

# Silver Bay Newsletter

— Fall/Winter 2024 —



7 Davis Drive  
218-226-4408  
[www.silverbay.com](http://www.silverbay.com)

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 2  
**City Commissions,  
City Meeting Schedule**

Page 3  
**Visioning for the  
Future**

Page 4  
**City Announcements**

Page 5  
**City-Wide Street  
Improvement Project,  
Multimodal Trailhead  
Center**

Page 6  
**Lake County  
CSAH Project,  
East Lakeview Drive &  
Black Beach Park,  
Housing,  
Water Treatment  
Facility Upgrade**

Page 7  
**Department Updates:  
Library,  
Street Department**

Page 8  
**Department Updates:  
Utilities, Police, Parks  
& Rec, Lounge**



## *Message from the Mayor*

Greetings,

Fall and Winter is a favorite time of year for me. I enjoy seeing the kids back in our school, going to high school events, the fall colors, and the holiday seasons that come around at the end of the year. There is a lot to be thankful for in our small community.

The City continues to tackle the challenges of housing, workforce, road and infrastructure improvements, inflation, and tax impacts. Council and staff are working on the 2025 budgets and it is very difficult. There are things not in the Council's control, such as how your properties are assessed or what share of the taxes you pay, but there are things we can control. We will work hard to create a budget that meets our current needs while preparing for our future. Councilors are residents of Silver Bay too, and changes in the taxes impact everyone, so please know that we are trying to do our best to minimize that impact. The proposed budget and levy needed to be set by September 30th, which was done, but it is not the final budget and levy. The proposed budget and levy are what you will see on your tax statements prior to Truth-in-Taxation; however, we will continue to work on the final budget that needs be certified by December 31st.

East Lakeview Drive construction (the road to Black Beach) is, for the most part, complete. Constituents have asked why that road was done before other roads in the city. It is because there was special funding to improve that road that other city streets were not eligible for. The library construction is shaping up nicely, and I am crossing my fingers that the funding for Silverpointe II will be secured. Other updates on city projects will be found throughout the following pages.

*Mayor's Letter Continued on page 2*

## Message from the Mayor Continued

When I look at our community, almost all facets of what makes up the infrastructure of Silver Bay is being addressed. There have been new businesses, new homes, our school and library getting renovated, Water and Sewer facilities being improved, updating of our recreation areas (black beach park, outdoor rink, and the rec center area), a new campground, roads and utilities, and sidewalks. Timing of when projects come to fruition are dependent on project support, funding (grants), and construction. Many projects take years to get completed, and some projects get done faster than others, but we are working on everything we can in our hopes to meet the 2040 vision set forth in the Comprehensive Plan.

Feel free to reach out if you have questions, concerns, or ideas that can help sustain our community's future by emailing me at [wadeleblancsb@gmail.com](mailto:wadeleblancsb@gmail.com). I hope you enjoy the Fall/Winter 2024 Newsletter and don't forget to visit our city website at [www.silverbay.com](http://www.silverbay.com) for additional information to meetings, minutes, and other information.

Sincerely,

*Wade LeBlanc*

Wade LeBlanc  
Mayor

## City Commissions

The City would like to thank all the volunteers who are serving on or have served on our boards and commissions this year. We appreciate your dedication, hard work and community involvement. You are making this a better place to live, work and play. Thank you.

Here is a list of our current active commissions and boards:

- [Cable TV Advisory Committee](#)
- [Economic Development Authority](#)
- [Library Board](#)
- [Liquor Control Commission](#)
- [Mary MacDonald Mall Committee](#)
- [Park and Recreation Board](#)
- [Planning & Zoning Commission](#)
- [Public Utility Commission](#)
- [Public Works Commission](#)

Anyone interested in serving on a board or commission can visit our website or stop by city hall for an application. Or you can call (218)226-4408 to have an application mailed to you.



