on the 2019 budget will be partially mitigated through savings realized from the transfer of dispatching services to Ramsey County. The proposed 2019 budget includes an additional $105,000 for these positions, with remaining funds to be raised through an anticipated 10% ambulance rate increase.

For more information on these changes or the services provided, please contact Chief Greg Peterson at 651-429-8567.

"Remembering When" Update

The City of White Bear Lake Fire Department has adopted a program created by the National Fire Protection Association called “Remembering When.”

The program focuses on fire prevention and fall prevention for older adults, but also includes other good safety tips and reminders.

The Fire Department conducted its first presentation on July 2nd at the Willow Woods Senior Apartments. Twenty-five residents of the facility attended the presentation to learn helpful fire prevention tips such as closing your bedroom door while sleeping to create a barrier that could save your life. The residents were very interested, engaged and had a great time sharing personal stories.

Fire Department staff have enjoyed meeting with and engaging seniors in these classes. If you are interested in this program coming to you, please contact the Fire Department at (651) 429-8568.
Forgivable financing for home improvement projects

For many homeowners, expensive utility bills and heating system repairs can be a difficult financial burden. To help, the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) has partnered with Ramsey County to offer an Energy Conservation Deferred Loan for eligible White Bear Lake residents. The loan is 0% interest, has no monthly payments, and is forgiven if the homeowner stays in their home for 10 years. Income limits apply.

**Eligible projects include:**
- Furnace/boiler replacement
- Water heater replacement
- Attic and/or wall insulation

To learn more or to get started call CEE’s residential loan specialists at 651-789-5706. In addition to this program, CEE offers a wide variety of financing options for your home improvement needs. To learn more visit mn.endingcenter.org.

Smart Salting

Everyone knows that salt can be a good tool to melt ice on our driveways and sidewalks. While salt can help prevent accidents on the road and around buildings, it comes at a cost to the environment. When the snow melts, the de-icing salt (containing chloride) runs into nearby lakes and can harm fish, ducks, and other aquatic wildlife.

How can you make a difference? To reduce your salt use this winter, try these ideas from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency:

- **Check the temperature** – is it too cold for salt? Most salts stop working around 15 degrees (F). When temperatures drop, use sand for traction, but remember that sand does not melt ice.
- **Apply less than you think.** Adding more salt does not equal more melting. Try to use less than 4 pounds of salt per 1,000 square feet. Keep in mind 1 pound of salt is about the same as one 12-ounce coffee mug.
- **Clean-up any extra salt.** If you can see sand or salt on dry pavement, this means it is no longer working and could be washed away. Try to reuse salt or sand somewhere else or sweep it up and throw it away.

Frozen Pipes

Prolonged low temperatures and the increased depth of frost in the ground increase the likelihood of water pipes freezing. Use these cold weather tips to avoid unnecessary expenses resulting from frozen water pipes.

- **Prevent pipes from freezing:** When your tap water is below 35 degrees, temporarily keep a trickle of water running from the faucet located lowest in the house. The trickle should be a steady stream, about the size of the lead in a pencil. If your pipes freeze, contact your plumber or Public Works at (651) 747-3650 for a list of contractors that can assist with thawing your pipes.
- **Insulate exposed pipes and faucets:** Insulate faucets and pipes in cold locations (garages, crawl spaces, outdoors) with newspapers or rags, then cover insulation with plastic and tie with a string or wire. You could also apply electric heat tape to exposed pipes.

Snow Plowing

Snow season is right around the corner! Remember all vehicles must be removed from the street during a 3” snow event until the street has been cleared from curb to curb. Avoid a citation or having your car towed by removing your vehicle from the street anytime it is snowing. By keeping streets clear of vehicles, snow can be plowed more effectively and efficiently. It is also illegal and can be dangerous to push snow from your driveway into or across the street. Trash and recycling carts should be placed at the end of your driveway behind the curb, rather than in the street during winter months. Finally, if you live near a fire hydrant, help first responders by keeping it clear of snow. This could save valuable time during an emergency response to you or your neighbor’s home.
City of White Bear Lake
4701 Highway 61
White Bear Lake, Minnesota 55110

Administrative Offices
City Hall 651-429-8526
Administration 651-429-8508
License Bureau 651-429-8525
Passports 651-429-8500
Building 651-429-8518
Planning 651-429-8561
Engineering 651-429-8531
Police 651-429-8550
Fire 651-429-8568
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Rush Line BRT Update
What is Bus Rapid Transit?
While most people are familiar with Light Rail Transit, not as many have heard of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). BRT is an alternative to Light Rail that utilizes a bus-based transit system to deliver fast service through the provision of dedicated lanes (guideways) and frequent operations (bus arrivals every 15 minutes). Because BRT contains features similar to a light rail system, it is much more reliable, convenient and faster than regular bus services. If Ramsey County is successful in securing the federal funding needed to construct the Rush Line, BRT will connect the White Bear Lake community to the developing metro-wide transit system.

Station Area Planning Process
As the result of a three-year study beginning in 2014, the Rush Line Policy Advisory Committee selected BRT as the preferred mode of transit for the Rush Line Corridor. The route will begin at Union Station in St. Paul, follow an off-road, dedicated guideway co-located with the Bruce Vento Regional Trail, and eventually follow along Highway 61 into White Bear Lake. Over the next two years, consultants hired by Ramsey County will lead communities through a station area planning process to determine best locations for stops and designated parking facilities to accommodate users.

Late last spring, the first of three meetings were held with a workgroup comprised of White Bear Lake residents and business owners to begin reviewing options for station locations in our community. These “station area planning” workgroups evaluated options in three areas along the Highway 61 corridor: Cedar Avenue, White Bear Avenue/Whitaker Street (Marina District), and Downtown.

Each of these areas present exciting opportunities, as well as logistical challenges. In consideration of placement of these stations, the workgroup is looking to maximize both accessibility and economic development potential. The outcome of these workgroup discussions is being summarized into a report that will be presented to the White Bear Lake City Council at its regular meeting on October 23, 2018. There will be subsequent opportunities for additional public participation in this planning process as the City considers the options presented.

For more information, visit rushline.org

How do we compare?
White Bear Lake’s tax levy remains the lowest per capita among Minnesota cities with populations between 16,000 – 37,000! A copy of the City’s draft 2019 budget will be available on-line or at City Hall by November 9th. For questions, please contact the City Manager, Ellen Hiniker, at 651-429-8516 or the Finance Director, Don Rambow, at 651-429-8517.

For more information about how a property tax is calculated, go to the Minnesota Department of Revenue’s website at www.revenue.state.mn.us and type “property tax fact sheets” into the Search box.