



White Bear Township Report

Township's Annual Meeting March 10

White Bear Township residents should mark their calendars to attend the Township's Annual Meeting on March 10.

The Annual Meeting will be held at 8 p.m., Tuesday, March 10, at Otter Lake Elementary School. The school is located at Co. Rd. H-2 and Otter Lake Road.

The Annual Meeting is a gathering of the residents – not the Town Board – in which the Town's residents have the power and the responsibility to elect a moderator to run the meeting; discuss outstanding issues; announce Town Board election results; and vote on a preliminary levy for 2010.

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

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. Election results will be announced during the Annual Meeting.

Special Town Budget Meeting

White Bear Township's Special Town Budget Meeting was held on December 2 at Heritage Hall. White Bear Township resident Bob Kermes was chosen by Town residents to moderate the Special Town Budget Meeting. Finance Officer Jessie Hart presented the 2009 Proposed Budget.

During the meeting residents approved the Township's \$3,181,549 General Fund Budget (an increase of 1.09%) and \$2,650,337 property tax levy for 2009 (an increase of 0.1775%).

According to Hart, the Township's tax capacity decreased 4.0123% to \$13,896,548 for 2009 compared to \$14,282,766 for 2008.

Based on the levy approved by the Township residents voting at the meeting, the 2009 tax rate will be 16.9270%, which is slightly higher than the certified rate for 2008 of 16.4905% (an increase of 2.6473%).

The median Township home value, which is set by Ramsey County, is now \$247,400 compared to \$262,100 in 2008. This represents a 5.6% decline and directly impacts the tax capacity value.

Polling Places

Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tues., March 10th.

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: Heritage Hall, 4200 Otter Lake Road.

This means that residents living in median-priced homes will pay approximately \$429.34 in Township property taxes in 2009.

Weisenburger Retires from Town Board Kermes Running for Open Seat



Town Board Chair
Bob Weisenburger

Town Board Chair Bob Weisenburger is retiring after serving 28 years on the Town Board. He chose not to run for reelection, in part, so that he and his wife, Bonnie, could spend more time traveling.

Among his many accomplishments, he helped to expand the Township's parks and public utilities system in addition to building the

Township's administrative offices and public works facility.

Weisenburger's experience in labor law helped make his public service a success. He often used his skills as a professional mediator to bring people with opposing viewpoints together.

Another longtime resident, Bob Kermes, is running for

Weisenburger's open seat. Kermes is Chair of the Township's Economic Development Advisory Board and has previously served as Chair of the Township's Utility Commission.

On many occasions, Kermes has also been chosen by residents to moderate the Township's Annual and Special Budget Meetings.

Joint Traffic Safety Initiative Underway

Ramsey County Sheriff's Department is cooperating with other law enforcement agencies to conduct a traffic safety project called the Ramsey County Traffic Safety Initiative.

The project is a cooperative, year-long federally-funded effort, utilizing officers from every law enforcement agency in Ramsey County as well as the State Patrol. Officers saturate a specific roadway on a given day with up to 20 or more squads to create a high visibility event.

While this sounds like old news, it is not. With joint powers agreements signed by the participating agencies, police officers from St Anthony and New Brighton can work in White Bear Township along with North St. Paul and Maplewood officers all night long. The White Bear Township prosecutor will then handle all of the cases in its jurisdiction.

The officers working on the project will wear 3M high-visibility vests identifying them as part of the Traffic Safety Initiative.

Motorists will be warned that increased enforcement effort is underway for such things as speeding, aggressive driving and DWI. Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) illuminated signs will alert drivers that they are in an enforcement zone.

Late Nights and Drinking

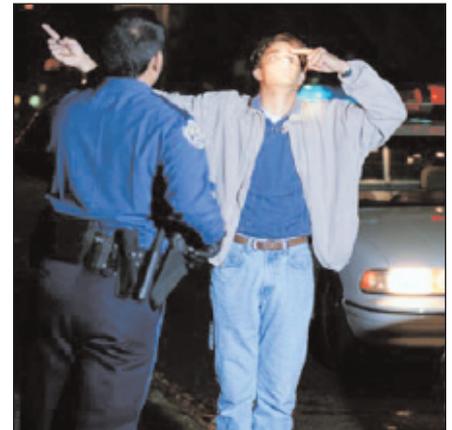
Late nights and drinking even moderate amounts impair driving. Alcohol use and sleepiness are both risk factors for driving injuries and fatalities.

Researchers examined how the combination of drinking and sleepiness influenced driving performance in 29 young adults. Subjects stayed awake several hours after usual bedtime and consumed, over 30 minutes to an hour before usual bedtime, vodka on one night and a placebo on another. They completed driving simulation and visual reaction time tasks before and after consuming the alcohol or placebo.

Their findings included:

- Performance on the driving simulation task significantly deteriorated as the time awake increased.
- Alcohol exacerbated the effects of wakefulness on certain driving simulation tasks, particularly at hour 15.5 of wakefulness (when alcohol levels peaked) but not at hour 18.5.
- Reaction time deteriorated with increasing time awake, but was not significantly affected by alcohol consumption (compared with placebo).

Summary: Drinking on top of sleep deprivation decreased driving performance. But drinking did not appear to exacerbate sleep deprivation's effects on reaction time.



By 18.5 hours of wakefulness, the effects of sleepiness apparently superseded any alcohol effects.

This study provides evidence that in sleep-deprived young people, the rapid consumption of a moderate amount of alcohol may further impair driving.

Successful Enforcement

During the first four events with saturated traffic policing, 67 troopers/officers/deputies stopped 1,471 motorists, issued 433 citations and arrested 94 people.

Ramsey County's joint traffic safety initiative will be ongoing throughout the year. For more information, call Ramsey County Sheriff's Deputy Tim Entner at (651) 248-2449.

Other Township News

- **Book Signing.** Author Catherine Carey will sign her history book, "White Bear: A History," immediately following the Town's Annual Meeting at 8 p.m., Tuesday, March 10, in Otter Lake Elementary School. Otter Lake School is located at Co. Rd. H-2 and Otter Lake Road. The history book, which costs \$49.95 (plus tax), will be available for purchase on site.
- **Trash to Treasure Day.** White Bear Township will hold its 2nd annual "Trash to Treasure Day" on Saturday, April 25. White Bear Lake will hold its "Trash to Treasure Day" on the same day. Residents wishing to participate may put items they're no longer interested in owning out on the curb for others to pick up at no charge.
- **Otter Lake School Carnival.** White Bear Township's Public Safety Commission will host a public safety booth at the Otter Lake School Carnival next month. The Carnival is at 6 p.m., Friday, April 17. Stop by the Public Safety Commission table to win free prizes!

