



Wavelength

Prior Lake: *Wonderful Place to Call Home*

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City Calendar for Midwinter

(Jan. 1 - Feb. 15)

Jan. 1	New Year's Day City Offices Closed
Jan. 7	City Council at 6 p.m. City Hall
Jan. 8	Activity Center Opens at 10 a.m. Next to Library
Jan. 14	Planning Comm. at 6 p.m. City Hall
Jan. 15	Lake Advisory Com. at 4:30 p.m. City Hall
Jan. 17	Parks Advisory Comm. at 6 p.m. City Hall
Jan. 19	Winter Blast 10 a.m. to noon Lakefront Park
Jan. 21	MLK Jr. Day City Offices Closed
Jan. 22	City Council at 6 p.m. City Hall
Jan. 28	Planning Comm. at 6 p.m. City Hall
Feb. 4	City Council at 6 p.m. City Hall
Feb. 11	Planning Comm. at 6 p.m. City Hall

New Activity Center Ribbon Cutting on Jan. 8

The Prior Lake City Council decided to provide a place that seniors and the community could call their own; as a result, Prior Lake residents are welcome to a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house for the new community/senior programming center. The event is Tuesday, Jan. 8 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Prior Lake Recreation Facility (formerly Premier Dance Academy) in the Prior Lake Library Building at 16210 Eagle Creek Ave. The building will be open until 2 p.m. that day.

The ceremony will include words from the Mayor, a formal naming of the facility, refreshments and music by the duo "Higher Ground."

The City of Prior Lake will be offering



New Community/Senior Center Coordinator Debbie Carlberg visits the new location during renovations.

active older adult (adults 55 and older) and community programming at the Library Resource Center space which was

recently renovated for that purpose.

The City hired part-time senior/ community center coordinator Debbie Carlberg to operate the facility which will be open Tuesdays through Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Residents can come and relax with a cup of coffee, talk to some friends, read a book or participate in scheduled activities. In January there will be Latin and ballroom line dancing, a "Preventing Falls in Your Home" presentation by Gentiva, Bingo, cards/board games, a monthly birthday party with cake and more.

The City is accepting ideas for programming and events and has many volunteer opportunities. For more information, call the Parks and Recreation Department at (952) 447-9820.

A Message from the Mayor

The Essence of Government

With the New Year upon us and the significant job of adopting the 2008 Prior Lake General Fund Budget behind us, I would like to make a wish. It is the same wish I made on Dec. 17, 2007, the night we adopted the 2008 budget.



Mayor Jack Haugen

The wish would be that people in local, county, state and federal government look at the big picture when making decisions; and not just the pressures of today, but rather how our actions stand the test of time and add to our quality of life tomorrow. This applies both to financial and non-financial decisions. In my opinion, the essence of government is to pro-

vide for the quality of life for the current and future community. Staying true to this philosophical bent is not easy to do.

To start with, what receives the most attention: adoption of annual budgets or the Capital Improvement Program? Budgets do, of course. Why are we biased to focus on budgets?

To begin with, elected officials are not encouraged to look long term as part of the election process. After all, most terms of office are four years or less in length. Building a community requires decades and even scores of years. But when an agenda item is discussed, instead of looking at the question's impact 25 or 50 years from now, we as council

'Mayor' continued on Page 2

Winter Blast

Free Family Fun at Lakefront Park

Saturday, Jan. 19
10 a.m. - noon



- * Pony Rides
- * Wagon Rides
- * Games and Crafts
- * Sliding and Skating
- * Hot Choc. / donuts
- * Slap Shot Challenge

Turn to the back page for information on...

PL City Recreation

Online@priorlakesavagece.com

952-447-9820

4646 Dakota St. SE



'Mayor' continued from Page 1

members may tend to look at the here and now rather than the quality of life for tomorrow.

As citizens we are reluctant to have our taxes raised, so when budget time comes, it is likely to become our moment of involvement. If we are short timers in the community we do not want to pay for what some future resident will enjoy; in the process we often forget that previous and current citizens made possible many of the investments we enjoy today.

The essence of government should be a focus on our Capital Improvement

Program. Each year the City Council adopts a new program calling for in excess of \$50 million dollars in capital improvements to build our community for the next five years. What we all tend to forget is that the investments we need are not for five years, but more likely for the next 25 years. Assuming our infrastructure costs will remain the same year after year; this means we, as a community, will invest a quarter billion dollars or more in infrastructure by the time Prior Lake reaches build out.