## City Meeting Schedule

Here is the monthly schedule for commission, board, and city council meetings. All meetings are held in the city council chambers unless otherwise noted. You can also find the schedule on the [home page of the city website](#).

- 1st Monday of the month @ 7 pm - City Council Meeting
  - Wednesday after the 1st city council meeting of the month
    - @ 9 am - Parks and Rec Board
    - @ 10:30 am - Public Works
    - @ 12:30 pm - Liquor Control Commission
    - @ 2 pm - Economic Development Authority
    - @ 4 pm - Planning and Zoning Commission
  - 3rd Monday of the month @ 7 pm - City Council Meeting
  - 3rd Tuesday of the month @ 4:30 pm - Library Board Meeting (held at the library)
  - Public Utilities Commission @ 3:30pm dates vary check website for the date each month
- Special meeting notices are posted at City Hall 2 and on the city website.



# Visioning for the Future: Silver Bay's 2040 Vision

Creating a vision of the future as a guidepost is an important part of city planning. In 2014, key stakeholder groups in the the City of Silver Bay community worked together to update the city's comprehensive plan and develop a vision for 25 years in the future. Through public process the vision was eventually adopted by city council in 2015; and, the result of this was the creation of a vision narrative, goals, objectives and implementation steps that provide a road map for moving toward this vision. The vision statement is in the blue box below.

The vision encompassed 8 areas which each have their own set of identified goals and objectives. The 8 areas are:

- Land Use
- Natural Resources
- Trails and Recreation
- Economy
- Transportation
- Public Services and Infrastructure
- Housing
- Cultural

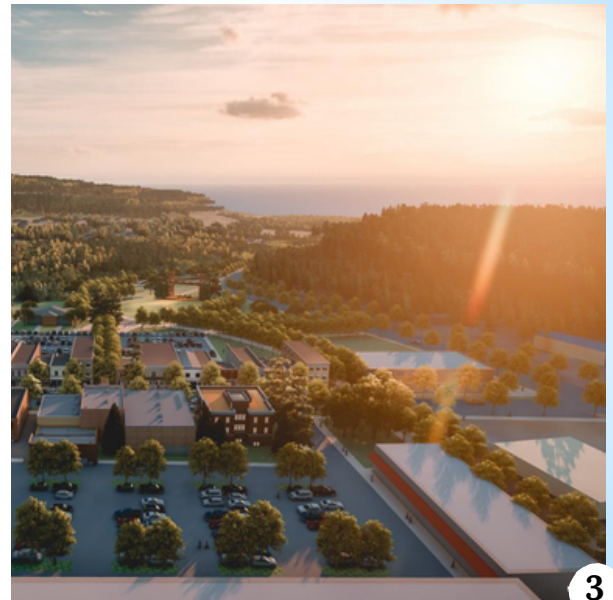
You can find the full 2040 Vision document and the Comprehensive Plan on the [city website](#).

In the last decade, this important work has directed how we approach maintaining and developing the community. It has helped us secure funding to tackle a wide range of projects. When you take a look at what steps we have taken toward this vision there is a lot to be proud of! Here are just a few things that have happened to move us toward this vision:

- updates continue to be made to the city code to meet the needs of a growing and changing community
- housing initiatives including the new construction incentive; neighborhood revitalization grants; and, new housing developments: Silverpointe II, Golf Course and Boathouse Bay
- new, locally owned businesses opened in town
- upgrades to our storm water planning, and waste water treatment facilities
- implementation of our citywide street and utility project
- And many more...

## 2040 Vision Statement

In 2040, Silver Bay is a regional destination with a thriving, small-town culture and atmosphere. People are drawn from across the region by its welcoming businesses, natural environment and diverse recreational activities. Trails carry explorers by foot, ski, snowmobile, and ATV through the woods where they enjoy a return to nature. Lake Superior's beautiful shoreline welcomes sightseers, kayakers, sailors and charter boats. The community is thriving with a diverse manufacturing and tourism economy, while maintaining a strong mining presence. Families have access to quality education and services, young adults have high-paying jobs and recreation opportunities and the elderly receive excellent care and access to assistance. The city has a reputation as a friendly and accommodating community and a place where people are welcome to escape for relaxation and enjoyment of life.





# CITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Vote!

Vote in the upcoming general election at the Reunion Hall on Tuesday, November 5 from 7:00am-8:00pm.



If you can't make it in person on election day, you can vote using an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots are available through the Lake County Auditor's office, located at 601 3rd Avenue in Two Harbors (Lake County Courthouse). Learn more: [www.co.lake.mn.us/auditor/voting-absentee/](http://www.co.lake.mn.us/auditor/voting-absentee/)

Stay up-to-date on the latest news and events by checking out our website: [www.silverbay.com](http://www.silverbay.com)

## MN Homestead Credit

The homestead credit can provide relief to homeowners paying property taxes. To qualify you must:

- 1) Own and occupy a home
- 2) Have your home classified as a homestead with your county
- 3) Pay or arrange to pay your property taxes.

There are two types of Homestead Credit Refund:

- 1) A regular refund based on your income and property taxes,
  - Regular: You owned and lived in your home on January 2, 2024. Your household income for 2023 was less than \$135,410.
- 2) A special refund based on how much your property tax increased.
  - Special: You owned and lived in the same home on January 2, 2023, and on January 2, 2024. Your home's net property tax increased by more than 12% from 2023 to 2024. The net property tax increase was at least \$100. The increase was not because of improvements you made to the property.

You may qualify for one or both of these refunds. To learn more check out the following: <https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/homeowners-homestead-credit-refund>

## Minnesota Cold Weather Rule



The Minnesota Cold Weather Rule is designed to protect people who may have trouble paying their utility bills in the winter. It applies from October 1st to April 30th. In the case of city utilities, this only applies to those who have hot water heat for their primary heat source. For more information on this rule, visit [www.silverbay.com](http://www.silverbay.com).

If you have trouble paying your utility bill, the following local agencies may be able to provide assistance: Lake County Social Services: 218-834-8400 / 218-226-4443  
AEOA: 1-800-662-5711

**4th Quarter utilities payments** are due December 31 at 4:00pm, either online or delivered to City Hall. Payments must be received by the City Administrator's office no later than 4:00pm.

Water, sewer, and garbage services are billed on a quarterly basis. Bills are processed and sent out in January, April, July, and October. Payments are due upon receipt.

## Truth in Taxation

**Truth in Taxation meeting - Monday, Dec 2 @ 7 pm in the city council chambers.** The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the city's levy and budget for 2025. Questions about property valuation or tax share should be directed to Lake County determines the values.

## Staff Goodbyes & Welcomes

### Thank you and Goodbye!

- Cheryl Marolt retired after 33 years of service
- Larry Carter will retire in November 2024 after 22 years of service
- Pam Puskala - Admin
- Sean Bergman - Police
- Ted Czaplicki - Water/Sewer

### Welcomes

- Donna McCurdy-Wolke - Finance Manager
- Theresa Lindgren - Parks and Rec Maintenance & Operations Manager
- Liquor Store: Alex Truax, Samara Goutermont, Katie Logan, Bridget Taylor





# AROUND TOWN

More information on these various topics and others can be found online at [www.silverbay.com](http://www.silverbay.com)

Look under [City Projects](#)

## City-Wide Street Improvement Project

The City has secured \$6 Million in funding to help support Phase 1 of our City-Wide Street Improvement Project. The total budget for Phase 1 is \$12M, which is needed to meet the 1:1 match for funding. Bolton & Menk, Inc., the City engineering firm, will assist the City to create the overall program for the City, including the creation of a Special Assessment Policy. They are also starting the preliminary design to collect the data, surveying, wetland delineations, proposed design, and cost estimates to help aid in decision making and planning. Sections A, B, and C of the map below is what will be included in the preliminary design for the first phase.

