



4646 Dakota St. SE  
Prior Lake, MN 55372

Dec. 13, 2013

# A Message from the Mayor

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## The City of Prior Lake: 2013 in Review

Many residents of Prior Lake "love" living here. The main reasons include great schools; outstanding parks, lakes, and natural resources; and a quaint small-town feel. As Mayor, I focus my attention every year on ensuring that we sustain and strengthen these qualities. Much of what we accomplish comes about through extraordinary volunteerism and collaborative partnerships, highlighted here.

Our business community thrived in 2013. Community Development Specialist Casey McCabe's report in the "Monitor" highlights the new businesses and expansions during 2012-2013. These businesses took a risk on Prior Lake and their confidence demonstrates the growing strength in our local economy. New restaurants Teresa's and the Artisan Bistro both expanded their restaurants after less than a year in operation, and McDonald's tore down their facility and built a brand new building meeting today's customer's needs and preferences. Our downtown businesses joined forces to create a Prior Lake Downtown Business Association, dedicated to promoting our downtown, increasing awareness and shopper traffic. The Prior Lake Chamber of Commerce enjoyed a banner year, adding over 100 new businesses, now exceeding 400 members.

We undertook three major road projects and completed them as the year wound down. First, Sunset Ave. and County Rd. 12 on the westerly side of Spring Lake were reconstructed, including installing city sewer and water services for the first time. Removing approximately 40 homes from private sewer and wells will help improve Spring Lake water quality, and a unique wetland restoration constructed in partnership with the Watershed District at the corner of County Rd. 12 and County Rd. 17 will treat runoff from 60 acres of farmland before reaching Spring Lake. Second, the Welcome Avenue Industrial Park road was installed with curb, gutter and paving along with city sewer and water. The project removes septic systems and private wells, protecting the city's underground water supply and preparing those properties for business and industrial redevelopment. Third, the Main/Ridgemont/County Rd. 44/Hwy. 13 intersection was completely reconstructed, improving safety, traffic congestion, sight lines into Lakefront Park, and access to the north side of Downtown Prior Lake, along with a monument sign announcing the north entrance to downtown.

More than 180 new homes and townhouses were constructed in Prior Lake in 2013, an increase over 174 in 2012. New plats added 123 lots, and plats in various stages of progress point to hundreds of additional new lots in the near future. The residential home real estate market is very robust in our city.

We also took several steps to prepare for the longer term future. These include preparing a master plan for Pike Lake Nature Park, identifying trail gaps in our system, and building a new trail segment on the west side of County Rd. 21 north of the lake, all supported by the generosity of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) through two grants: \$150,000 at the end of 2012 and \$26,000 this year. We also studied and made amendments to our Comprehensive Plan for land use along the County Rd. 42 corridor, better balancing future residential, commercial, and public uses, defining roadway networks, and accounting for property owned by the SMSC. Late this year, we also added a future roadway in the Downtown South area to our Comprehensive Plan. This does not specify the routing, funding or timing of the roadway, but documents the long-term needs of the community. Finally, we placed a sewer and water

main connection in our Capital Improvement Plan for 2015, that when completed, will make utility services available to the land in our Annexation Area to the west and south of city boundaries.

Finally, events in Prior Lake were highlighted once again by Lakefront Days cosponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, several events run by the Downtown businesses and the Chamber, and perhaps reaching a peak with the 4th Annual Lakefront Music Fest, sponsored by the Prior Lake Rotary, and supported by many corporations led by presenting sponsors, Mystic Lake Casino Hotel and the SMSC. Well over 10,000 people attended each night of the two-day event. Wow!

After a good 2013, and as we begin the New Year, let me know what we can improve to keep Prior Lake a place you're proud to call home.

**Sincerely,**  
**Mayor Ken Hedberg**