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Two Harbors in 2013

By Mayor Randy Bolen

Busy, busy, busy! The City of TH has a number of projects gaining full steam and with the construction season right around the corner, we continue to move forward on many items in 2013:

CAMPGROUND EXPANSION - The City is anticipating the opening of our new \$1.4 million campground expansion this summer. Northland Constructors has been awarded the contract and will begin construction as soon as the weather permits. This new 34-site expansion will be located across the street from Burlington Bay and feature a three tier layout with state-of-the-art amenities. The additional revenues will enable the City to reduce the general levy. The project was funded with State of Minnesota bonding dollars and an IRRRB Grant.

AIRPORT F.B.O. HANGER - We continue to gain momentum for economic development by utilizing our municipal airport. The City expects to begin construction this summer on a new \$800k fixed base operator (FBO) hanger. The new FBO hanger at Two Harbors Richard Helgeson Municipal Airport will be 80' x 100' in size, making it the largest hanger at the Airport. Local business, TH-Aero will be the new anchor tenant. This hanger will help TH-Aero expand to up to 7 employees within 3 years. With this new hanger, the FBO will be able to better-serve the larger aircraft that use our facility. The majority of the \$800k project will be paid for by grants from the IRRRB and MNDOT Aeronautics. It is projected that the additional aircraft traffic will increase the City's revenue on fuel sales.

J&J CASTINGS/ROUNDOUSE DEMOLITION - The City is moving forward with the demolition of all nine dilapidated structures on this prime piece of real estate. The City's long-term plan is to get this 22-acre site shovel-ready to bring jobs and economic development to our town. We have a number of business initiatives for this area in the works and will do everything we can to utilize this long dormant area of our town. Our goal is to bring the property to its' full potential.

AGATE BAY SAFE HARBOR PROJECT - We continue to work very aggressively towards bringing a safe harbor of refuge to our recreational boating community. We have two tracks in motion, one with the federal government and one with the state. The feds are working with the Army Corps of Engineers to get the necessary paperwork brought up-to-speed and to navigate the proper funding for this project from the federal side. Congressman Rick Nolan has been extremely helpful and has thrown his full support behind the project. On the state level, Senate Majority Leader Tom Bakk has been the City of Two Harbors' biggest advocate for this project and has made it a priority to help us see this long-awaited project to fruition. We've testified in St. Paul about the desire to complete this project and turn the City of Two Harbors, into the Port of Two Harbors. If we're fortunate and get the necessary bonding money this year to remove the old concrete crane railing and all contaminated soils, the project would be shovel-ready in 2014.

ROAD, ALLEY & TRAIL/SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION - Our Public Works Department, under the supervision of Larry Fabini, will put tremendous effort into repairing our worst alleys in town this construction season. Eighth Street will be improved from 7th to 4th Avenues. The project is a joint partnership with the County. We'll also see a new trail corridor open from County Road 26 to 11th Ave, by installing a tunnel underneath the CN Railroad tracks. There will be a 7th Avenue west-end corridor beautification project that will welcome residents and visitors alike. The project is in the vicinity of the cemetery.

ARTS, BEAUTIFICATION & CURB APPEAL - Arts continue to be a focal point in Two Harbors. Flowers will once again be placed at various locations around town and on light posts. Four outdoor movies will be shown this summer in Thomas Owens (Bandshell) Park. A multitude of

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Police Surveillance Cameras Installed

In early March, the City of Two Harbors and its Police Department, along with help from Cooperative Light and Power (CLP), completed the installation of several surveillance cameras in various locations throughout the City.

The need for this project became clear and began nearly two years ago after repeated acts of vandalism in various public accessible areas throughout the City. Vandalism is a difficult crime to solve because the acts typically occur in areas that are out of the general public's immediate view and often occur during non-daylight hours.

Initially, the Police Department identified several surveillance options; however, due to the large costs associated with the equipment and ongoing support, they found it wasn't financially possible. Other, cheaper alternatives were identified but would not be able to provide the necessary surveillance that was needed. Fortunately, a local business owner, in conversation with the City Council on other matters, had shown photographs of an eagle he had captured on his remote surveillance camera that had been recommended to him by CLP. This conversation resulted in a partnership between the City of Two Harbors and Cooperative Light and Power who use the same surveillance system on several of their remote locations.

The surveillance system uses a wireless data network that feeds live data to a dedicated computer in the Police Department. This data is recorded and stored for several months. If complaints of vandalism or other criminal activity are reported to the police, they are able to review the previously recorded data for any information that will help them investigate the complaint.

