



# White Bear Township Report

## Township's Annual Meeting March 14

**W**hite Bear Township will continue its tradition of being a government "of, by and for the people" during its upcoming Annual Meeting.

### Election

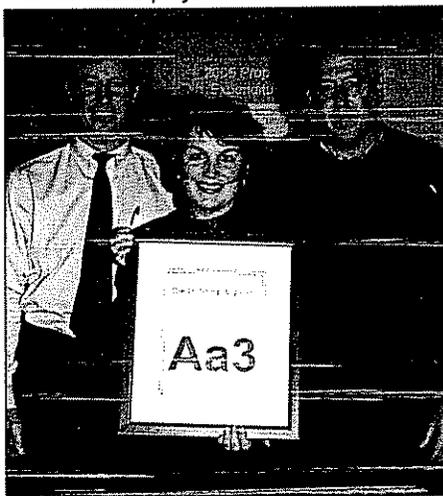
Prior to the Annual Meeting, residents will cast their votes for Town Board Supervisor.

Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day (see opposite page for new Precinct III polling place).

The Annual Meeting and Announcement of Election Results will be held at 8 p.m., March 14, in Otter Lake Elementary School. All residents are invited to attend.

The Township's Annual Meeting is a gathering of the residents – not of the Town Board – in which the Town's people have the power and responsibility to elect a moderator to run the meeting; discuss outstanding issues; announce Town Board election results; and vote on a preliminary levy for 2007.

*Terri Heaton, of Springsted Inc., presented Clerk-Treasurer Bill Short and Finance Director Tom Kelly with a plaque commemorating the Township's Bond Rating Upgrade to Aa3. The higher bond rating is a result of the Township's sound fiscal management and growing commercial, industrial and residential development. Having an Aa3 bond rating will allow the Township to finance future projects at lower interest rates.*



Township officials, however, will attend the meeting in an unofficial capacity to answer questions residents may raise.

### Budget Meeting

During the Township's Special Budget Meeting on Nov. 29, residents approved the Town's \$2,898,844 operating budget and \$2,478,976 property tax levy for 2006.

The Township strives to deliver the finest municipal services available in the most cost effective and efficient manner and, in so doing, ensure the highest quality of life for residents by providing quality housing in safe neighborhoods with well-maintained street and utilities, attractive commercial and industrial development, and a stable economic base.

Though wages, health insurance and disability insurance will cost more in the coming year, the Township's expenditures for all funds will decrease 17.61%. The decrease in expenditures is due to the Township's reduced debt and capital expenditures.

The Township's tax rate in 2005 was 19.281. In 2006 it will be 17.926%, the second lowest tax rate in Ramsey County.

Township homes are valued for tax purposes by Ramsey County. The median home value in the Township for 2006 is \$241,700.

Changes in Township market values include:

- 46% of properties had increases of less than 15%;
- 43% of properties had an increase of 15%; and
- 11% of properties had increases greater than 11%.

For more information about the budget, visit [www.ci.white-bear-township.mn.us](http://www.ci.white-bear-township.mn.us) or call Finance Director Tom Kelly at (651) 747-2750.



Town Board Chair Bob Weisenburger

## Election

**T**own Board Chair Bob Weisenburger will seek re-election on March 14.

Those wishing to throw their hat into the political ring must file for office between 7 a.m., Jan. 3 and 4:30 p.m., Jan. 17.

Weisenburger, a longtime member of the Town Board, has worked in labor management for more than 30 years.

His job as a State Mediator for the Bureau of Mediation Services has helped him lead Township residents to consensus on many issues.

"Mediation is finding the essence of compromise. Parties may have different perspectives, and all may be valid, but the art is to find something that works," said Weisenburger. "It might not be something each party wants, but it's something each party can live with."

"The key issue is to be sensitive to the electorate," said Weisenburger. "Doing finances that exceed the expectations of the people; achieving a higher bond rating; taking care of issues that people have. I think we've done well."

## Polling Places

Polls will be open  
7 a.m. to  
8 p.m. on Tues.,  
March 14th.

**Precinct I: Otter Lake  
Elementary School,  
1401 Co. Rd. H-2.**

**Precinct II: Eagle  
Brook Church, 2401  
Buffalo Street.**

**Precinct III: South  
Shore Lutheran  
Church, 2480 South  
Shore Blvd.**

**Precinct IV: Town  
Hall, Old Hoffman  
Road at Goose Lake.**

## New Telephone System

White Bear Township recently converted to a new Cisco Internet Protocol (IP) phone system.

The IP phone system eliminates the need for multiply phone lines and will reduce the Town's future phone service costs.

In addition, the system has many features which were not available on the old phone system.

With the new phone system, the Township has new phone numbers.

The Town's new main phone number is (651) 747-2750 and its utility billing number is (651) 747-2754.

The Town's fax number remains (651) 426-2258.

The Town's old phone numbers will automatically be rerouted to the new number.



## Other Township News

- **Christmas Tree Disposal.** Allied Waste Services will pick up Christmas trees on normal collection days January 2 - 13. Trees should be bare, free of tinsel, lights and stands and placed at the curb across 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, please call Allied Waste Services (763) 784-2104. Ramsey County yard waste site south of Co. Rd. J on Sherwood Road, White Bear Township, will also accept Christmas trees Jan. 14-15 and Feb. 11-12. For more information, call (651) 773-4455.
- **Identity Theft.** Now that the holidays are over, and credit card bills are rolling in, it is important to guard against identity theft. Ramsey County Sheriff's Department offers these safety tips:
  - Run a credit report on yourself to see if there are any unknown credit inquiries or unauthorized accounts.
  - Reconcile your check and credit card statements in a timely fashion and challenge any purchases that you did not make.
  - Limit the number of credit cards you have to reduce exposure, and cancel any inactive accounts.
  - Destroy all unused pre-approved credit card and loan applications. The mailbox thief only has to fill them out and redirect the return address to start using your credit.
  - Never give any important number out like from your drivers license, credit card, bank account, date of birth or social security number to anyone you don't know over the telephone.
  - Minimize exposure of your driver's license number, date of birth, social security number, and credit card numbers. If the numbers are requested for check cashing purposes, ask if the business has alternative options such as using a check-cashing card.
  - Safeguard your credit, debit, and ATM card receipts and shred them before disposing of them

Obtain copies of your credit report periodically to see if there are any unknown credit lines in your name. Credit reports costs less than \$10. All three major credit reporting agencies in the United States have toll free telephone numbers: Equifax (888) 532-0179; Experian (800) 311-4769; Trans Union (800) 680-7289.

If you would like more information about crime prevention education, visit [www.co.ramsey.mn.us/sheriff/crimeprevention.asp](http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/sheriff/crimeprevention.asp) or call the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office at (651) 266-7339.