



White Bear Township Report

National Night Out to be Celebrated Aug. 7



White Bear Township and 9,500 other communities across the nation will celebrate the "24th Annual National Night Out" 6 to 9 p.m., Tues., Aug. 7.

On National Night Out, residents living within the seven contract communities policed by Ramsey County Sheriff's Department – White Bear Township, Vadnais Heights, Shoreview, North Oaks, Gem Lake, Little Canada and Arden Hills – will turn on their outside lights, lock their doors, come outside and visit with neighbors; community leaders; and public safety officials at neighborhood block parties and cook-outs.

National Night Out was created to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for anti-crime efforts;

strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and let criminals know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

To obtain registration packets, visit the Township's web site www.ci.white-bear-township.mn.us and click onto "2007 National Night Out." Those with questions should call Ramsey County Sheriff's Crime Prevention Unit at (651) 266•7339. The deadline to register is 5 p.m., Fri., July 27.

For National Night Out event



Children in Birch Park enjoyed the safety whistles given to them by the Town's Public Safety Commission on National Night Out. (photo by Pam Deters)

ideas and/or neighborhood purchasing ideas, visit the National Association of Town Watch at www.natw.org.

Town Board Plans Installation of Water Meters



White Bear Township is planning to install residential water meters to measure water consumption of the 4,000 plus households within the Town water system. Commercial and industrial customers are already metered. Installation of water meters will allow residents to pay for the water they consume. Metering all customers will provide the Town with the tools to apportion water charges

fairly, measure water losses, evaluate and determine water leaks.

The Town's water system was initially installed in the mid-1950's when developers built tracts of new homes in the southeast area of the Town. The Town continued to install water systems in other neighborhoods during the 1970's and 1980's. During this timeframe, lawn watering and automatic residential sprinkler systems were not widely used, so water consumption did not vary significantly by resident or season. With little variation in residential use, water meters were not installed as a cost saving measure. Having all residents pay a flat or uniform rate made sense as everyone used similar amounts of water.

The Town water system is designed to meet customer demand and support peak loads while providing sufficient capacity for fire protection. Unlike the 1950-1970's, during peri-

ods of hot dry weather, lawn sprinkling can put a heavy burden on the ability of the water system to keep up with demand. The Town has permanent time-of-day watering restrictions to avoid watering in the heat of the day when much water is lost due to evaporation. Even with these restrictions, water levels have been low.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which has authority over the withdrawal of water from the ground, and the Metropolitan Council, which oversees water planning in the metro area, both strongly encourage water conservation. Without water meters, the Town is unable to provide residents any information regarding the amount of water they are using to assist in their ability to conserve water. We all realize that water is a resource too valuable to waste. And like other utilities such as gas, elec-

tricity and cell phone minutes, residents expect to pay for what they use.

With the installation of meters will come the adoption of a new water rate formula that will charge residential customers for the exact amount of water they use. The current flat rate structure charges customers the same regardless of the amount of water used.

Water Meter Installation

The Town will contract for the installation of water meters and this cost will be paid from the Town's current Water Fund. The installation is expected to begin late this fall and take about one year to complete all 4,000 installations. The installation contractor will schedule an individual appointment with you for the work. The work consists of installing the meter on your incoming water service which is usually in your basement. If your home was built after 1976, the Town required a "spacer" to be installed by the original plumber. This spacer is the same size as the water meter and its presence will make the installation go quicker. Total installation time will take about an hour. An outside meter reading device, about the size of a deck of cards, will also be installed on the exterior of your home to allow reading the meter without entering the house. Most of the work will be supervised by a licensed plumber.

More information will follow as we get closer to the time of installation.

Water Cost

The Town currently bills its residential customers a flat rate, regardless of the amount of water actually used. The new water portion of your quarterly utility bill would be calculated as follows:

Quarterly Water Cost = Consumption Charge or Minimum Service Charge, whichever is greater.

Minimum Service Charge. Many of the costs associated with a water system are fixed. For example, the Town must maintain its wells, water towers, and water mains for fire protection whether a customer uses any water or not. In addition, the water system must be able to meet the total water demand a customer can place on the system. This demand varies based on the size of the water service. A larger commercial service can place a higher demand on the water system than a smaller residential service.

Consumption Charge (rate and usage) per quarter. The Consumption Charge being considered is the first 18,000 gallons at \$1.16 per 1,000 gallons with a minimum quarterly charge of \$12.00, and usage over 18,000 gallons at \$2.40 per 1,000 gallons.

This new rate is expected to go into



effect after the installation project is completed in late 2008 or early 2009.

Quarterly Minnesota Department of Health Test Fee. The Minnesota Department of Health charges the Town \$1.59 for a quarterly test fee for each service connection. The Town will continue to pass this fee on to each water customer.

The Town will be conducting additional meetings in the future. Watch your mail for further information or visit the Town's web site at www.ci.white-bear-township.mn.us.

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. A limited number of "White Bear: A History" will be printed and available for pick-up at the Township offices in Nov. To reserve a copy of the book, please download an order form at www.ci.white-bear-township.mn.us, fill it out and mail it along with a check or money order for \$45 per book to the Township's Offices. Those wishing **to order books** without computer access should include the number of books they're ordering along with their name, address, and telephone number plus a check or money order (for \$45 per book) to White Bear Township, Attn: History Book, 1281 Hammond Rd., White Bear Township, MN 55110. For more information, call (651) 747•2750.
- **Public Safety Commission.** White Bear Township Public Safety Commission members ran a public safety booth during Otter Lake School's Carnival this past spring. Their booth included safety information as well as timed drawings for children's toys and games. Dozens of families attended the popular annual event.
The Public Safety Commission will be visiting neighborhoods during next month's National Night Out, as well. Members will be distributing public safety literature as well as safety-related children's gifts.
- **Polar Lakes Park.** Reservations for White Bear Township's Polar Lakes Park athletic fields can be made through White Bear Lake Area School District's Community Services Department by calling (651) 407•7501.



(l to r) Public Safety Commission Members Rich Brueckner, Sandy LeBlanc, Jim Linn and Patrice Pozzini-Stedman at Otter Lake's Carnival.