



White Bear Township Report

Township Residents Approve Preliminary Property Tax Levy



Photos: (top left) Moderator Eric Wesman led the Annual Meeting on March 11; (bottom left) State Representative Carol McFarlane discussed legislative issues; (right) Undersheriff George Altendorfer introduced public safety officials; and (bottom right) Ramsey County Commissioner Tony Bennett talked about the expansion of Tamarack Nature Center. (photos by Catherine Carey)



During the Tues., March 11 Township Annual Meeting, residents approved a \$2,901,562 preliminary 2009 property tax levy; welcomed elected officials and public safety officers; and scheduled next year's Annual Meeting for March 10.

Township resident Eric Wesman was chosen by the public to serve as the Meeting Moderator. It was his eighth time doing so.

Guest speakers were State Rep. Carol McFarlane, Ramsey County Commissioner Tony Bennett; Ramsey County Undersheriff George Altendorfer; Sara Hanson, Executive Director of White Bear Lake Area Historical Society; and *White Bear: A History* Author Catherine Carey.



McFarlane discussed the challenges facing legislators due to the nearly one billion dollar deficit the State is facing. Bennett described traffic improvements and plans to expand Tamarack Nature Center. Altendorfer addressed public safety concerns before introducing long-time Township Deputies Norm Thurmer, Jr. and K-9 Officer Bruce Jerome.

Hanson spoke about the May 11 Sesquicentennial celebration in Polar Lakes Park followed by Carey giving a brief description of her soon-to-be-released history book.

Township Finance Officer Jessie Hart then explained the Township's 2008 operating budget and proposed 2009 preliminary property tax levy.

The preliminary property tax levy, which voters approved, represents a 5.03% decrease over the 2008 preliminary tax levy. It is a "worst case scenario" and can be decreased, but not increased, prior to the Town's Fall Budget Meeting.

The Fall Budget Meeting is scheduled for Dec. 2 in Heritage Hall, 4200 Otter Lake Road, White Bear Township.

For more information about the tax levy or budget, please call Jessie Hart (651) 747-2760 or visit www.ci.whitebear-township.mn.us.

Bill Mample Wins Reelection

Bill Mample won reelection as Town Board Supervisor by more than a 3 to 1 margin over his nearest opponent. Of 427 total votes cast, plus two write-in votes, 307 votes went to Bill Mample; 87 votes went to Fred Driver; and 31 votes went to Ron Marquardt. Town Board Supervisors serve three-year terms.



Heritage Hall Grand Opening Draws Hundreds

More than 300 people celebrated the Grand Opening of Heritage Hall on Fri., March 14.

Those in attendance were treated to tours of the building, refreshments, and a lively ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Gem Lake Mayor Paul Emeott said he was pleasantly surprised by the turn-out, which was three times what city officials had expected.

The 3,400 sq. ft. building is a collaborative effort among White Bear Township, Gem Lake and the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department. It provides meeting rooms, office space and a records storage area for all three entities in addition to serving as a polling place.

The largest of its meeting rooms has

seating for 75 people.

Meeting space is also available to local groups such as scouts; hobby clubs; athletic organizations; and others.

Room rental will also be considered to those wishing to hold family get-togethers or wedding receptions.

Gem Lake City Council held its first meeting in Heritage Hall on Jan. 15. The Township held its first Planning Commission meeting there on Feb. 28.

For the past 30 years, the City



Township Clerk-Treasurer Bill Short is greeted by two Ramsey County Sheriff's deputies and a member of the K-9 unit during Heritage Hall's Grand Opening.

Council had held its meetings at the Tousley Ford dealership on Co. Rd. E and Hwy. 61.

Other Township News

- **Spring Cleaning.** White Bear Township will hold its **Annual Spring Clean-Up** from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sat., June 7 at Otter Lake School. Town residents are invited to bring traditional waste products along with household hazardous waste at no charge and household televisions, computer monitors and electronic equipment. Items accepted by Allied Waste include appliances, automotive batteries, tires, mattresses, furniture, carpeting, household fixtures, lawn mowers (all fluids drained), building materials (bagged and bundled, under 30 lbs.), limbs and brush (each limb must be less than three inches in diameter, shorter than five feet long and tied into bundles no larger than 18 inches in diameter). For more information about what items will be accepted, call Allied Waste Services' Blaine Office at (763) 784•2104.
- **Otter Lake Carnival.** White Bear Township's Public Safety Commission and Ramsey County Sheriff's Department will host a table during Otter Lake Elementary School's PTA Carnival, 6 to 9 p.m., Fri., April 11. They will provide families with student ID kits, safety items, and information pertaining to personal safety, water safety, bike safety and more. A D.A.R.E. Officer will also be on hand to teach children about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. Free drawings and prizes will also add to the fun.
- **Election Judges.** White Bear Township is seeking residents interested in serving as election judges in this fall's election. Training will be provided. Please call Judy Moll at (651) 747•2759.
- **Dog License Renewals.** Township dog licenses are set to expire March 31. Cost for a two-year license is \$20 if obtained prior to April 30, \$30 after that date. Proof of rabies vaccination in the form of a Rabies Certificate must be presented at the time of license renewal/purchase.
In conjunction with the renewal of White Bear Township's dog licenses, Lake Animal Hospital, 5900 Hwy. 61, White Bear Township, will be holding a rabies vaccination clinic on Sat., April 19, from 9 a.m. to noon. Vaccinations will be provided at reduced rates and a representative from White Bear Township will be on hand to issue dog licenses.