So why isn't the Capital Improvement Program the real focus of our local government attention? In the first place, capital improvements are paid for in large measure from fees the City collects from developers, so you and I do not see it in our property tax bill. Second, the work

of building a community is slow, arduous and spread out over such a long period of time that it is difficult for citizens to remain focused; as evidence: residents rarely attend our Capital Improvement Program adoption meetings.

Finally, unlike Prior Lake, most communities cannot show citizens the final picture of the community they are building. Since they have no 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan, citizens of other communities cannot visualize the long-term issues and, therefore, have little to say about the final result.

Prior Lake is different. We have a 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan document. It is part of our comprehensive plan. It is broken down into five-year goals and two-year objectives so it is measurable, digestible, debatable and incorporated

financially into both the Capital Improvement Program and the annual budget.

The City focuses upon its financial future by protecting its reserves and retaining a bond rating among the top three percent in the State of Minnesota. We view our expenditures as investments intended to improve our quality of life, protect our residents and maintain our capital and human infrastructure. As Councilmember Hedberg pointed out, "city government looks quite different than private industry. Most private sector firms focus on this year and the next, while much of city government emphasizes long-term capital investments affecting 20, 40 and 60 years down the road."

And even though Prior Lake City Councilors may have less than a four-year political life, they continue to ask critical long-range questions like how many and what type of parks will be needed to serve our community at build out? Or, how many streets must be reconstructed to assure that our future transportation system is safe and effective? Finally, how much will it cost to replace park, street, sewer and water equipment we have already installed?

While the answers to these questions can be daunting, they must be asked. Once asked, it is up to the council to develop a prudent strategy over time to address each. By doing so, we will have accomplished the essence of governance by making decisions that stand the test of time focusing upon our quality of life for future generations.

Sincerely,
Mayor Jack G. Haugen

Wavelength

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Ken Hedberg (612) 382-6143
Chad LeMair (952) 440-8506
Steve Millar (952) 440-4572

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
Planning (952) 447-9810
Engineering (952) 447-9830
Building Inspections (952) 447-9850

Maintenance Center
(17073 Adelman St. SE)
Public Works (952) 440-9675

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

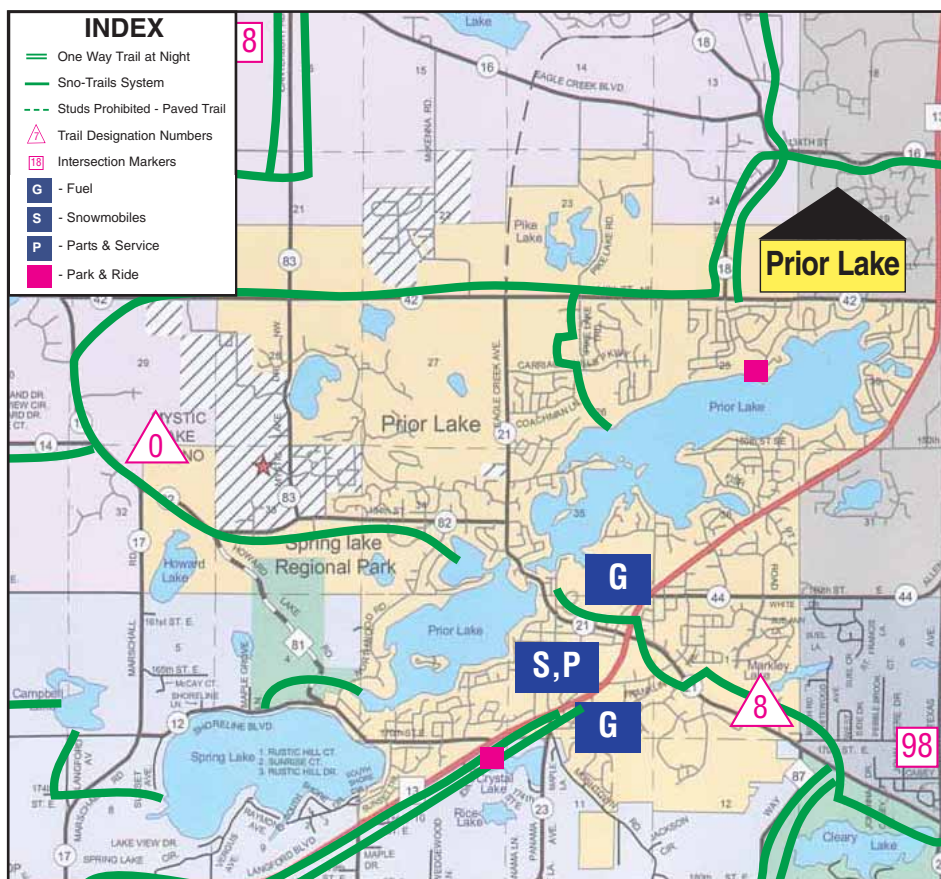
Fire Department
(16776 Fish Point Rd. SE)
Business hours (952) 440-3473
Emergency 911

