

Wavelength



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A Wonderful Place To Call Home

Special Events

2030 Vision Update

Donate a day of your time on Saturday, May 21 and join the committee that updates our 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan. Make a big difference in your community.



Send an email to Charlotte Green at cgreen@cityofpriorlake.com and let her know you want to be on the 2030 Vision Long-range Planning Committee.

Prior Lake Local Board of Appeal and Equalization

The Prior Lake Local Board will review the valuation or classification of property for taxes payable in 2012. Appeal applications should be submitted no later than April 22, 2011 for consideration at the Prior Lake Local Board on May 3 at 7 p.m. Most questions or appeals can be handled informally. For more information, visit www.cityofpriorlake.com.

City Offices Closed

Memorial Day: Monday, May 30. Offices will reopen Tuesday, May 31.

County Rd. 21 Town Hall Meeting

Residents are invited to hear a presentation regarding proposals for County Rd. 21 realignments through downtown on Tuesday, May 31, 2011 at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Council Approves Timeline/Process on County Rd. 21 Downtown Options

The Prior Lake City Council pressed ahead and approved a timeline and process for selecting one of three roadway alignment options for the Prior Lake downtown corridor area where County Rd. 21 meets Arcadia Ave., Main Ave. and Hwy. 13 (Baseline Option illustration at right).

On April 15 the Council will receive information gathered from town hall meetings, worksessions and a tax analysis prepared by engineering firm Bolton & Menk that evaluated

the three possible roadway options and an analysis of the short- and long-term costs and benefits of the three options



prepared by Maxfield Research Inc. a market research consulting group.

On May 2 this information will be presented by the consulting firms at the City Council meeting and shared with the public.

A townhall meeting is set for May 31 at Prior Lake City Hall. And tentatively, on June 20, the city council is scheduled to make a preliminary decision on one of the alignment options.

Once the alignment has been determined, the City Council will look at more specific concerns such as financing and will likely conduct neighborhood meetings to answer questions or examine details regarding specific property impacts.

For more information, visit the County Rd. 21 Downtown Corridor Web page at www.cityofpriorlake.com or call the Community Development Department at (952) 447-9810.

A Message from the Mayor

Tough Economic Times Offer Opportunity

When I became Prior Lake Mayor 14 months ago the economy was in pretty bad shape. Today, despite some encouraging signs, it isn't much better. And in many ways things are worse. According to the federal government, the US Inflation rate was 1.64% in 2010, and the Financial Forecast Center states inflation could grow to around 3.1% this fall. Also, the Department of Labor says the unemployment rate is 8.8% nationally, and oil prices have increased more than 30% in just over a year.

But instead of being discouraged, it is important to lay the foundation for growth for the future of Prior Lake. I believe



Mayor Mike Myser

that a strong, diversified tax base is essential to ensuring the community's long-term economic vitality. New businesses are starting everyday and growing businesses are looking for new homes. That is why as a council and city we are assembling and focusing our resources to help us assure that some of these businesses start and grow in Prior Lake.

According to the U.S. Census, only 31.3% of Scott County residents work in the county, and Prior Lake has even fewer citizens working locally. But we are putting plans in place to change that. Scott County and the Scott County Association for Leadership

'Mayor' continued on Page 2

Free Community Egg Hunt Set For April 16

The City of Prior Lake is hosting its annual community-wide egg hunt on Saturday, April 16 from 1 - 3 p.m. at Lakefront Park, 5000 Kop Pkwy. in Prior Lake. The free egg hunt, which begins promptly at 1 p.m., is for 1-11 year olds who will be organized into three age groups. The family event will include music, pony rides and more.



‘Mayor’ continued from Page 1

and Efficiency (SCALE) have set a goal to have 50% of our residents working right here.

Laying the Foundation

Many City organizations are focused on bringing economic development to Prior Lake. The City Council, the Economic Development Authority (EDA), the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) and our customer-friendly City staff are working together to broaden the City’s tax base,

lower the taxes we all pay, bring jobs for our residents and grow businesses.

In an effort to be more business friendly, recent changes in our sign ordinance allow banner permits that advertise special sales or promotional events for the entire year. And banners can be utilized without time restrictions. The Council also amended its C-2 business zoning ordinance to allow for more conditional uses and attract more restaurants.

