



White Bear Township Report

Special Town Budget Meeting Tuesday, November 29

White Bear Township's Special Town Budget Meeting will be held at 7 p.m., Tuesday, November 29 at Heritage Hall located at 4200 Otter Lake Road.

Township residents are encouraged to attend the Special Town Budget Meeting, where Town staff will present information to residents on the proposed 2012 Town budget and property tax levy. Residents will then vote on the 2012 budget and property tax levy.

The preliminary 2012 property tax levy that was approved by Town voters at the March 8, 2011 Annual Meeting was \$3,047,756. This is the maximum amount that could be certified as the final 2012 property tax

levy. However, as with previous years, the Town Board and staff will reduce and refine this number before the final budget is presented at the Special Town Budget Meeting.

At the November 29 meeting, Township staff will present a proposed budget that reinforces the Town's goal of achieving the lowest tax rate possible while continuing to provide the best municipal services to Town residents. Staff will present a detailed 2012 budget and proposed tax levy to residents during the Special Town Board Meeting.

Residents in attendance will then have the opportunity to comment and ask questions regarding the proposed 2012 budget and tax levy, followed by residents (not the Town

Board) voting on the proposed budget and tax levy.

For more information on the Town's proposed 2012 budget and property tax levy, call Finance Officer Jessie Hart at (651)747-2760 or visit the Township's website at www.ci.white-bear-township.mn.us.



Coming Soon – Metered Water Rates

The Town Board approved a new interim residential metered water rate on June 21, 2011. The new interim rate is used on sample billings for purposes of providing "what if" information to Town residents who have never had metered rates before. The new interim rate is based on the Water Utility Rate recently completed by the Township. While this interim rate may not represent a final rate, the

data used in calculating the interim rate will be used in determining the final rate. The Town Board will adopt a final rate which will become effective with the quarterly bills that will be mailed around December 1, 2011 for September – November 2011.

The Consultant's presentation of the Water Utility Rate Study to the Board on June 21, 2011 can be viewed on the Town's website at www.ci.white-bear-township.mn.us under the News & Notices tab.

The final metered rate will have two parts. The first part will be a fixed fee. Fixed costs are those costs of operating the system that **DO NOT** vary with the volume of water sold (general administration, billing, debt service, customer service). The fixed fee is a flat amount based on the meter size serving the property and **WILL NOT** change regardless of consumption (even if zero). This fixed fee will be imposed on all accounts including residential, commercial and irrigation. Most residen-

tial services have 5/8 or 3/4 inch meters, although some may have larger meters to accommodate their irrigation systems. The fixed fees included in the study, based on meter size, are as follows:

- 5/8 & 3/4 inch: \$16.50 per quarter
- 1 inch: \$26.09 per quarter
- 1-1/2 inch: \$36.90 per quarter
- 2 inch: \$46.67 per quarter
- 3 inch: \$66.00 per quarter

The second part is based on consumption and is based on costs that change as consumption changes (chemicals and utilities). The consumption fee takes into consideration conservation rules for residential usage and includes two steps. The first step is considered household use, or necessary consumption. The second tier is considered discretionary use and generally includes water consumed outside the normal operations of a household. Commercial properties have only one tier so not to penalize them for water usage in their business operations, however,



White Bear TownsHIP Celebration: MINNE-TASTE

We're keeping the Taste of Minnesota alive at the fourth annual White Bear TownsHIP Celebration: MINNE-TASTE on Saturday, September 10, from NOON to 9 p.m. in Polar Lakes Park.

Our headliner, the Lamont Cranston Band, will perform at this year's White Bear TownsHIP celebration. This legendary Midwest band has played with everyone from Muddy Waters to Bonnie Raitt to The Rolling Stones. They're a rockin' party band that can't be beat. Dan Ackroyd says, "No one infects the audience with the party virus quite like Lamont Cranston." Lamont Cranston takes the stage at 5:30 p.m.

Multiple Minnesota Music Award winner, Mick Sterling and The Irresistibles, open for Lamont at 2:30 p.m. The Irresistibles is an

unabashed celebration of American and British Retro-Soul, featuring some of the top talent in the Twin Cities. Come listen to this R&B Minne-classic at the WBT Minnie-Taste.

And, joining us for the first time this year, is the School of Rock Road Crew comprised of 17 band members in ages ranging from 12 -17 years old. The Road Crew has performed at the Taste of Minnesota and at the Mall of America. Come and hear them rock.

You'll find everything Minnesota at the WBT: Minne-Taste. Check out Tamarack Nature Center and their special guests that slide and slither; enjoy a helicopter ride and Jaws of Life demonstrations; arts and crafts; an array of food and refreshments; and a grand finale fireworks display at dusk. The fireworks are definitely the hit at



every year's celebration!

The musical concerts, Jaws of Life demonstrations and fireworks are all free of charge, as is the parking. For a complete schedule of events, vendor forms or sponsor information, go to www.ci.white-bear-township.mn.us.

Water continued

they are required to install a separate meter for irrigation systems which will be billed at the same rate as the second tier, or discretionary use of residential properties.

The consumption rates are included in the study as follows:

Residential

0 - 15,000 gallons: \$1.90 per 1,000 gallons

15,000+ gallons: \$2.90 per 1,000 gallons

Residential Irrigation (where metered as irrigation):

All Use: \$2.90 per 1,000 gallons

Commercial

All Non-Irrigation Use: \$2.40 per 1,000 gallons

Commercial Irrigation

All Use: \$2.90 per 1,000 gallons

A residential customer with a 5/8 inch meter would need to use 10,520 gallons or less per quarter to see a billing equal to or less than the current flat fee of \$36.50. Based on the winter quarter 2011, this would be approximately 1,630 customers out

of over 4,500 billed. The summer quarter for 2010, however, would have only produced approximately 159 customers who would have paid \$36.50 or less based on this interim rate structure.

