



Wavelength

Prior Lake: *Wonderful Place to Call Home*

INSIDE:
 2007 Achievements
 Pages 2 & 3
 Fire Station No. 2
 Page 3
 City Recreation
 Page 4

Mayor Presents State of the City Address

“We as government officials must have the courage to provide for the long-term good of all of our citizens; to make the investments which in 50 years will be the legacy which we leave to those who succeed us; to make decisions that truly stand the test of time.”



Mayor Haugen presents his seventh State of the City address at City Hall Monday, Feb. 4.

In his seventh State of the City address, Mayor Jack G. Haugen offered his views on the essence of government, the year’s achievements relating to Prior Lake’s 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan, and a view of the future’s major priorities and opportunities.

The address was the highlight of the regular council meeting Tuesday, Feb. 4 and included a presentation from City Staff on 2007’s achievements in each of the 10 Vision Elements of the 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan.

The following are excerpts from the Mayor’s address. For the full version, visit www.cityofpriorlake.com, watch it replayed on PLTV-15 cable television or order it on DVD at (952) 447-9804:

The Essence of Government

Fellow councilors, ladies and gentlemen, good evening and welcome to my seventh annual Prior Lake State of the City Address. Thank you for sharing this moment with me as we reflect on the accomplishments of this past year and look ahead to the challenges of this year and beyond.

Over my past six years as your mayor, I have been engaged in this process of refining my views on local government. In the Midwinter 2008 edition of our Wavelength newsletter, and later in the “Prior Lake American” and “This Week in Prior Lake,” I wrote about those views in a column entitled, “The Essence of Government.” Since those columns were published, I have been more than just a little surprised by the numerous positive comments and e-mails I have received.

The basic thesis of the article is that it is essential for those of us in government whether at the local, county, state, regional or national level to focus on the big picture and the long-term impact of each thing we do today. But that is more easily said than done. The nature of our political lives is to focus on the short term. It is to please the electorate to assure that come

election time we will be remembered in a positive vote-getting way.

And indeed there are people in our society that believe their elected officials should be nothing but thermometers taking the temperature of constituents from issue to issue and then wagging their vote in the direction of the majority. This too contributes to a...

“Mayor” Continued on page 2

Club Prior: Already Changing Lives

Club Prior – Prior Lake’s activity center open to anyone age 55 and over – had a great first month after opening its doors Jan. 8, 2008. In addition to the card games, treats, field trips and other events, the center offers much more and a lot of activity is going on behind the scenes thanks to the hard work of the Prior Lake Parks and Recreation Department, area volun-

teers and Club Prior Coordinator Debbie Carlberg.

One of the more successful programs is the tax help for senior adults and low income families available through Club Prior Tuesdays by appointment from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“The tax sessions are really helping people. One woman was so thrilled

“Club Prior” Continued on page 3

City Calendar Late Winter (Feb. 16 - April 1)

FEBRUARY	18	President’s Day City Hall closed
	19	City Council at 6 p.m. City Hall
	20	Lake Advisory Comm. at 4:30 p.m. City Hall
	21	Parks Advisory Comm. at 6 p.m. City Hall
	25	Planning Commission at 6 p.m. City Hall
MARCH	3	City Council at 6 p.m. City Hall
	10	Planning Commission at 6 p.m. City Hall
	17	City Council at 6 p.m. City Hall
	18	Lake Advisory Comm. at 4:30 p.m. City Hall
	20	Parks Advisory Comm. at 6 p.m. City Hall
24	Planning Commission at 6 p.m. City Hall	

Turn to the back page for information on...
PL City Recreation

(952) 447-9820
priorlakesavagece.com
 4646 Dakota St. SE



'Mayor' continued from Page 1

myopic governmental view.

We are a society of producers. We want the fruits of our labors now. Patience is neither our individual nor our national virtue and so in staying aware of the actions of our government we may focus upon day-to-day events which have little or no real impact upon the long-term future of our city and its residents.

It is so easy to succumb to such daily pressures in the political world. Our terms are short lived – four years at the longest – so our focus is too often on the next election. Our performance is too often judged NOT by the degree to which we prepare

our community for its future but instead upon the percentage tax increase of an annual budget.

I have concluded that position is misguided. We as government officials must have the courage to provide for the long-term good of all of our citizens. To make the investments which in 50 years will be the legacy which we leave to those who succeed us. To make decisions that truly stand the test of time.

2030 Vision and Strategic Plan

I would like to speak to you tonight and reflect on our accomplishments of 2007 (see graphics below). I say the word "our" intentionally, because I sincerely believe that anything the city council or staff accomplishes is to be credited to the entire community and the many different roles each of us play in their accomplishment.