Last year, the City Council reauthorized the EDA which now includes City Councilmember Ken Hedberg and myself, and three residents with business expertise in the private sector: Bob Morris, Terry Hitchcock, and Michelle Choudek. These knowledgeable and experienced individuals are committed to our economic development efforts.

Already the EDA is working on an overall strategy and plan for improving economic development through debate and discussion. Creative ideas like establishing incubators that support new business formation are being considered. These programs can:

1. Accelerate the successful development of startup companies,
2. Target high-growth businesses,
3. Give businesses a great chance of success (87% stay in business),
4. Influence a business to become established in Prior Lake.

The EDA is also looking at how to get some of the estimated 300-400 in-home businesses to open a facility here, or convince some of the local CEOs, CFOs, and VPs to move their businesses to Prior Lake.

The EDA is also looking at non-traditional financing tools – such as RAIN Source Capital – that build community-based systems of private investors, capital and expertise that help evaluate, mentor and grow private companies and create good jobs in Prior Lake. The growing RAIN Fund Network of 23 angel investor funds has \$20 million in committed capital currently spanning six states.

Our economic development efforts are being assisted by an 11-person EDAC that will focus on advising the EDA of the best steps to take to promote business retention. They conducted a meet and greet to learn business concerns and interviewed more than 40 business owners to identify things that can be done to keep them here.

The EDAC has also interviewed 44 downtown businesses to better understand local business issues, prioritize needed changes and address them. The committee is now working on six priorities to improve the business climate in Prior Lake.

The 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan

The Council’s most recent update of our 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan added a goal to expand and diversify the City’s business tax base through current business retention and new business developments. Some objectives of this goal are to identify what the City has to offer that is unique.

We can market and leverage our lakes and other wonderful recreational activities. County Rd. 21 gives businesses easy access to 35W in the east and Hwy. 169 in the north. A Maxfield Research Economic Development Study recently examined the impact of proposed County Rd. 21 improvements on the market potential of downtown Prior Lake. The study shows how we can make transportation a better tool to improve existing businesses and encourage new businesses to call Prior Lake home. We can also market Scott County’s 90-mile fiber-optic ring, the largest government-owned high-speed network in the state and one of the nation’s biggest.

A Wonderful Place to Have a Business

We’ve done a great job making Prior Lake a wonderful place to call home for residents. Now we want to build on that success and concentrate harder on making it a wonderful place to call home for businesses, too. This will not be easy or fast, but a solid foundation will take shape as the investment of work and time is made.

But We Need Your Help

You can also be a resource as a member of the Long-range Planning Committee that updates our 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan. On Saturday, May 21 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. you can make sure that the prospect for improved economic development and the future of our community remains bright.

Watch for announcements about the strategic plan updates in the local paper, in the City’s e-newsletters and on the City’s website. You can also email Charlotte Green at cgreen@cityofpriorlake.com and let her know you want to be on the 2030 Vision Long-range Planning Committee this May 21.

Sincerely,
Mayor Mike Myser

Mayor to Participate in Mayor’s Cup on June 3

Prior Lake Mayor Mike Myser will participate in the 2011 Mayor’s Cup at Raceway Park in Shakopee. Gates open at 5 p.m.; ceremonies start at 7 p.m. Tickets \$7.50 with donation of two nonperishable food items or a \$1 donation. Donations are dedicated to CAP Agency and the Emergency Foodshelf Network.

Wavelength

CITY OF PRIOR LAKE
4646 Dakota St. SE
Prior Lake, MN 55372-1714

(952) 447-9800/ www.cityofpriorlake.com

Editor: Michael Peterson
Communications Coordinator
(952) 447-9804
mtpeterson@cityofpriorlake.com

Mayor
Mike Myser (651) 341-5932

City Council
Warren Erickson (952) 440-2171
Ken Hedberg (612) 382-6143
Richard Keeney (612) 889-7114
Vanessa Soukup (612) 385-3686

Council meetings are the first and third Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at 4646 Dakota St. SE

City Manager
Frank Boyles (952) 447-9801

City Hall (4646 Dakota Street SE)
General (952) 447-9800
Administration (952) 447-9800
Recreation (952) 447-9820
Finance (952) 447-9840
Community Development and Natural Resources (952) 447-9810
Engineering/Public Works (952) 447-9830
Building and Transportation Services (952) 447-9850

Maintenance Center (17073 Adelman St. SE)
The Maintenance Center is not open to walk-in traffic. Please call to make appointments.
Public Works (952) 447-9830

Police Department (4649 Dakota St. SE)
Business hours (952) 440-3555
Emergency 911

Fire Department (Station No. 1: 16776 Fish Point Rd. SE) (Station No. 2: 3906 Station Place NW)
Business hours (952) 440-3473
Emergency 911

Regular Public Meeting Schedule
@ City Hall Council Chamber

City Council
meets the first & third Monday of every month.