Snowmobile Map Clarifies Legal Trails

Increases in the population, the number of snowmobiles and recent road construction prompted a change in the City's Snowmobile ordinance: Scott County boasts five snowmobile clubs including the Prior Lake Snowmobile Association and about 7,000 riders indicate that they primarily ride in Scott County.

The city now allows snowmobiles to use fenced-off areas at Sand Point Park and Grainwood Park so riders can get around the lake. Other changes include a snowmobile park-and-ride at Sand Point Beach and in the Tractor Supply Co. lot.

Because of the many changes, a resident hotline is now available to take complaints and answer any questions related to snowmobile use in the city at (952) 447-9787.



This section of the Scott County Snow Trails Map features all legal snowmobile trails, park-and-rides and more in Prior Lake. The entire map is available at the City's website at www.cityofpriorlake.com.

City Canvas Program Offers Opportunity To Local Talent

In accordance with the 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan the City of Prior Lake seeks to celebrate community talent and encourage recognition of local artistic endeavors by providing a place to showcase their talents at City Hall.

Thanks to donations from the Prior Lake Optimist's Club, wall hanging systems and locked display cases are provided at no costs to the artist and displays are rotated following approval by the Optimists Club's Display Committee and the City.

A brochure with more information and a request to display work is available at City Hall or call Leanne Weyrauch at (952) 226-0082.

City of Prior Lake "Employee of the Year"

Civil Engineer Seng Thongvanh earned the City of Prior Lake's Employee of the Year award last month for his commitment to high quality work and superior customer service. Comments in his nominations included his positive attitude, willingness to help others and respectful personality.

Seng has been an employee of the City of Prior Lake for more than three years.



Sign Up Today...

and get "City Newswire," the electronic newsletter of the City of Prior Lake, delivered to your computer's email free.

You'll get weekly updates on city and county road projects and news, community events, town hall meetings and much more.

Contact Mike Peterson at (952) 447-9804 or mtpeterson@cityofpriorlake.com.



Police Accepting Citizen's Academy Registrations

The Prior Lake Police Department is accepting applications for its third Citizen's Police Academy for people living or working in Prior Lake. The mini law enforcement courses are taught by Prior Lake Officers and provide insight into patrol procedures, traffic enforcement, use of force and more. Registration ends Friday, Feb. 1.

Classes meet Tuesdays from Feb. 12 to April 8, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. For more information, call (952) 440-3555 or visit our Citizen's Police Academy Web page at www.cityofpriorlake.com.

A Closer Look At: Community Capital Assets



Progress on the Road to the 2030 Vision

A monthly examination of the Vision Elements that fuel the Strategic Plan

Note: An updated strategic plan was adopted this May with some new and exciting changes. Some excerpts are shown below. Copies can be picked up at 17 spots in the City, at City Hall or mailed to you. Contact Mike at (952) 447-9804 or mtpeterson@cityofpriorlake.com.

Noting that quality infrastructure which "emphasizes longevity and cost effectiveness" is an essential cornerstone of a vibrant community, the Mayor, City Council and City staff have made great strides in developing and approving a plan for energy conservation in the City's fleet and facilities as recommended by the 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan.

"Providing community leadership in energy conservation" is an important five-year goal under the Community Capital Assets Vision Element of the 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan. Other two-year objectives under energy conservation recommend improvements to city building efficiency with audits of each building and an evaluation and implementation of sound and cost-effective means to powering all City vehicles.

Some of the energy and environmental efforts being implemented by the City include changes to its vehicles, street lights, refuse collection plan, a compost site, city buildings and an Earth Day event.

City Fleet: City vehicles will move from a B2 Bio-diesel to a B5 Bio-diesel this year, and all new purchases will include an analysis of alternative fuel and conservation options. Furthermore, the city will introduce idling target goals based on use and manufacturer recommendations to reduce wear and emissions while saving fuel.

The City will also change its Used Patrol Car

Program from utilizing old police vehicles for public works and building inspections to auctioning the police cars at their highest maximum value. Those funds can be used to purchase longer-lasting, more fuel efficient cars and small trucks for public works and building inspections.

