

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

Each year we try to highlight our accomplishments or key events from the year. These are highlights that are usually outside of city staff's everyday tasks.

We welcomed a new Mayor, Wade LeBlanc, and a new Councilor, Ben Bautch, to our community leadership. We also congratulated Councilor, Dustin Goutermont on being reelected.

COVID-19 continues to be prevalent in our community, county, region, state, and globally. In 2021, we worked to getting back to a new normal while being cognitive of the impacts from the virus. Our emergency personnel, health care industry, frontline workers, home health care, and our volunteers deserve our sincerest thanks for continuing to take care of those in need. The pandemic continues to impact the lives off our community and our thoughts go out to all affected.

After being cancelled in 2020, we were able to celebrate Bay Days, Salmon Classic, Shop with a Hero, and Hockey Camp, plus we added Music in the Park. Thanks to organizations like the Bay Days Committee, PTSO, Best of the North Shore, Rocky Wall Productions, and Lovin Lake County to help aid in these events.

One of the most noticeable changes for 2021 was welcoming David Drown to the City as our Economic Development Director, who we are very grateful for in his volunteering of time to help our community identify growth opportunities. In one year, he has led efforts on the following projects and is doing an amazing job:

- Connecting and interacting with community members and businesses
- Planning and Design of Bayview Park – property formerly known as the Business Park.
- Planning and Design of a Golf Course Housing Project and working with MSA engineering.
- Boathouse Bay Townhome and Resort, a private development, along with expansion of utility services and creation of financing options.
- Economic Development Loans for both North Shore Adventure Park and Timber Creek Coffee.
- New Construction Housing Incentive Program
- Updating of Business Subsidy Policy and Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund
- City Center Planning – survey and MN Design Team planning
- Housing development planning along Penn Avenue and end of Marks Drive
- Park State Bank land and building purchase
- Marina business expansion
- Water/Sewer Rate review
- Finance planning for the city-wide street improvement project
- EDA Board education

Northshore Mining Company has agreed to lease additional land to the City for expansion of Black Beach Park to include improvements to parking, trails, picnic area, kiosks, and camping. The City has started work on site planning for these improvements which we hope to begin construction for in 2022.

The City received \$1.5M+ from MnDOT and MnDNR to make road improvements to East Lakeview Drive (the road to Black Beach). The City has begun the engineering efforts with Bolton & Menk to lead the design and engineering with hopes to have construction begin in 2022.

The City continues to work on the final funding stages for the Multi-Modal Trailhead Center and brought in Gary Cerkenik and Jeff Anderson to assist in the lobbying efforts for the remaining funds. Pending final approval of the funding, we hope to begin construction in 2022.

The \$4 million Wastewater Treatment Project upgrading to an automated system, updating a primary clarifier, dome covers on all clarifiers, and upgrading of mixers in the digesters is nearing the final pieces of completion. This was completed with funding assistance from the PFA and IRRB. Thanks to Mike Miller and his staff for making sure this project is a success.

Black Beach Park and Black Beach Campground continues to exceed expectations but also continues to take a lot of effort to operate and maintain. Thanks to Bryan Carpenter and his Parks and Recreation staff for keeping this area visitor friendly.

We welcomed Black Beach Mini Golf to our business park! Congratulations to David and Ashley Klemmer and thanks to our Council, EDA Board, Planning and Zoning Commission, Gary Thompson, David Drown, and city staff in helping make this business come to fruition.

The City received a clean financial audit for 2020, which was conducted in 2021. We are ready to start the audit process for 2021 to be conducted in 2022! Thanks to Cheryl Marolt for her preparation for the audit, Veronica Duresky in assisting with audit preparation and making sure all the bills are in and paid to minimize A/R and A/P's at year-end, and to all staff in making sure policies and procedures are followed throughout the year resulting in a clean financial audit!

The Sanitary Sewer Main project has been completed. Thanks again to Miller and his staff for keeping on top of this project. Thanks to IRRRB for their funding support for this project.

The Library continued normal operations and curbside pick-up. We said good bye to Jenny Veile and Shannon Walz, but also welcomed Julia Kloen. The Library added many digital options, diversified the reading materials, and expanded into "Take and Make" kits through the Arrowhead Library System. They continue to bring materials to the school, SilverPointe apartments, and Carefree Living. In addition, the Library received funding through the MN Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund to provide one-week passes to MN State Parks, funding to cover training of staff, and continues to provide excellent service to our public. Thanks to Eileen Anselment for her consistent commitment over 30 years of employment and helping to make the library a place the public wants to be.

The Library received just under \$500K to expand the library from the MN Dept of Education and will seek to improve our space needs for the Library. The City is working with Gensler on the design.