An average residential user with a 5/8 inch meter that uses 15,000 gallons in the spring and winter quarters, and 20,000 gallons in the summer and fall quarters would pay \$45.00 and \$59.50 per quarter respectively (annual total of \$209.00) which compares to the current flat fee of \$36.50 per quarter (annual total of \$146.00) and would see an annual increase of approximately \$63.00.

One **FINAL** sample bill will be mailed in early-October (based on June - August 2011) and is anticipated to include the **FINAL** rate adopted by the Town Board.

How can I reduce my water consumption?

There are a number of ways to reduce your consumption but first make sure you don't have any unnecessary consumption due to leaks.

You can check this by shutting everything that uses water off. Watch your meter and if the digits are moving while everything is shut-off you probably have a leak someplace that is using water. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day.

You can reduce household water consumption by replacing old appliances with water conserving systems, such as washer, toilets and shower heads. Insulate your water heater and avoid buying a larger tank than necessary for your needs.

You can reduce outdoor consumption by using a broom, not the hose, to clean the garage, sidewalks and driveway. Water in the mornings before 10 a.m. as rising heat later on tends to steal a lot of water by evaporation. Pay attention to Town Watering Restrictions. Let your grass grow to about 1-1/2 to 2 inches in the summer; water loss will be reduced because the blades will provide shade for the roots. Flood irrigate vegetables and flowers when possible rather than using a sprinkler. Irrigation allows deeper soaking with less water.

Water continued

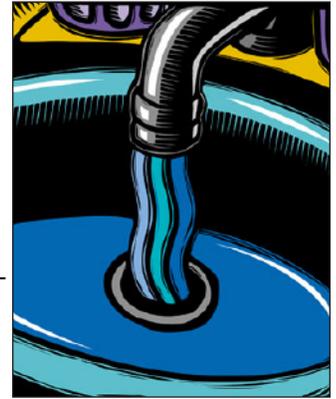
TOWNSHIP WATER FACTS

- Automatic Payment for Water Bills.** Residents can have their utility bill payment automatically withdrawn from their checking account (ACH). Payments would be withdrawn from your checking account on the due date of the quarterly bill. You would still receive a quarterly bill as a reminder of the withdrawal and can discontinue the program at any time. Advantages include: no writing checks; no late charges; no envelope or postage necessary. If interested contact Utility Billing at (651) 747-2754 Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Bank Checks.** There is an increasing use of bank checks to make payments for utilities. These bank checks do not include the stub from the bill so it is important that, at a minimum, the account number and service address are shown on the bank check. Bank checks received

without the necessary identifying information may be returned to the maker.

- Snowbirds.** Those residents who chose to leave for an extended period of time, generally in the winter months, need to notify Utility Billing when you depart and provide a forwarding address that can be put into the billing system. Utility bills are not forwarded via the U.S. Postal Service and are returned to the Township as “temporarily away.” These bills are then subject to late-fees if the property owner does not realize they are not forwarded. Residents who do this need to notify Utility Billing when they return so the normal mailing address can be used. Utility Billing can be reached at (651) 747-2754 Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
- Outside Water Restrictions-Year-Round Restrictions.** Watering may be done by even-numbered addresses on even-numbered

calendar days and odd-numbered addresses on odd-numbered calendar days during the hours of 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Properties found in violation of these restrictions could be subject to a fine of \$40.



- Hydrant Flushing.** To ensure fresh water and to remove rust build-up in water lines, the Public Works Department flushes water from hydrants in the spring, summer and fall. Announcements of flushing appear in the local newspaper and on the Township website.

Winter Regulations in Effect November 1 to April 1

To keep your family safe this winter, please take note of the following safety suggestions:

Safety

- Keep children out of snow piles and forts near the road to prevent injury from snowplows.
- Do not put anything in the road right-of-way including plants, shrubs, rocks, etc.

Parking

- Motorists cannot park vehicles on the street for more than 24 consecutive hours.
- Motorists cannot park on a Township street, boulevard, highway or alley after a snowfall of one inch or more until the road is



cleared curb to curb.

- Automobiles should be parked in driveways more than two feet from the edge of the road.

Snowplows

- Stay back, slow down and be patient.
- Give snowplow operators room to work in.
- Don't pass snowplows.
- Maintenance vehicles frequently back up.

Driving

- Never drive into a snow cloud.
- Monitor weather and road conditions.

Snow Removal

- Perform snow removal and ice control tasks in a timely manner. Keep fire hydrants, gutters and catch basins free of ice and snow.
- Store shoveled snow “down-stream” of driveways (in your yard) to reduce the chance of having your driveway filled with snow as snowplows pass.
- Check the condition of your mailbox post and make any necessary repairs prior to winter.

Important White Bear Township Numbers

Emergency.....	911
Sheriff (non-emergency).....	(651)484-3366
Fire (non-emergency).....	(651)429-8568
Animal control Complaints.....	911
Impounded/Lost Animal Hillcrest Animal Hospital 1320 Hwy. 61, Maplewood, MN 55109	(651)484-7211
Refuse/Recycling Allied Waste.....	(763)784-2104
Post Office.....	1(800)275-8777
Library.....	(651)407-5302
Township Office - 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.....	(651)747-2750
Public Works Emergency.....	(651)775-9828
Utility Billing.....	(651)747-2754
Community Develop.....	(651)747-2761
Bldg Permits/Inspect...	(651)747-2750
Vehicle Licensing.....	(651)429-8532
School District 624.....	(651)773-6000
http://www.ci.white-bear-township.mn.us	