Street Lights: Currently the City utilizes 150 watt high pressure sodium fixtures for parking lots and streets. Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights are now available that last four times longer and use 50-70% less energy. Despite being more expensive, LED lights will save about \$50 per light in energy costs and \$500 per light in replacement costs. More lights will be replaced as LED options become available.

Refuse Collection: The City currently has several refuse haulers and is looking into a more organized collection with one hauler or multiple haulers working in city quadrants. An organized collection will likely lower costs, reduce noise, improve safety and aesthetics, lower fuel consumption and reduce wear on city streets.

City Compost Site: The City does not have a compost site and purchases compost for parks and facilities. City staff is discussing options with the Shakopee Mdwakanton Sioux Community for Prior Lake residents and the City to use its compost site at County Rd. 42 and County Rd. 83.

City Buildings: The Prior Lake Library, Maintenance Facility and Fire Station No. 1 are 10 years old and were designed when energy conservation and technology did not meet today's advancements. The City is looking at energy assessments for these facilities by Xcel Energy and CenterPoint to use as a foundation for a plan to reduce costs and save energy through recommended conservation measures.

Earth Day (April 22): This day typically falls on the same weekend as City Clean-up Day. The City will formally recognize the day, sponsor a tree sale and plan other events related to environmental responsibility.



Watch For Accumulating Snow/Ice On Your Roof

Snow accumulation on your roof could spell trouble. The result could be ice dams that can cause damage, even to the interior of your home.

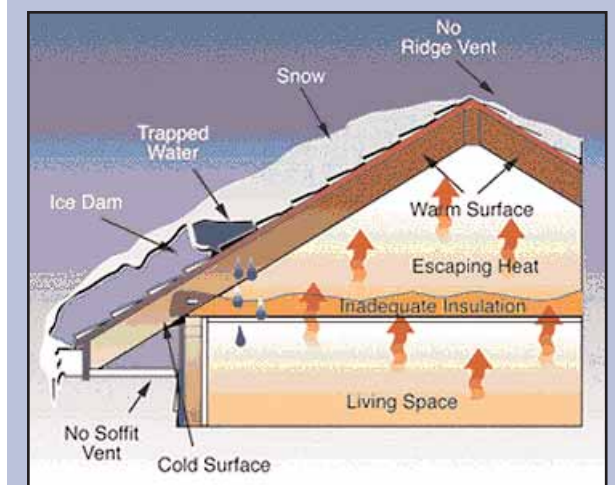
Ice dams form when snow melts, either due to heat from inside the house or the warmth of the sun on balmier days. The problem starts when melted snow runs to the cold edge of the roof and freezes. This ice creates a ridge that acts as a barrier when more snow melts because the water can't go anywhere. It backs up under the shingles leaking onto insulation, plasterboard, wood and paint.

If water is already leaking into your home the situation demands immediate attention. The Prior Lake Building Inspection Department suggests calling a qualified roofer to remove the snow and ice.

You can also remove snow and ice yourself, but be very careful. You risk a serious fall or could damage shingles brittle from cold weather.

To obtain a publication that provides information about preventing and coping with ice dams, contact the Energy Information Center at (651) 296-5175 or www.commerce.state.mn.us.

For additional information, go to the Prior Lake Building Inspection Department at City Hall or call (952) 447-9850.



Ice dams form when snow melts, either due to heat from inside the house or the warmth of the sun on balmier days.

PL City Recreation

4646 Dakota St. SE Register @ priorlakesavagece.com

Check the Park & Rec Web Page for Summer Softball Registration Information!

Winter Blast

The Prior Lake Recreation Department will be sponsoring "Winter Blast" its annual winter community event Saturday, Jan. 19 from 10 a.m. to noon at Lakefront Park. This event is FREE and fun for the whole family.

There will be horse drawn wagon rides, pony rides, hot chocolate and donuts, penguin crafts, skating, sliding/snow pile and slap shot challenge.

For more information, call the Recreation Department at (952) 447-9820.

Playhouse Disney Live

Activity #WF2

You're invited to the Mickey Mouse Clubhouse Saturday, Feb. 23, as Mickey plans a music party for his friends the Little Einsteins with Rocket, Pooh, Tigger, Handy Manny and more. The event is at Target Center in Minneapolis.

The bus will stop at the Prior Lake Library Resource Center at 9:15 a.m. and return about 2 p.m.