Our accomplishments would be meaningless if they were an isolated byproduct of one person's imaginings. No, accomplishments must be part of a well-refined, coordinated and community-shared plan.

That is precisely what the 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan is. Conceived in 2002 by in excess of 60 Prior Lake stakeholders, it has now been refined three additional times in 2003, 2005 and 2007 collectively by 400 volunteers. The document itself has remained unchanged in the vision of our community for 2030, in the mission of the city and in the exceedingly high value we place upon partnerships.

The Future

Now let's move to the future.

Although not a City Council responsibility, the biggest single issue facing you and I as citizens of the Prior Lake area is the status of Independent School District 719. Our greatest challenge as a community is to pass a levy referendum in November 2008 to preserve the quality of our educational system and the vibrancy of our community. It does not matter if you are a student, a parent, a property owner or a business owner. We all have much to gain and we all have much to lose.

To the student, the impact is immediate

and obvious. A brand new elementary school will sit vacant and unused this September as class sizes grow and the quality of education falters. To the homeowner and business owner the impact is equally significant as property values will decline and community pride will plummet.

My challenge to all segments of our community and to leaders of Prior Lake organizations representing seniors, business persons, educators, parents, civic organizations, students, athletic organizations, religious groups, clubs, scouts and the rest is to get involved.

I am not smart enough to know what the exact referendum amount should be. That is up to the school board. What I do know is that there are two current referendum levies expiring, and a new referendum levy needs to be passed this November without hesitation. Without it there will be at least a 15% reduction in school district operating revenue which would be devastating to the school district and the entire community (including all of Prior Lake, Spring Lake and Credit River Townships; and a signifi-

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

Jack Haugen (952) 440-8200

City Council

Warren Erickson (952) 440-2171
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

2030 Vision Achievements for 2007

Mayor Haugen asked City department heads to share some of the highlights and accomplishments from our 2030 Vision from this past year. They include:



Quality Community Growth

- ▶ Zoning Ordinance made consistent with the 2030 Comp. Plan.
- ▶ Provided Proactive Code Enforcement
- ▶ Well-Planned Urban Expansion



Housing Quality and Diversity

- ▶ Provided financial assistance to help McKenna Crossing become reality
- ▶ Continue work with developers to provide a variety of housing



Community Capital Assets

- ▶ Fire Station No. 2 underway
- ▶ Water Treatment Facility under construction
- ▶ Rolling stock best practices measures adopted
- ▶ Acquired Pike Lake property
- ▶ Developing 10-year Transportation Plan
- ▶ Developed Park Equipment Matrix
- ▶ Approved Energy Conservation Plan
- ▶ Opened Club Prior facility

Economic Development

- ▶ Attracted Cutting Edge Moldings (in Deerfield Business Park, north side of Adelman, just to the west of Triple Play)



- ▶ Attraction of Prior Lake Transmission

Downtown Redevelopment

- ▶ Redevelopment downtown; Premiere Dance Academy
- ▶ Adopted Downtown Design Guidelines
- ▶ Rock Creek/VillageCommerce buildings completed



Strong Financial Management

- ▶ Second lowest property tax rate in Scott County
- ▶ Bond rating in top 3%
- ▶ Investment level 3% beyond goal
- ▶ Fully funded Fire Ass'n pension
- ▶ Budget that meets its goal for balancing expenditures and revenues



Natural Resources

- ▶ Monitored Water Quality
- ▶ Updated Water System Ordinance
- ▶ Worked on Master Park Plan
- ▶ Adopted Well Head Protection Plan

cant portion of Savage). And, let me clarify, we are talking about operating dollars only, this referendum and my comments do not pertain to any building alterations or expansions.

Please get involved, learn the facts, share the facts with others, and be part of the solution for your entire community.

Now let's turn to your City Council priorities for this year.

As we enter into 2008 a quote from author Brian Tracy is instructive. He says, "All successful people, men and women, are big dreamers. They imagine what their future could be, ideal in every respect, and then they work every day toward their distant vision, that goal or purpose."

Isn't that really what we are doing at Prior Lake through our 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan? It absolutely is. But, I sometimes hear people ask: Can we afford the Vision? My answer to you is that we cannot afford to be without it.

Conclusion

My comments have centered on the essence of government and the value of long-

range planning – especially our 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan. In other words, the importance of having a long-term vision and being committed to making decisions that support it.

Please don't conclude from my comments that it will be easy to reach our 2030 Vision. It will not be. Our vision will be tweaked and modified over time as conditions and priorities change. Sometimes, accomplishments will be rapid and easy and other times slow and difficult. The key is to focus our collective eyes on the future as we make decisions for the future.