Although the surveillance system is a great tool for law enforcement, it is never as useful as its citizens. As always, the Police Department encourages the public to report any incidents that they feel may deserve police attention.

POLICE DEPARTMENT TO HOLD COMMUNITY AND POLICE AWARENESS MEETINGS

The Two Harbors Police Department would like to extend an invitation to all residents to Community and Police Awareness meetings. The meetings will be held for residents from Wards 1 & 2 on Tuesday, May 7th from 5:00-6:30pm and from Wards 3 & 4 on Tuesday, May 14th from 5:00-6:30pm, at the Law Enforcement Center, located at 613 3rd Avenue.

The purpose of the meetings is to have the community come together and discuss what they would like and expect from us, how we can help with current issues that are out there and address any issues that the community needs to be aware of. We will have valuable informational packets for folks to bring home and everyone will have an opportunity to have their voice heard.

Please keep these dates in mind as we would love to get as many people from each ward in attendance as possible. This is the perfect opportunity to sit down, have some refreshments and meet with our Officers, who protect and serve the community, in a very relaxed setting.

If you have questions about what ward you are in, please give Jodie a call at 834-5567. You may also call her or leave a message to RSVP for this event.

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festivals and events are also scheduled: 4th of July Fireworks, Heritage Days, Chalk Fest, Kayak Fest, Lake County Fair, and the Two Harbors Block Party are among a few. The City Council is sponsoring a curb appeal contest to entice home owners to spruce up their property. More info can be found at: www.ci.two-harbors.mn.us and in this newsletter.

TWO HARBORS COMMUNITY RADIO - Many members of the City Council have enthusiastically gotten behind the TH Radio Group's initiative to bring an FM radio station to our area. Myself and many others feel this tool will be helpful to convey emergency situations out to a mass audience quickly and effectively. The group is in the final stages of completing a community survey to help better understand what Two Harbors would like to see in a community based radio station. You can check out the survey and all the work being done by visiting: "Two Harbors Community Radio" on Facebook.

ETC - *The City has sent a request to the local DNR to put the boat launch back in at Burlington Bay. After last year's June floods, the boat launch was seriously damaged and we'd like to work in coordination with the DNR to get that launch back into proper service. *A few committees have immediate openings: Edna G & HRA- If you're interested, contact myself or City Hall. *As always, the community is welcome to visit myself, councilors and staff on the first Thursday of every month from 4:30pm-7pm for Mayor's Community Night at TH City Hall. This is a great opportunity to discuss any and all happenings in our town, in a relaxed and inviting environment.

Water Meter Project

PROPERTY OWNERS REMINDED TO ARRANGE FOR WATER METER INSTALLATION

In September of 2011, the City Council adopted an ordinance which requires that water meters would be provided and installed at City cost, on each residential property serviced by City water service on or before August 22, 2011. In addition, each residential property serviced by City water service after August 22, 2011, will be provided one water meter at City cost, to be installed at the property owner's sole cost and expense.

The Ordinance provides that the installation of the water meters is to be done by a licensed plumber and inspected by the City, once approved, a certificate is issued by the City. A complete copy of the ordinance is found on the City's website at www.ci.two-harbors.mn.us.

The City's Gas, Water & Sewer Superintendent reports that 969 water meters have been installed to date, which amounts to approximately 70% of the residential water services within the City. Property owners who have not already done so are encouraged to contact a licensed plumber to make arrangements to have their water meters installed as soon as possible.

Following is a list of Plumbing Contractors who have offered to install:

Brubakken Plumbing & Heating	218-834-2180
Carlson Duluth Co.	218-727-0063
Cavallin Plumbing & Heating	218-834-4542
Do Right Plumbing & Heating	218-830-8985
Phil Wright Plumbing Co.	218-428-3094
WN Plumbing	218-390-6379 or 218-365-5548

Those property owners who may have made arrangements with Steve's Plumbing are asked to contact another plumber, as the City has been advised that Steve's Plumbing is not providing this service at this time.

It should be noted that metered rates will not go into effect immediately upon connection of the water meters. Although the City is not yet billing water according to consumption for residential meters, consumption data is being collected from meters that are already installed for the purpose of determining future metered rate structure. The City hopes to complete the process by year end.

Please contact City Hall at (218) 834-5631 if you have questions regarding the water meter ordinance and rates. Questions pertaining to the acquiring or installation of water meters should be directed to the City's Gas, Water & Sewer Department at (218) 834-8812.