Once the preliminary design is complete, we will have a better understanding of how much can be accomplished within the \$12M budget before final design gets started. There will be public meetings and more information provided as it becomes available to gather your input and to meet the required process, per statutes.

Our initial schedule is for the repairs to begin in 2026 and be completed in 2027. Repairing of City streets has been a top priority of the constituents for years, and funding to get this accomplished is very difficult; however, we are fortunate for the support of our Legislators to provide ½ of the funding for this first phase to help us start making these improvements.

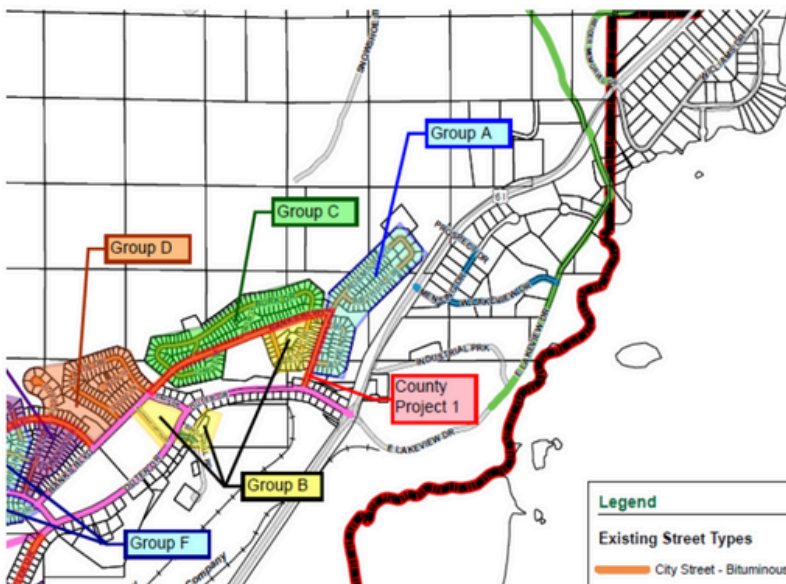


Figure 1: Clip from the City Street Improvement Program Map

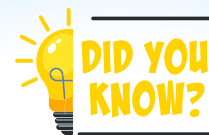
## Multi-Modal Trailhead Center



As mentioned in the Spring Newsletter, there has been various challenges that have delayed the timing of engineering, but we continue to work through them and expect to bid the project this winter and start construction in 2025.

Initial work has started for the project. Trees have been dropped to accommodate for the Northern Long-Eared Bat mating season. Once we receive the signed confirmation from the funding sources and signed easement documents are obtained from Northshore Mining additional site prep work will happen.

The funding of the project has been secured through the Federal Transportation Alternative Funding, Environmental and Natural Resources Trust (ENTRF) fund through the Legislative-Citizen Commission on MN Resources (LCCMR), the State of MN Bonding, and the State of MN Department of Transportation.



The City now has paperless billing and an online payment portal. Sign up on the City's website today to pay utilities and more!

Need help signing up? Just stop by or call City Hall and we are happy to get you started.





# **AROUND** **TOWN**

## **Housing**

### **Lake County CSAH Project**

The road and utility project along Banks Boulevard (between Horn and Davis Drive) and Edison Boulevard (between Horn and Penn Blvd), known as CSAH, is a project that is going to be completed by Lake County in 2025. It should be noted that this is not part of the \$12M phase 1 City project, but the City-Wide Special Assessment Policy will apply to the CSAH area. Continue to watch for more information as it becomes available.



### **East Lakeview Drive & Black Beach Park**

This project is 95% complete. We are working on improving the signage and some punch list items, but we hope you enjoy this improvement when traveling to Black Beach Park. The City has also received additional leased land from Northshore Mining to expand parking, trails, and primitive camping sites at Black Beach Park once we secure funding.