Let me share an example: If you were to take your family on a trip to California by car, you would look at a map and define your route and plan your stops. You would know the approximate miles and the amount of time it would take to arrive at your destination. Sometimes, when the roads are dry and the sky is blue, you will drive the speed limit. When the roads are snow covered or wet, when the winds are blowing, and the traffic thick, you may only drive 20-30 mph. You need to adjust to conditions. You may get there on time, maybe not. The key is that you will get there.

So it is with our 2030 Vision, sometimes we can have rapid progress and other times progress may be very slow. 2002 to mid-2006 were times of rapid progress. Since mid-2006, our pace has slowed as our economy has weakened and our growth has slowed.

There is no question our world economy is filled with uncertainty. A recession may be on the horizon, new home building is extremely slow, housing values have declined, unemployment is up, and you may not feel as financially secure as you did in recent years.

As a council, we must be sensitive to these conditions. We need to proceed cautiously while still focusing on our 2030 Vision and all it represents. The weather and roads may have changed, we may be driving slower but our target is still the long-term future. After all, that is our challenge. It is the essence of government.

NOTE: The complete State of the City is available at cityofpriorlake.com.

Knowing the Code

Instead of having your property sale or refinance delayed, we recommend you confirm that the city's file on your home is complete.

How? It's easy. Just call the Building Inspections office to arrange for a final inspection if one was not performed on any pre-2008 home improvements. Home improvement projects include such things as garages, decks, swimming pools, three-season porches, re-roofs and finishing the lower level of a home. Water softeners and heaters, furnace replacements and air conditioners also require final inspections.

At the final inspection, a building inspector will check whether your project meets City zoning ordinance requirements and life safety codes as established by the Minnesota State Building Code.

Before you call, you can check to see whether your project received a final inspection by looking at the inspection record card. The inspector would have signed the card at the time a final inspection was completed.

For more information, call the Building Inspections Department at (952) 447-9850.

"Club Prior" Continued from page 1

that the volunteers will do taxes for free that she said she can now purchase glasses," says Coordinator Debbie Carlberg." Another woman called and said her husband died. When she found out she will be getting her taxes done here for free, she kept referring to me as an angel. I want people to know we are having a huge impact."

Debbie is also working with people networking employment opportunities for those 55+ and coordinating with Prior Lake Librarian Hillary Toren to get information to people about what to do when retirement health insurance benefits run out.

Check out Club Prior for yourself. The facility shares space with the Prior Lake Library at 16210 Eagle Creek Avenue SE. The hours are Tuesdays through Thursdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Come in anytime during Club hours for cards, dominoes, board games or socializing; programs include guest speakers, fitness classes, a book club, movies, a Wii Entertainment System, travel lore and much more. The coffee is always on!

Club Prior is also looking for talented individuals to share their knowledge. Fitness and dance instructors, knitting teacher, and a band or orchestra leader are on the wish list.

For more information, please call Debbie Carlberg at (952) 447-9783 or the Recreation Department at (952) 447-9820.

Fire Station No. 2 Construction Update

Construction on Fire Station No. 2 at County Rd. 21, Fountain Hills Dr. and Enclave Ave. in Jeffers Waterfront is well underway and on schedule.

The City council awarded the construction contract in August 2007 and work started soon after. The building should be complete around the end of May 2008.

Currently about half of the overall construction is complete, and, if weather cooperates, some of the paving, planting, sod, irrigation, etc. can be done in early spring. At the moment the focus is on the interior of Fire Station No. 2.

In the apparatus area, where the fire trucks will be maintained, workers are roughing in the mechanical and sprinkler systems. In the administrative/training areas, workers are sheet rocking, roughing in mechanical equipment and testing systems. Workers are also getting ready to start sanding and painting interior walls. The interior windows and other interior elements are also being finished.

The building has temporary heating but permanent heating systems and permanent power will be ready around March 1.

Outside, the base roof and water-proof membrane is on the flat portion of the building and work continues on the metal roof portions when weather allows. Exterior windows were delivered two weeks ago and are going in, as well.

There will be little change on the exterior until the weather improves. Around March 17 masonry work will be completed and exterior insulation finished; however, the overhead apparatus doors will go in around March 1, improving the look of the building as you drive by.



