The Bay Minette Municipal Election will be held Aug. 25 and, if needed, the run-off election date will be Oct. 6, 2020. The Mayoral position and all five Council seats will be up for election and the winners will take office Nov. 2, 2020.

The Bay Minette Municipal Election will be held Aug. 25 and, if needed, the run-off election date will be Oct. 6, 2020. The Mayoral position and all five Council seats will be up for election and the winners will take office Nov. 2, 2020.

The qualifying period for candidates will be open July 7-21. The qualifications included: Qualified elector of the City; Resident of the City for at least 90 days prior to election day; and Resident of the City during term of office. There is a $50 qualification fee. Those interested in seeking office should contact Rita Diedtrich, City Clerk, at 251-580-1637.

Individuals who will not be able to vote election day may obtain an absentee ballot. For more information on the election, absentee ballots, or to view the district map, visit city/bayminette.org/City-Clerk.

Bay Minette Recreation Department and Strike City Lanes have reopened! During our closure, our staffers assisted other departments in the city.

Strike City Lanes is once again serving up food from the Spare Time Grill. Dine-in or call your order in to 580-2547. The bowling lanes will open to the public June 18 and will be open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Social distancing guidelines will be in place to keep bowlers and our employees safe. You can also grab a cool treat from Ice Cream Alley, located inside Strike City Lanes.

On the Rec side, Kely’s Kids has kicked off another season of fun. We have enrolled 50 just as much fun as always.

Bay Minette Youth Football League and Bay Minette Youth Baseball League resumed play for a shortened season. It was great to get the athletes back on the field. Dance and gymnastic lessons have resumed as well.

Recreational Lessons
Bay Minette Recreation Department is offering recreational lessons in a variety of sports and activities. These lessons are a great way to stay active and learn new skills. The instructors are knowledgeable and passionate about their sport. Lessons include basketball, cheerleading, gymnastics, and more.

Youth Cheerleading
Bay Minette Youth Cheerleading is open for the fall season. If interested, contact the Rec Department at 580-2546. The season will run through November and includes equipment rental (shoulder pads and helmet) and a jersey. Football is for ages 7-12 years old and Cheer is open to ages 5-12 years old. Registration is not yet confirmed for cheerleading. The Rec Department is in need of cheer coaches for the fall season. If interested, call the Rec Department at 580-2546.

Carol Hodgson Arena is now open to both members and for scheduling events. The city’s outdoor venues – including parks and pavilions – are now available for renting. Our indoor venues – John F. Rhodes Civic Center and Douglassville Banquet Room – are still closed due to the social distancing guidelines in Gov. Ivey’s Safer at Home Order set to expire July 3.

Bay Minette Area Senior Center remains closed as mandated by the Governor, except for pickup and delivery of meals through the SAIL Program. The Bay Minette Municipal Pool reopened but with some changes. Due to Covid-19 regulations, admission is limited to 100 guests at a time. Once a pool meet reaches the limit for admission, the next guest will have to wait until people leave to open up additional spots. That number may be adjusted as the season progresses, based on Public Health recommendations. Other social distancing guidelines have also been implemented to ensure the safety of our guests and our staff. To check the status, follow Bay Minette City Pool on Facebook or call the pool at 937-1367.

The Bay Minette Recreation Department is looking forward to another successful season of sports and recreation. We are excited to welcome back our returning participants and to meet new faces as we serve our community through physical activity and healthy living.

