



White Bear Township Report

Township's Annual Meeting March 13

White Bear Township residents should mark their calendars to attend the Township's Annual Meeting in March.

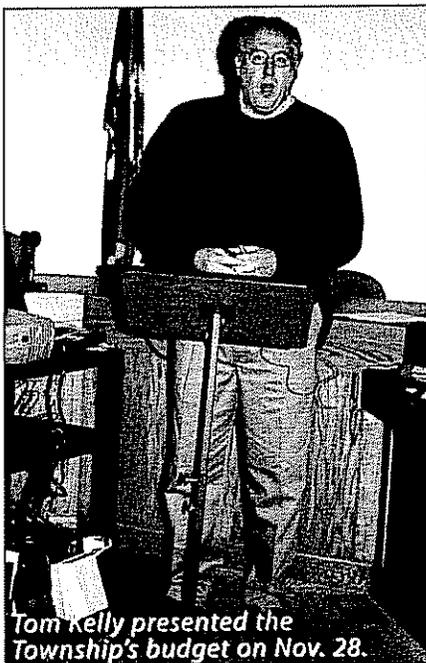
The Annual Meeting will be held at 8 p.m., Tues., March 13, in Otter Lake Elementary School at Co. Rd. H-2 and Otter Lake Road.

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 precinct locations). Election results will be announced during the Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting is a gathering of the residents – not 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 2008.



Tom Kelly presented the Township's budget on Nov. 28.

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

Special Budget Meeting

White Bear Township resident, Bob Kermes, was chosen by Town residents to moderate the Special Budget Meeting on Nov. 28, with Township Finance Officer Tom Kelly presenting the budget.

During the meeting, residents approved the Township's \$3,009,429 general fund budget (an increase of 3.81%) and \$2,606,625 property tax levy for 2007.

According to Kelly, the Township's tax capacity increased 10.82% to \$13,862,004.

The Township's 2007 tax rate will be 17.063%, a decrease of 4.88%. White Bear Township continues to have the second lowest tax rate in Ramsey County.

However, the median Township home value, which is set by Ramsey County, is now \$260,000 compared to \$230,500 in 2006.

This means that 60% of properties had property tax increases of less than 15%; 34% of properties had increases of 15%; and 6% of properties had increases greater than 15%.

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

For the tenth year in a row, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) presented a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to White Bear Township for its annual budget.

To receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as an operations guide, as a financial plan and as a communication device.



Township Election Judges Lolle Stephenson and Rose Gustafson helped residents register to vote during the Fall 2006 election.

Town Board Election

Town Board Supervisor Dick Sand will seek re-election on Tues., March 13.

Those wishing to run for Town Board must file for office with the Town Clerk at 1281 Hammond Road, White Bear Township, between 7 a.m., Jan. 2 and 5 p.m., Jan. 16. The cost of filing is two dollars. Town Board terms are for three years.

Sand, a longtime member of the Town Board, has been in private practice as a St. Paul attorney for more than 25 years.

He serves as Town Board liaison to the Economic Development Advisory Board and Planning Commission.

Winter Safety Tips

Polling Places

Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tues., March 13th.

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, 4151 Hoffman Road (southwest of Hwy. 61 and White Bear Ave.).

Ice Safety

With winter weather and changing temperatures approaching, it is helpful to remind parents, children and sportsmen to be careful before venturing out onto frozen lakes and ponds.

Ice is not yet safe to walk on and even "safe ice" can change quickly with rising temperatures and water current. Be especially careful before driving any vehicle, 4-wheeler or snowmobile onto frozen rivers or lakes. Make sure to wear a warm hat under your helmet to help retain body warmth. Warn children to stay away from open water and ice-covered ponds or streams.

Facts:

- 65% of all ice drownings are vehicle related.
- Children die in Minnesota every year in thin ice related accidents.
- Hypothermia and frostbite can become life or limb threatening in a few minutes.
- 70% of body heat is lost through your head if unprotected.

Safety Steps:

- Never walk on ice less than 4 inches thick.
- Never snowmobile on ice less than 5 inches thick.
- Never drive a vehicle on ice less than 8 inches of new, clear ice.
- Avoid drinking alcoholic beverages when operating any vehicle.
- Take a snowmobile safety course offered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). For more information, visit www.dnr.state.mn.us/index.html.

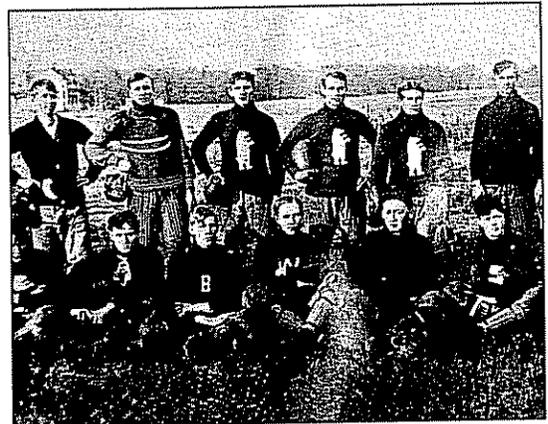


Other Township News

• **History Book.** Town Life's Publisher, Catherine Carey, is writing a history of the Township in preparation for the Town's 150th Anniversary in 2008. To share your family's stories, photographs and documents, please call (651) 292-9343 (9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon.-Sat.). All photographs and documents will be carefully scanned and returned to contributors. Photo credit will also be given to photos that appear in the history book.

• **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.

• **Snowmobiles.** White Bear Township requires snowmobilers to stay on public trails, waterways, highways and streets specifically designated for snowmobile use. No person shall operate a snowmobile on lands not his own, except where otherwise allowed by law, without the written permission of the owner, occupant or lessee of such lands. Further, no person shall operate a snowmobile in such a manner as to create a public nuisance, as defined by the Township's Ordinance No. 16.



Early White Bear High School football team.
Photo courtesy of White Bear Lake Area Historical Society.