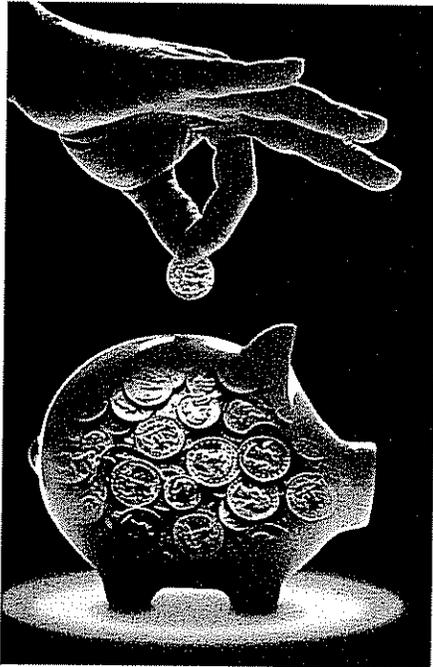




White Bear Township Report

Special Town Budget Meeting Nov. 28



White Bear Township's Special Town Budget Meeting will be held at 7 p.m., Tues., Nov. 28th in the Town Hall. The Town Hall is located on Old Hoffman Road, southwest of Hwy. 61 and White Bear Avenue.

Township residents are encouraged to attend the Special Town Budget Meeting, where Town staff members will present information to residents on the proposed 2007 Town budget and property tax levy. Residents will then vote on whether to accept or reject the 2007 budget and property tax levy proposals.

The proposed 2007 property tax levy is \$2,690,272, an 8.5% increase over the 2006 tax levy. However, the Township's tax capacity rate will decrease 1.6% to 17.656% and the Town's market value tax rate will increase to .00353%. The decrease in the Township's tax rate is due to the Town's tax capacity increasing 10.9%.

If the tax capacity and market value tax rates are applied to a home with a market value of \$175,000, the

property owner could expect to pay \$315 in Township property taxes in 2007 compared to \$320 in 2006. A homeowner whose home has a market value of \$275,000 could expect to pay \$495 compared to \$503 in 2006. However if their market values increase 10.9% to \$194,075 and \$304,975, respectively, their property taxes would increase to \$350 and \$549 respectively (increases of \$30 and \$46).

The Township's proposed 2007 expenditure budget includes:

- Wage increases of 3% for Township staff and Town Board members.
- Two new positions, a part-time secretary and a full-time public works technician, both positions to begin after July 1st, 2007.
- \$21,727 decrease in elections due to holding one election in 2007 compared to three in 2006.
- Community development increased \$54,802 due to additional staff time being allocated to this activity and preliminary work on updating the Township's comprehensive plan.
- Police and Fire activities increased 3.8% and 8.4%.
- Road and Bridge Activity increased \$24,308 for increased cost of street materials and fuels.
- Park Maintenance increased 7.43% for replacement of park equipment and/or hard-court surfaces.

Prior to the Nov. 28th meeting, Township staff will continue to work to reduce the proposed budget, so the Town can maintain its goal of maintaining the lowest possible tax rate while providing the best municipal services to Township residents. Staff will present a detailed 2007 budget and proposed property tax levy to residents during the Special Town Budget Meeting. Residents in attendance will then have the opportunity to comment and ask questions

regarding the proposed 2007 budget and tax levy, followed by residents (not the Town Board) voting to accept or reject the proposed budget and tax levy.

For more information on the Town's proposed 2007 budget and property tax levy, call Finance Officer Tom Kelly at (651) 747-2760 or visit the Township's web site at www.ci.whitebear-township.mn.us.

Holiday Safety Tips

Protecting Your Home.

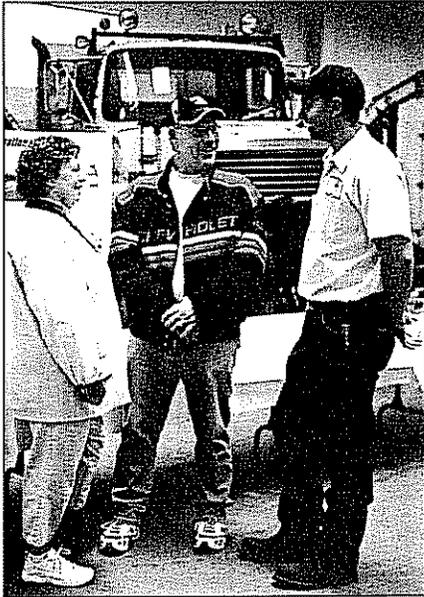
- Make your home appear that someone is home.
- Use timers on interior lighting.
- Use motion sensors on exterior lighting.
- Have your driveway clear of snow.
- Pick up your newspaper and mail as soon as possible.
- If you're going out of town, have a trusted neighbor pick up your mail and newspaper (and do the same).
 - Do not display pictures of purchased items on cardboard in your recycle bin.
- Gather your neighbors and join a neighborhood watch.