Auburn University. Jody has jumped right in and is already making an impact. You may also have noticed that COPA has added more mini-birdhouses, as well as some more painted barrels and fire hydrants that add color to our area parks. We have also upgraded the signage and flowers at Bay Minette Cemetery. We believe that it is important to respect those who have gone before us. The City continues to get many great comments about our beautification projects. Bay Minette is truly in full bloom. The hanging baskets are burgeoning, we now have flowers on the bridge on Highway 31 North and the downtown area looks great. The City has recently hired Jody McMillan as our Grounds Supervisor. Many of you know Jody; he grew up here in Bay Minette, graduated from BCHS and Auburn University. Jody has jumped right in and is already making an impact. You may also have noticed that COPA has added more mini-birdhouses, as well as some more painted barrels and fire hydrants that add color to our area parks. We have also upgraded the signage and flowers at Bay Minette Cemetery. We believe that it is important to respect those who have gone before us. The City continues to get many great comments about our beautification projects. Bay Minette is truly in full bloom. The hanging baskets are burgeoning, we now have flowers on the bridge on Highway 31 North and the downtown area looks great. The City has recently hired Jody McMillan as our Grounds Supervisor. Many of you know Jody; he grew up here in Bay Minette, graduated from BCHS and

If interested, call the Rec Department at 580-2546.
The Library Corner

We are so happy to be able to see our patrons again! As you all know, the Library closed its doors March 17 due to Covid-19. We continued to work behind the scenes cleaning the library, weeding the collections and doing virtual story times and a virtual book club. The library is now open and organized and now open with limited hours – 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, leaving time for us to sanitize the building at the end of each day. Your safety is very important to us. When visiting, we encourage our patrons to wear masks and practice social distancing.

Things at the library are a little different now. Since we aren’t having in-person programming, we are bringing the programs to you virtually!

Our Summer Reading Program will be on Facebook every Tuesday in June at 10 a.m. with a story and a craft. Craft bags will all the supplies, a map and stickers to take home and do on your own. Choose a story and craft time each week. Whenever you watch our online Summer Reading Story Time, put a sticker on the map for that Tuesday’s story. During the first week in July bring your library card to the library to receive a dog tag necklace.

Story time and a craft will continue through the month of July. We hope to have the ladies with Freedom Ranch and their birds here Tuesday, Aug. 4.

The Bay Minette Browsers will have virtual book club the third Monday of the month at 1:30 p.m. online. If you are interested in joining us, please call 580-1648 and ask for Joann.

The Bay Minette Public Library has a cornucopia of resources available at your fingertips. All you need is your library card! Visit our website bayminettepubliclibrary.org and see all that is available.

Explore your heritage with Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest. Read eBooks and listen to downloadable audiobooks with the Axis 360 and Camelia Net/Libby apps. With RB Digital Magazines you can have access to more than 60 publications from Rolling Stone and Newsweek to Vogue and National Geographic Little Kids. There is something for all ages.

Learn a foreign language with Mango Languages. The app offers “practical, conversation-based language lessons”.

Get detailed information you need to tackle vehicle maintenance and repairs with Chilton Library. Take free DMV practice tests and read a digital version of the Alabama Driver’s Handbook, Alabama Motorcycle Handbook or Alabama CDL Handbook.

The A to Z Database offers job searches, as well as person and business lookup ideal for job seekers and small businesses.

We also have a link to Learning Express Library which offers skill-building courses – personal success skills, job and career accelerator, computer skills and much more.

Homework Alabama offers free homework help from tutors for grades 4 through 12 and college intro along with academic and career resources.

Want to hear a bedtime story? Click on the Storyline Online link and listen to celebrities read wonderful children’s books aloud. A favorite is the classic Harry the Dirty Dog read by Betty White. All of these wonderful resources can be found on our website along with so many more just awaiting your discovery.

-- Joanna Bailey, Library Director, jbailey@ci.bay-minette.al.us

From the Police Chief’s Desk

The Bay Minette Police Department would like to thank the community, citizens and all the businesses for complying with the Governor’s orders during the COVID-19 pandemic. We ask that everyone continue to follow the guidelines and orders to help prevent the community from being hit again. We also send our condolences to the families who suffered and lost loved ones during this tragedy.

Summertime traffic is upon us. The city has already begun to see traffic backups and larger than normal influx of vehicles through the city. Please remember to use caution and allow a little extra time to travel when planning a trip somewhere. Be cautious of motorcycles, always lock both ways and pay attention to crosswalks.