Planning Commission
meets the second & fourth Monday of each month.

Lakes Advisory Committee
meets the third Tuesday each month.

Parks Advisory Committee
meets the third Thursday of each month

Community Safety Advisory
meets the second Thursday of each month.

Employee of the Year



Leo Dorn

Prior Lake Street and Utility Maintenance Worker Leo Dorn is well-known with the city for his work on concocting the best ice prevention slurry on any given day. His can-do attitude, professionalism, work on snow and ice control, concern for environmental and fiscal elements of his job, and his readiness to step in as interim foreman during public works department transitions in 2010 all contributed to his recommendation for the award. Congratulations, Leo!

Recycling Day Is Changed/ Increases to a Whole Month

Plus Other Recycling Opportunities

Keeping the City's lakes, parks, roads and other areas clean is key to preserving our quality of life. That is why, during all of April 2011, the City of Prior Lake and Certified Recycling have teamed to provide the 2011 Curbside Recycling Event for Prior Lake residents. The City's single-day event will no longer take place which will save taxpayer dollars and make the event more resident friendly.

For more information about the April City Curbside Recycling Event visit the City's Recycling Web page at www.cityofpriorlake.com.

The Recycling website also includes information about other recycling options including Bridging, the collection of usable household items for those in need on Saturday, May 21, 2011 from 9 a.m. to noon at Twin Oaks School Parking lot. (Sponsored by the Prior Lake Rotary Club).

Deliveries of usable household items can be made at that location at that time.

The Rotary may be able to pick up some items in Prior Lake, Spring Lake Township and Credit River Township. Call 952-447-1330.

City to Conduct First Tree Sale on Arbor Day April 30

The City of Prior Lake will conduct a tree sale scheduled on Arbor Day, April 30 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Savage Public Works Building, 13770 Dakota Ave. Savage, Minn., on a first-come, first-serve basis.

In cooperation with the City of Savage, bare-root trees of various sizes, species and cost will be available to Savage, Prior Lake and area township residents. A form of identification is required.

The sale is held rain or shine. Sizes range from 1 - 2 inches in diameter and prices range from \$39 - \$50.

The Arbor Day Celebration follows the tree sale at the McColl Pond Environmental Learning Center.



Farmer's Market to Begin in May for 2011

The 2011 Farmer's Market will be underway every Saturday from May 7 through October (weather permitting) from 8 a.m. to noon.

This year, the market will offer a free table for downtown businesses to share their offerings. There are many vendors, crafts and projects for kids.

For information about becoming a vendor, email Karla Haugen at khaugenlc@hotmail.com.

DARE DAY BIKE-A-THON SET FOR MAY 7

The Prior Lake Rotary Club's 21st annual DARE DAY Bike-a-thon and Fun Run for Prior Lake/Savage area students and their families will be Saturday morning, May 7 at Lakefront Park. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m., Fun Run starts at 9 a.m. and the Bike-a-thon takes off at 9:30 a.m. The event ends at 11:45 a.m. after an awards presentation. All participants receive a t-shirt, pizza and pop after the ride.



Tips for Reducing Stormwater Runoff

All of the snow that accumulated this winter has turned into water running down your driveway and off your lawn and into a ditch or storm drain (the grates along the curb). The storm drains and ditches carry the snow melt and rain to the nearest pond, creek or lake. This rain is not treated before it enters a pond, creek or lake. So anything left from winter's grip gets washed into your favorite swimming or fishing hole. That's why it is important to do some spring cleaning such as picking up pet waste, sweeping up leaves and other debris from the curb and gutter and covering bare soil with grass seed.

Creating natural infiltration systems like raingardens and native gardens can help rain soak into the ground reducing the potential for flooding and keeping pollutants out of the nearest lake or river.

There are a number of Clean Water Practices everyone can do to reduce stormwater runoff from

leaving their property.

1. Redirect your downspouts onto your lawn or landscape and not onto hard surfaces.

2. Plant a tree. A mature tree canopy will intercept up to 1,600 gallons of water per year depending on the size and type of tree.