Protecting Yourself.

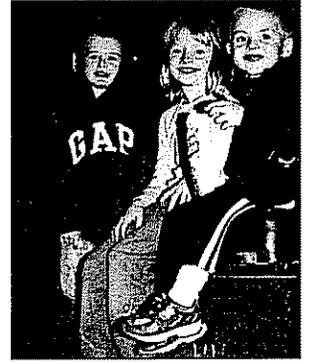
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash or credit cards.
 - Don't overburden yourself with packages.
 - Be extra careful with purses or wallets.
- Carry a purse close to your body.
- Park in well-lighted areas.



Scores turn out for Open House



New Public Works Employee Joe Reil, 19, gave his parents, Mary Jo and Mike, the tour of the renovated public works facility. Joe, who is also a volunteer Firefighter-EMT with the White Bear Lake Fire Department, was hired by the Township this past summer.



(top left to right) White Bear Township resident Liz Kalisch and Public Works Coordinator Bill LaBore enjoyed a cup of coffee and camaraderie during the Township's Public Works Open House on Sat., Oct. 21. More than a hundred people toured the facility; learned about the importance of the work done by public works employees; visited with Township staff; and snacked on popcorn, hot dogs and pop. Kindergarten teacher Heather Kurth, TKDA Architectural Job Captain Ben Kurth and Township Public Works Employee Mike Cash discussed the merits of the new facility. TKDA, the Township's engineering consultants, designed the public works building's renovation plans (TKDA's Dean Johnson was the Architect of Record) while Jack Parkos was the General Contractor. The \$2.5 million public works building's expansion added 8,400 sq. ft. to the department's vehicle storage area, 2,700 sq. ft. to its existing cold storage area, and 900 sq. ft. in additional office space. The improvements have added to the safety of the public works employees as well as the longevity of the public works equipment. Andy Hansen, 5, Amaya Skillings, 5, and Sam Hansen, 3, let loose in the wide open spaces of the public works facility - climbing aboard a snowplow, tiller and firetruck - before settling down for a photograph.

Other Township News

◦ Winter Regulations (Nov. 1-April 1).

Safety: Keep children out of snow piles and forts near the road to prevent injury from snowplows. Do not put anything in the road right-of-way including plants, shrubs, rocks, etc. **Parking:** Motorists cannot park vehicles on the street for more than 24 consecutive hours. Motorists cannot park on a Township street, boulevard, highway or alley after a snowfall of one inch or more until the road is cleared curb to curb. Automobiles should be parked in driveways more than two feet from the edge of the road. **Snowplows:** Stay back, slow down and be patient. Give snowplow operators room to work in. Don't pass snowplows. Maintenance vehicles frequently back up. **Driving:** Never drive into a snow cloud. Monitor weather and road conditions. **Snow removal:** Perform snow removal and ice control tasks in a timely manner. Keep fire hydrants, gutters and catch basins free of ice and snow. Store shoveled snow "downstream" of driveways (in your yard) to reduce the chance of having your driveway filled with snow as snowplows pass. Check the condition of your mailbox post and make any necessary repairs prior to winter.



- **History Committees.** White Bear Township will celebrate its 150th Anniversary in 2008. In preparation of reaching this milestone, the Township is seeking volunteers for the planning of the restoration of the historic Town Hall; gathering of family stories, documents and photographs for the Township's history book; and planning of sesquicentennial events. Committee members will meet once a month beginning in January. To volunteer, please call (651) 747-2750.
- **Christmas Tree Disposal.** Allied Waste Service will pick up Christmas trees on normal collection days Jan. 2 - 12. Trees should be bare, free of tinsel, lights and stands and placed at the curb across the driveway from trash prior to 6:30 a.m. Wrapping paper and packing materials are not recyclable and should be thrown away with regular trash. For more information, call (763) 784-2104.