We would also like to thank everyone for the tips that we received regarding on-going criminal activity. The tips have helped solve crimes and community involvement is a big need in partnership with law enforcement. If you have any information or would like to report criminal activity; please call 251-580-2559 or email us at tips@ci.bay-minette.al.us. -- Chief Al Tolbert, Al.tolbert@ci.bay-minette.al.us

Public Works

Our city’s Garbage collection crews operate Monday through Friday with the exception of holidays. Garbage should be curbside by 7 a.m. on your day of service. Time of pick-up can vary slightly and pick-up can only be assured by placing garbage curbside before the route begins.

The Public Works Department also oversees the collection of yard debris and bulky waste.

Pick-up of yard waste will follow the same schedule as residential garbage pick-up. Yard Debris includes materials resulting from landscape maintenance, including grass clippings, leaves, pine straw, twigs, branches, etc. These should be placed curbside, separated from yard debris and household garbage.

Construction and demolition waste are not eligible for this service.

Bulky Waste items will be picked up on Wednesdays. Bulky Waste includes items such as furniture, appliances, mattresses, carpets, etc. These should be placed curbside, separated from yard debris and household garbage.

* All household garbage should be bagged, enclosed in a maximum 32-gallon lidded container and placed curbside by 7 a.m. on the day of scheduled service.
* Bulky Waste, Household Garbage and Yard Debris should be placed separately for pick-up.
* Do not place any waste, garbage or debris in ditches or on sidewalks. This can cause clogged drains and flooding issues.
* Tires, paint and other hazardous materials are not eligible for pick-up. Residents should take these items directly to the Baldwin County Transfer Station on Nicholsville Road.

To view a detailed map of the garbage route, or the holiday calendar, visit the Public Works page on the city website. To report a missed pick-up or for more information on the services provided, call the Public Works Department at 580-1848.

Garbage service will not be available on city-observed holidays but a make-up has been scheduled for each.

Upcoming holidays include Independence Day observance on Friday, July 3, with a make-up day Wednesday, July 7; and Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7, with a make-up day of Wednesday, Sept. 9.

--Murray Stewart, Public Works Director, murray.stewart@ci.bay-minette.al.us

From the Fire Chief’s Desk

Over the past few months, the Bay Minette Fire Department has been busy answering calls of service, ranging from house fires to EMS calls and yes, some COVID-19 calls. We are all working diligently to stay healthy and answer calls for the citizens of Bay Minette and our surrounding areas. We would like to thank everyone for doing their part during this time.

With the summer months come outdoor events, swimming, cookouts, baseball, fireworks, and just having fun. Please take the time to ensure that everyone is staying safe. Summer is very busy for the fire department as more people are out driving, working in the yards and having that summertime fun — be safe.

ADEM currently has all of Baldwin County under a no outside burn until Nov. 1st. This means no burning of yard debris or open air burning. You can use gas grills and open fire pits if you are at least 10 feet from your home or anything that can burn. Don’t leave the fire unattended. When finished with the grill or fire pit, make sure that the fire is out and has cooled down before leaving the area.

With Independence Day next month, that means fireworks. We would like for everyone to have fun and enjoy the fireworks, but please stay safe and make sure you are using the fireworks as they are supposed to be used. We have a number of people hurt every year from fireworks due to carelessness and not careful when using them. Also, make sure you have water supply on hand just in case of a fire. Additionally, we are awaiting our new fire truck that should be in late June or early July. We will make sure to have plenty of photos on our Facebook page for everyone to see. The Department is happy to be getting this fire truck and would like to thank the Mayor and City Council for making this happen. The Bay Minette Fire Department would like to wish each and every one of you a safe and fun summer. Remember to please follow the COVID-19 guidelines to keep you and your loved ones safe. -- Fire Chief Mike Minchew, mminchew@ci.bay-minette.al.us

The computers at the Bay Minette Public Library are once again available for use, by appointment only. Library staff will sanitize the keyboard and mouse after each use. To schedule a time, call the library at 580-1648.