Safe and Healthy Community

- ▶ Established unprecedented Community Safety Task Force
- ▶ Accomplishments of the Snowmobile Task Force
- ▶ 800 MHz radios purchased
- ▶ Expanded National Night Out Parties/ Program

Transportation

- ▶ County Rd. 82 and County Rd. 21 Construction
- ▶ County Rd. 12 Realignment at Hwy. 13
- ▶ Southbridge Crossings Transit Station/ Expanded Commuter Bus Service



Communication

- ▶ Increased website usage/ info
- ▶ Expanded Electronic News
- ▶ Increased cable broadcasting of public meetings
- ▶ Increased Inside City Hall cable programming
- ▶ Improved Wavelength newsletters



PL City Recreation

4646 Dakota St. SE Register @
priorlakesavagece.com

(952) 447-9820

Park & Rec To Host Annual Community Egg Hunt

The Prior Lake Parks and Recreation Department is hosting its FREE Lakefront Egg-stravaganza Saturday, March 15 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Lakefront Park. The Easter Bunny will be there to greet you with more than 4,000 candy and prize filled eggs.



There will also be pony rides, Eric the juggling magician, the AlphaBits Band, a fire truck and a police car.

Don't forget to bring your camera and dress for the weather, rain or shine.

Scheduled Hunts

Ages	Time	Location
3 and under	1 p.m.	bandshell hill
4-6 yr olds	1:15 p.m.	playground area
7-9 yr olds	1:30 p.m.	behind Pavilion

(limit of six eggs per child)

PL Recreation Has Online Registration

The Prior Lake Recreation Department partners with ISD 719 Community Education to offer online payment and registration.

The Recreation department will still accept cash and checks, along with credit cards, in person or by mail at City Hall at 4646 Dakota St. SE.

**Summer registration begins
Wednesday, April 16.**

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., 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



Tot Activities at City Hall

Ages: 2 and up with parent/grandparent
Fee: \$5 residents/\$10 non-residents

Leprechaun Party Activity #SPT2

Join in on crafts, treats and a game to find the pot of gold Monday, March 17 from 10-11 a.m.

Busy Bugs Activity #SPT4

We will do some buggy crafts and maybe find some wiggly ones (no real ones of course) Wednesday, April 30 from 10-11 a.m.



"No School Day" Activities

Balloon Sculpting Program

Learn to make balloon animals like Road Runner, Daffy Duck and the Tazmanian Devil from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at City Hall.

Session I Activity #SPY2 (March 7)

Session II Activity #SPY3 (March 21)

Age: 6-12 **Fee:** \$25 residents; \$30 non.

Simple Magic Program

Abacadabra! Become a magician and learn the secrets behind magic tricks at City Hall.

Session I Activity #SPY1

(March 7, 2-3 p.m.)

Session II Activity #SPY4

(March 28, 9-10 a.m.)

Age: 6-12 yrs. **Fee:** \$25 residents; \$30 non.

Bachman's Tour Activity #SPT7

Tour Bachman's design room, flower cooler, purple truck delivery area and phone order center Wednesday, March 26. Bus leaves Prior Lake Library Resource Center at 9 a.m., returns about 2 p.m. Children also participate in a hands-on, take home project. **Age:** 3+ with parent **Fee:** \$8 per child & \$5 per adult; add \$5 for non-resident **Deadline:** March 19

Bowling/Lunch/Skating Trip Activity #SPY5

Hop on the bus to Burnsville Bowl for bowling, pizza then on to Skateville for two hours of fun on March 27. Bus leaves the Prior Lake Library Resource Center at 9:15 a.m., returns at 3:15 p.m.

Ages: 9 & up **Fee:** \$28 (resident) add \$5 for (non-residents)-includes lunch; **Deadline:** March 20

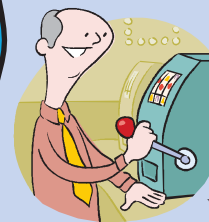
Summer Softball Leagues

The Prior Lake Recreation Department is offering adult slowpitch softball leagues. Leagues start the last week of April at Mangan Fields at the Ponds Athletic Complex in Prior Lake.

For registration information, visit www.cityofpriorlake.com or call the Recreation office at (952) 447-9820.

Adult Trips

(Activity #SP551) A Minnesota History Center mini and self-guided tour with lunch is Thursday, March 27. Bus leaves Club Prior at 10:45 a.m., returns about 3 p.m. **Fee:** \$17; add \$5 for non-residents, *Bring money for lunch in cafeteria **Deadline:** March 20



(Activity #SP552) A casino trip to Turtle Lake features more than 1,400 reel-type slots, video poker, video keno, blackjack and more on Wednesday,

April 9. Bus leaves Club Prior at 8 a.m., returns about 4 p.m.

Fee: \$10; \$15 non-residents, includes deluxe bus transportation and \$10 in quarters. **Deadline:** April 2