Age: 2 years old & up with a parent; **Fee:** \$26 per person resident / non-residents add \$5; **Deadline:** Feb. 8

Finding Nemo On Ice

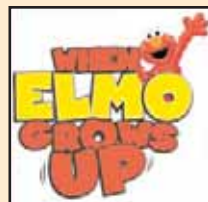
Activity #SPT1

Join us for "Finding Nemo" on ice, a kid-friendly show that everyone can enjoy Thursday, March 6, at Target Center in Minneapolis. The bus will stop at the Prior Lake Library Resource Center at 8:45 a.m. and return about 1:15 p.m.



Age: 2-6 year olds with a parent
Fee: \$20 per person resident / non-resident add \$5
Deadline: Feb. 22

Sesame Street Live Trip Activity #WT3



"When Elmo Grows Up" at Target Center

Who: 2-6 year olds with a parent

When: Thursday, Jan. 17

Bus Stop: 8:45 a.m. Prior Lake Library Resource Center; 1:15 p.m. (estimated return time)

Fee: \$15 per person residents / \$20 per person non-resident; **Deadline:** Jan. 4

Other Fun...

Join us for **Winter Fun** Wednesday, Jan. 30 from 10 - 11 a.m. with the bounce machine and other fun things. **Activity #WT4**

Also for **Valentine Fun**, we will decorate Cookies and make jewelry on Wednesday, Feb. 13 from 10 - 11 a.m. **Activity #WT5**

Both activities are at City Hall for kids 2 and up & parents or grandparents: \$5/ \$10 for non resident.

Senior Social

Watch for information about upcoming active older adult and community programming events for 2008 at the City's new community/senior programming center at 16210 Eagle Creek Ave. (the space formerly used for Premier Dance Academy).

Join us for the ribbon cutting ceremony and open house on Tuesday, Jan. 8 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Instrumental duo "Higher Ground" will play from 10:30 a.m. to noon and doors are open to 2 p.m. For more information, call (952) 447-9820.



PRIOR LAKE RECREATION DEPARTMENT REGISTRATION FORM

RETURN TO: PRIOR LAKE RECREATION DEPARTMENT, 4646 DAKOTA ST. SE, PRIOR LAKE, MN 55372

(952) 447 9820 - There is a \$5 charge for cancellations received before the registration deadline. No refund after registration deadline.

PARTICIPANT NAME:		BIRTH DATE:		GENDER: F M	
PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME:		HOME PHONE:			
ADDRESS:		CELL PHONE:			
CITY/STATE/ZIP:		CREDIT CARD NO.		EXP. DATE	
RESIDENT () NONRESIDENT* ()		E-MAIL ADDRESS:			

* Outside the city limits of Prior Lake, including townships.

ACTIVITY NO.	ACTIVITY NAME	DATE	TIME	BUS STOP (TRIPS)	FEE

MEDICAL CONCERNS (ALLERGIES, DISABILITIES, ETC.)

PARTICIPANT WAIVER: In consideration of your accepting this entry, I hereby, myself and my heirs, waive any and all rights and claims for any and all injuries from whatever cause suffered by the above participant in the indicated activities. All information contained in or connected with this registration form will be considered personal and confidential and will be used only in conjunction with the registration process for programs sponsored by the City of Prior Lake Parks and Recreation Department.

PHOTO RELEASE: It is City policy that when photographing or videotaping a minor (under 18) parent or guardian signatures are required; signatures of minors are not sufficient. While signed release forms are generally not needed when photographing in public places, such as parks, this notice is being provided because the images taken may be used in promoting City programs and/or facilities in City news publications and on the City website. By signing this form I hereby agree and consent that the City of Prior Lake and others are not responsible for any misappropriation of the photo by any member of the general public or anyone else, and waive all right of privacy which I may have in connection with such use of my picture, portrait, or likeness by the City. I also release all claims against the City with respect to copyright ownership and publication including any claim for compensation related to use of the materials.

SIGNATURE

DATA PRIVACY ACT: In accordance with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, the Recreation Department hereby informs you that the personal information we are requesting of you and/or your child or guardian on our registration form is now considered private. Private data is available to you and to the City staff who need to have this information to perform their duties, but not to the public. While you may choose to withhold this data, the consequences could be that the City's Recreation staff may not be able to complete your registration and/or you may not receive updated program information, such as scheduled changes.

OFFICE USE ONLY: CASH/CHECK # _____ AMOUNT REC. _____ FEE REC. BY _____ DATE REC. _____