3. Install a rain barrel. A 55-gallon rain barrel can capture up to 1,300 gallons during the typical summer.

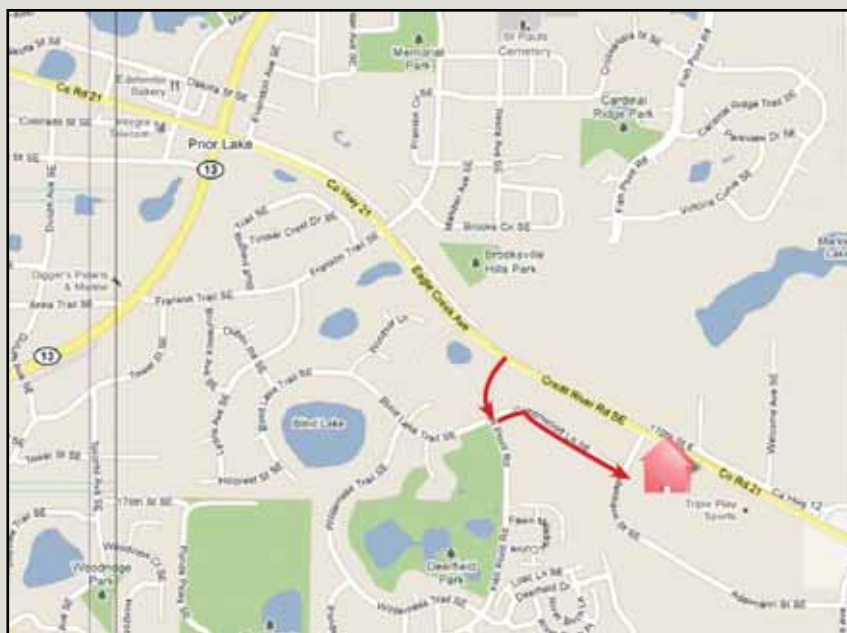
4. Plant a raingarden with native plants to help slow stormwater runoff and prevent erosion.

5. Consider permeable pavements or pavers for a new patio or driveway.

Remember anything on your lawn, driveway or in the street will be washed away into your favorite swimming or fishing hole. For more information on Clean Water Practices visit, www.bluethumb.org or contact Dan Miller with the Scott Clean Water Education Program at 952-492-5424 or dmiller@co.scott.mn.us.

Compost Site Moves To City Maintenance Center for 2011

Site will be open from April 9 until October



The Prior Lake compost site is at 17073 Adelmann St. SE in Prior Lake. Signage begins at County Rd. 21 and Fish Point Rd. southeast of downtown and proceeds east on Cottonwood Ln.

For more information, contact Al Friedges at (952) 447-9892 or afriedges@cityofpriorlake.com.

HOMEOWNERS

Do you mow your lawn?
Do you spend summers on the lake?

"New Techniques to Protect our Lakes and Rivers!"

A FREE Workshop on Lawn Care Practices for Clean Water

Learn about:

- The Importance of a Soil Test
- Proper Calibration of Equipment
- Mowing Techniques
- Selection and Application of Fertilizers
- Lawn Care for Reduced Environmental Impacts

Saturday, April 30, 2011
9 to 11 a.m.

Parkview Room, Prior Lake City Hall
4646 Dakota St SE



Registration:

Dan Miller, Coordinator
Scott Clean Water Education Program
Email: dmiller@co.scott.mn.us
Phone: (952) 492-5424
*Register by April 22

Thanks to the MN River Board for its Support!



PRIOR LAKE RECREATION



Check our website for more recreation fun:
www.priorlakerecreation.com or call (952) 447-9820

Please Note: cost listed is for resident (add \$5 for non-resident)



Located at the Prior Lake Resource Center,
16210 Eagle Creek Avenue SE, Suite 101.
Open Tuesdays - Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Would you like to see a Bicycle Motocross (BMX) track in Prior Lake?

VOTE @
www.cityofpriorlake.com

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Openings for **Tot Lot and Playground Programs** - many right in your own neighborhood parks - are available.

Summer Supremo starts the summer off at Lakefront Park with our staff for games, activities and fun.

From Plant to Plate

This new program introduces your child to gardening, from planting the first seed to picking and eating what is grown. Meet at the Kop Family Community Gardens at Lakefront Park twice in May for planting, once a week during the summer, then twice in September and October for harvesting. Class size will be small so register early.