### **Silverpointe II Apartments**

The City and Lake County HRA are working on securing funding for Silverpointe II apartments so we can continue moving forward with this project.

### **Boathouse Bay**

Northland Constructors have started the extension of utilities for the Boathouse Bay development. Once completed, the city will have the needed utilities for the rest of the vacant lots within Bayview Park for future development.



### **Golf Course**

The Planning and Zoning Board has been working on the zoning code for the Golf Course Housing Division, along with the review of the preliminary design for the development. A public hearing was held this week on the proposed zoning language. The Silver Bay EDA is acting as the Developer for the project currently. Sale of lots would start once all approvals are completed, which is unknown at this time.

### **Penn Avenue**

The City has secured the property from Lake County HRA and is looking at a mix of multi-family and single-family units. The City will have three years to develop the property before the land reverts to Lake County.

## **Water Treatment Facility Upgrade**

The City has been awarded \$1,750,000 of the \$8.2 Million project through the Federal Congressional Direct Spending Program thanks to Congressman Pete Stauber, Senator Amy Klobuchar, and Senator Tina Smith. The City is working with the PFA funding to help secure additional funds. The design and engineering have been completed and submitted to the State for review and approval of the upgrade to our Water Treatment Facility. This project will focus on reducing the uniquely high pressures in our system, adding a booster station, making improvements to the aging building, pumps, and other required components.



# Department Updates

## Library

### Construction Project Updates

Our expansion and renovation project is moving along nicely! The addition has been going up and you can see what the new space is going to look like. We are looking forward to all the things that will be happening soon in the newly renovated space!

We have moved to our temporary location, Room 9 of the Mary Mac building, for 4-6 weeks starting September 23. The closest entry is through the doors near the Lake County Service Center. We will be open our regular hours. Thank you for your patience during this transition.

We also continue to thank all the funding sources to help make this project happen, including the MN Department of Education, IRRRB, and Blandin Foundation, Otto Bremer Trust, Cliffs Foundation, MN Power Foundation, Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation, ALA Rural Libraries, Richard Smach Bequest, and various individual donations.

We are looking for volunteers to help us pack up and move back to the library building once the building project is finished. If you are interested in helping out please give the library a call and sign up at 218-226-4331! We will take all the hands we can get.



## Lake County Big Read

YOU are invited to participate in this fall's Big Read program series! Big Read is a journey filled with conversation, learning, art, and fun that centers on the book "Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?" by Roz Chast. Events will focus on conversations about aging, support for caregivers, and intergenerational sharing.

Big Read is generously supported by The Victory Fund and is being hosted by five local organizations: Friends of the Finland Community, Silver Bay Public Library, North Shore Area Partners, Two Harbors Public Library, and Community Partners. While supplies last, pick up your own complimentary copy of the featured book at any of these partner organizations!

A vibrant lineup of Big Read discussions, events, speakers, and activities are on the schedule now through December. For details, please visit the websites or Facebook pages of the partner organizations, give them a call, or stop by!

## Street Department

The Street Department purchased a new dump truck, pickup truck, and lawn mower this year. A new equipment lift was installed in our shop as well.

### Reminders to residents:

- If you notice a street light that stays on or doesn't come on, please call City Hall at 218-226-4408 or the Street Dept at 218-226-4552.
- If you have a broken tree branch on your Blvd please call City Hall or the Street Dept. (Code 910.03 Subd. 1 and 5 prohibits pruning or tampering with boulevard trees).
- To avoid plugging storm drains, please do not rake or mow leaves into the street.
- No political signs are permitted in public right-of-ways or city boulevards (City Code 1230.01). Election signs are permitted in all districts, however, the signs shall be removed within 5 days following Election Day. No sign shall be placed on city or private property without the consent of the property owner or occupant.
- With winter fast approaching, please do not build snow forts in the snow banks next to the road or sidewalks.
- Please do not put your garbage cans on the street as we can not efficiently plow streets back to the curbs.
- Please note that no one shall deposit snow upon the property of another or into city streets or sidewalks (City Code 920.07).
- The City will not be liable for damage to personal property caused by City snow plowing or snow equipment when personal property is placed on the boulevard, street or sidewalk that is not readily visible to the operator of the equipment.