The City has received \$96K in COVID-19 ARPA funding and has begun the process of converting our financial, community development, and payroll software systems through BS&A and K-Pay. These programs will be fully complete and implemented by summer 2022.

We welcomed Lisa Christenson to our Administration staff as the Part-time Confidential Secretary after saying goodbye to Devon Montieth. Lisa has been a great addition to our staff.

Police implemented in the Shop with a Hero again, said goodbye to officers Nick O'Toole and Haley Mattila, while welcoming Caleb Fischer. The Department has been transitioning with staff and training, and we need to thank both the Full-time staff and our Part-Time staff who have stepped up to make sure coverage is covered, which requires officers to work above their normal shift schedule. Furthermore, their efforts at Black Beach saw less violations, they purchased a new squad car, and they are transitioning to be part of the Lake County public safety IT program. They have received grants from AAA to purchase traffic safety equipment.

We have started the design and engineering work on a multi-million water treatment facility upgrade.

The Fire Department assisted in the Greenwood fires and we thank our volunteer firefighters who took time out of their busy schedules to assist.

Mary MacDonald Parking lot first phase was updated. Thanks to Corey Cook and his street crew for their work in accomplishing this project with minimal impact to the patrons.

We said goodbye to bartender Owen Klinker, and to our legendary Liquor Store Manager, Tom Byrnes, who we wished a happy retirement. We welcomed Carrie Ernest as the new Liquor Store Manager, and promoted Tonja Fultz to Bartender. We also added new PT Staff with Anna Kochendorfer, Brandi Nopola, and Tina Goutermont. 2021 was a year of transition and we look forward to a great 2022!

Parks and Rec will be saying good-bye to long-term employee Donny Thompson as he retires on December 27th. We restructured our staffing and job descriptions to have two Parks and Recreation Maintenance and Operation Managers, with Jeremy Kasapidis and new hire, Steve Graden, taking those positions.

We welcomed Spencer Tiboni to our Street Department team as an Equipment Operator.

The City replaced 6020 feet of sidewalk. Thanks to street department staff for overseeing this project and VanHouse Construction for completing the work.

The Mayor has led efforts to work with neighboring township and city leaders regarding the future of the airport.

The Golf Course was up members and play were up again in 2021. They held the Men's Golf Invitational, the Women's Club Golf Scramble, Women's Golf Invitational, The M-Club Scramble, Veteran's Scramble, the Hunger Hero's Golf Scramble, and Gary Ollila's Golf Club scramble, with all tournaments having close to full participation. The Golf Course did some drainage work, extended a tee box, and overall had a great year. Thanks to Norma, the volunteers, and the staff for all their work in making our golf course exceptional.

MN ATV Riders held a large ATV rally to fundraise for the MN Veteran's Home. It was a big success and thanks to the organizers, sponsors, and participants in making it a great event and for being respectful of our community and trails.

The Lake Superior School District Daycare Drop Off Zone was completed and thanks to IRRR for their funding assistance in the project.

We assisted the school district in their referendum election.

The Neighborhood Revitalization grant continues to be a success with various improvements being made to homes and businesses within the community. Thanks to Lake County HRA for their funding assistance to help provide the matching funds to this program and to Lindsey Klemmer who oversees this program.

Grant Administration of more than \$5 million of funding that came in to help support the various projects of the City.

Purchased two new trucks and a Kubota.

Completion of the 2022 Budget and Levy.

Thanks to the Council – Mayor, Richard, Shane, Ben, and Dustin, for their proactive leadership of our community.

Thanks to the Volunteers who serve on the various Boards and Commissions over the past year.

Thanks to all the employees of the City for their dedication and hard work they put in day in and day out.

Thanks to our City Attorney, Tim Costley, and his staff for his expertise and guidance. We are lucky to have Tim working for us on both criminal & civil issues, but he provides great advice on many leadership issues as well.

Thanks to our City Engineers, Joe Rhein, Brian Guldán, John Graupman, and the rest of the staff at Bolton & Menk for their expertise and guidance on all of our projects. We are lucky to have them working on our behalf and as part of our city team. Congratulations to Mark Kasma on his retirement.

Thanks to our emergency personnel – police, fire, EMS, and rescue!

Thanks to Gary Thompson and Jim Rich for their services as Building Officials and Zoning Administrator.

Thanks to Mike Rowlee for leading our volunteer Fire Department and being our Fire Administrator.

Thanks to Juel Salveson for his work with managing the Mary Mac Building.

Most of all, thank you to the citizens, businesses, and non-profit organizations that make Silver Bay's quality of life a place to be proud of!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND HERE IS TO A WONDERFUL 2022!