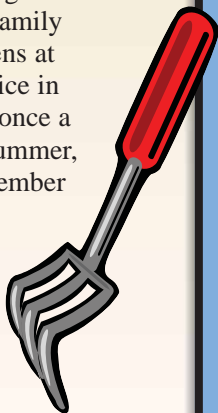
Who: 7 year olds & up

Cost: \$10 per child resident/ \$15 per child non-resident

Deadline: one week before start date

Reserve a Little Piece of Spring With a Garden Plot

Prior Lake hosts a community garden on the Kop Farm property at Lakefront Park in Prior Lake. For more information contact the Recreation Department. You can find the register under Reservations under Fast Finder at www.cityofpriorlake.com.



Family Beach Days

There are two free family beach days at each beach this summer: Friday, June 24 and July 29 at Watzl's



Beach in Lakefront Park and Friday, July 8 and Aug. 5 at Sandpoint Beach. All events are from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Activities, face painting, crazy hair coloring, DJ with live music, games, crafts and free parking too. Hot dog lunch and concessions available at great prices.

NOTE: No lifeguards on duty. No registration required.

CAMPS

Plan your summer with our great camps; fire safety, adventure camp, floor hockey, water ski lessons, mini sport, Camp Wannaplay and the annual Family Camp Out at Lakefront Park.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK PARTIES

Fun entertainment at a new neighborhood park each week. Includes free crafts, games, fire truck, police car and more. All ages welcome.

Tuesdays (6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.)

- June 7 - Memorial
- June 14 - Willows
- June 21 - Meadow View
- June 28 - Woodridge
- July 5 - None scheduled
- July 12 - Wilds
- July 19 - Oakland Beach
- July 26 - Raspberry Ridge
- August 2 - Fish Point
- August 9 - Northwood
- August 16 - Carriage Hills

CONCERTS IN THE PARK



Free Music for the Entire Family at Lakefront Park. 5000 Kop Pkwy. every Thursday evening from June - August. Concerts start at 7 p.m., but come early for the Chamber Market food vendors from 5 - 8 p.m.

- June 2: Prior Lake Windjammers
- June 9: Bluedrifters
- June 16: Kids Dance (sponsored by New Horizon)
- June 23: Celtic Cat & Prairie Dog
- June 30: Monarch
- July 7: Czech Area Concertina Club
- July 14: SteamHeat
- July 21: Battle of the Bands
- July 28: Sandy and the Hitmen
- * August shows also planned *

For more information call Lori at (952) 447-9823. Thanks to the Chamber for finding sponsors for some concerts.

TRIPS

Join the recreation staff for supervised trips during the day to waterparks, paintball, horseback riding, Valleyfair, the zoo and more.

NEW THIS YEAR!

Take an all-ages Fishing Trip on Prior Lake with the DNR fishery staff aboard the Charles Prior II Cruise boat on July 7. Fishing poles will be provided. Bring a bag lunch, snacks and something to drink to enjoy on the lake too. FEE: \$15 resident/\$20 non resident

Events and News:

Northfield Historical Society Museum
Tuesday April 26
Bus leaves Club Prior at 9:15 a.m.; returns 4:15 p.m. Includes museum, city tour and buffet lunch.
\$29 Resident/\$34 Non-Resident

The Marvelous Wonderettes at the Plymouth Playhouse
Thursday, May 19
Featuring songs from the 50s and 60s. Includes bus, lunch and play.
\$45 Resident/\$50 Non-Resident.

King Tut at the Science Museum
Tuesday, June 21
Includes bus, coffee, Omnitheater movie, Tut exhibit and audio tour.
\$35 Resident/\$40 Non-Resident

Charles Prior II Prior Lake Tour
Wednesday, July 27 from 10 - noon
\$15 Resident/\$20 Non-Resident

Branson on the Road at Plymouth Playhouse
Tuesday, Aug. 2/ Register by June 27
A comedy lots of music. Includes bus, brunch and show.
\$43 Resident/\$48 Non-Resident

"The Accidental Hero" multi-media WW II story told live
Thursday, April 28 at 2 p.m. at the Prior Lake Library
A one-man play funded by Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Ice Cream Social with music by Lyndon the One Man Band
Wednesday, May 18 at 11:15 a.m.

NEW! Knitting group at Club Prior
Thursdays from 9:45 - 11:45 a.m.

Check out other trips and activities at
www.priorlakerecreation.com
or call Debbie at (952) 447-9783.