# Department Updates

## Parks & Recreation

### Utilities Department

As most people know, on August 19th we had a waterline break near the water treatment plant that resulted in a water emergency for the city. Our city crews worked hard and were able to fix the break. However, in an effort to prevent damage to our water system and get the system running as soon as possible the city issued a water emergency.

During this incident the water supply was never contaminated and remains safe to drink. The city used a variety of methods to inform the public including; direct phone calls, the city website, social media and the Lake County alert system.

The break was caused due to wear and tear on the pipes due to the high pressure of the water coming out of the plant. The city is in the process of adding a booster station to the system so that we can reduce the pressure in the pipes while effectively delivering water to the city. The water treatment facility improvements the street and utility projects are addressing our aging infrastructure. We will continue to do all we can to deliver safe and reliable water to the city.

### Police



**Follow our Facebook page for updates!**

[www.facebook.com/SilverBayPD](https://www.facebook.com/SilverBayPD)

**Winter Parking:** The winter parking ordinance goes in effect November 1st through April 30th. Parking is not permitted on the streets between the hours of 11:00 pm and 6:00 am to allow for snow plowing of the streets. Violators may be ticketed and/or towed.

**Notify Us:** If you see anything suspicious please notify the Police Department at (218) 226-4486. We appreciate the community helping out. We want everyone to have a fun and safe season!

### HOW TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY



WHO  
did you see



WHAT  
did you see



WHEN  
you saw it



WHERE  
it occurred



WHY  
it's suspicious

TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY PLEASE CONTACT  
YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITIES and describe specifically what  
you observed. If there is an emergency, call 9-1-1.



**School is in Session:** The Silver Bay Police Department would like to remind everyone that school is in session and to be extra careful when driving in the school area during school hours.

This summer featured a successful lineup of events including flag football, pony football, tee-ball, little league, pickleball, and doubles tennis league. We were also fortunate to have Prairie Fire Theatre camp for community youth. They did a production of Rapunzel in August.

All those interested in hockey can sign-up on the [Arena website](#).

The Arena schedule for this winter is:

- Open Skate(starting Oct. 30th): Wed. 6:30-8:00pm; Sun. 5:30-6:30pm Beginner Skate (adult learners and families with small children) 6:45-8:00pm all ages. \*\*Open skate will be free the 2024-25 winter season. Skate rentals are \$2.\*\*
- Adult Hockey (starting Oct. 27th): Wed. and Sun. 8:15-9:30pm \$5/skate or \$30 for season pass. Goalies are free.
- Learn to Skate will be Fri. starting in Nov.

Work continues on the outdoor rink. The rink was blacktopped and areas for picnic tables and fire pits are being created. This spring, after the blacktop is cured, it will be painted. We are excited that the rink will be open to the public this winter! Once it is cold enough the rink will be open daily 10am-10pm. A special thanks to all the sponsors and volunteers that are making this project happen.



### Silver Bay Lounge

The lounge had a successful Bay Days 2024, even with the heat and the weather forcing a venue change last minute. The SBPD helped us move the venue and provided multiple safe rides home for our community members and visitors. The lounge has also gone live with a new Point of Sale system. We are all growing and learning together with this new system. Thanks for your support as we transition.

### Upcoming Events

**November 1 - Rev Limit @ 8pm**

**November 15 - Boundary Blue**

**(formerly Jason Owen Band) @ 8pm**

**December 13 - Sidestreet Detour @ 8pm**

**December 27 - Douglas County Mafia @ 8pm**

