



4646 Dakota St. SE
Prior Lake, MN 55372

COMMUNICATIONS

1. In October, the city began publishing the Wavelength monthly in the Prior Lake American. Do you like the new schedule? Why?

Mandy N.: Yes, I like it.

Cindy W.: YES. I don't always have an opportunity to pick it up elsewhere, so having it come in the paper is huge plus.

Kelly G.: Yes, because all mail comes together in paper. Like the frequent updates, perfect timing.

Kelly G.: Cleaner look, easier to read.

Gerald Z.: YES! It gives me info I might miss or not see covered in the newspaper.

Dave E.: It seems to have more information, but the articles are not too long. And it is easier to read.

Matt P.: Yes.....this publication format is excellent, because it gets it in readers hands...it is pretty inclusive of the events and projects and makes things a little simpler to follow

Steve O.: Yes.

Bob S.: Yes, It's easy to read the city news.

Tricia P.: Yes, I do like the new format. It is easy to read.

Alan B.: Yes, I like this method. It's citizen friendly and, hopefully, reduces city expenses. It's consistent, reliable city information.

Fred O.: No publish in the prior lake newspaper.

Mark C.: I really did not notice the new format. I was only interested in content and that did not seem to change.

2. If the City of Prior Lake began Webstreaming its City Council and Planning Commission meetings, would you watch? Why?

Mandy N.: Yes! I do not get cable, but I do have high speed internet. Attending meetings is too hard for our family.

Cindy W.: ABSOLUTELY. We no longer have cable, but we do have high speed internet. I can't always get to the meetings and the minutes only tell you what was said, not how it was said and those distinctions are important.

Kelly G.: Yes when item of interest involved. We do not have cable TV, it would be the only way we could see them.

Kelly G.: If there was something that I specifically wanted to see I might, but otherwise I don't think I would make a point to watch it every time it was on.

Gerald Z.: No, because of cable I watch parts live or catch while going through the channels.

Dave E.: Yes, because it is on demand and I could watch only the segments I want.

Richard K.: Yes, due to the convenience of finding issues of specific interest. I would still watch the meetings live on cable when possible.

Steve O.: Yes, if the stream were able to be downloaded. Then I could quickly get to the issues I'm interested in.

Bob S.: It would be good for me since I have high speed internet, but there are still many that don't. I'd probably catch some of it, but I have only watched in the past when there has been an agenda item of interest to me.

Tricia P.: I would watch a couple times and if it stayed interesting and on task, I may continue. I believe it is important to be a part of the community and stay in the loop of what your city is doing and what its community can help it do.

Matt P.: Probably, not, however it doesn't hurt. Anything to communicate information is always good; for sure though to keep things simple, using the wavelength to recap meetings and agenda helps out people that are busy and just want the quick recap.

Alan B.: I'd watch the City Council meetings if I'm home. Unfortunately, I'd miss the Planning Commission meetings due to my being a member of the Commission. However, I'd be "riveted" to the replays!

Fred O.: No.

Mark C.: Yes. Mediacom (and its predecessors) have consistently poorly served the City of Prior Lake. I have satellite for that reason, as do the majority of my neighbors. Webcast would allow me to see the council and commission meetings that I would be interested to see but do not want to drive to see in person.

3. If you were to assign effectiveness ratings to the city's main communications vehicles, how would you grade:

1) Wavelength & Printed Publications

2) Website

3) Cable Television

4) Electronic News

Mandy N.: Wavelength: B; Website: B; Cable: F; Electronic: C.

Cindy W.: Wavelength: B; Website: B; Cable: D; Electronic: B.

Kelly G.: Wavelength A; Website B.

Kelly G.: Wavelength B; Website A; Cable D

Dave E.: Wavelength A; Cable C; Electronic B

Bob S.: Wavelength: A; Website: B; Cable: B; Electronic: B.

Tricia P.: Wavelength: A; Website: A; Cable: F; Electronic: B.
Matt P.: Wavelength: A; Website: A; Cable: C; Electronic: A .
Alan B.: Wavelength: A; Website: A; Cable: A; Electronic: A .
Fred O.: Wavelength: F; Website: F; Cable: F; Electronic: F .
Mark C.: Wavelength: C; Website: C; Cable: F; Electronic: F .

What areas should be the major areas of concentration?

Mandy N.: More focus on what will be discussed at city meetings BEFORE they happen. Easier to find minutes instead of agenda. Real English (simple) explanations of when things will be discussed and at which meetings.

Cindy W.: For me, electronic media is the best, but I realize that not everyone has access to email and the internet. I think that printed publications are probably the best way to reach the most people right now.

Kelly G.: Probably publications and the website.

Gerald Z.: Cable needs shorter info segments.

Dave E.: Wavelength & website

Richard K.: Opposing viewpoints on issues should be specifically solicited and boardcast and/or printed. The coverage is dominated by the sitting Council, Mayor, and City Manager and is somewhat one-sided from their viewpoint. I would like to hear what other residents and taxpayers have to say on various issues facing our city. Not a major area of concentration, but would be helpful: Video recordings of meetings need better sound. It is too low compared to other channels and has bad hum. For a system with a microphone in front of every person at the meeting, it sounds like it was recorded on a toy cassette recorder in the back corner of the room.

Bob S.: I think the communications is pretty good. Chad LeMair rocks :)

Tricia P.: I believe the downtown area should be of main concern. Concentrating on changing the look and feel of "All " of the stores and shops seems quite important. Unfortunately, I feel the Remax building is in need of a major make-over. Also, utilizing the "land for sale" between Duluth Ave and the lake for something such as a parking ramp for more activities within the city or more lake access. The Wagon Bridge Marina is also a huge benefit to Prior Lake and could use added amenities such as a small restaurant, rentals and a face lift. Allowing another restaurant to be added to the lake would force Captain Jacks to actually serve good food and have good service. I know there are many owners of CJ's that have a huge presence with the city, but I and many others feel, it would do nothing but benefit the city and CJ's to add competition to allow both to thrive. Competition can certainly be a positive thing. I also think it would be beneficial to turn the old County Market into a movie theater/ bowling alley/arcade for the children in our community to have to got to. Of course, all of these suggestions are given with a smile:) Thanks for listening!

Matt P.: Keep concentrating on effective use of the wavelength.....makes very reliable, easy to remember and in our hands publication.....we get it in the mail and it is a very quick read...the other forms of communciation serve as a good backup as we become specifically interested the variety of subjects.

Alan B.: Continued efforts to inform the public of government operations. Government employees and volunteers should be ambassadors of the City in their daily activities.

Fred O.: prior lake newspaper

The web. In today's world that is where most people go first. If they can't find the information on the web they give up unless it is very important to them and then they call.

Mark C.: Cable television is the worst investment for the City of Prior Lake. Cable TV penetration is poor and all you need to do is dirve through neighborhoods and look at rooftops and see all the satellite dishes. I beilve this is more of an issue with Mediacom than with cable TV in general.

By the way, the City website has improved consistently over the years and I now look at much more than I use to. Thanks to whoever is putting the website together.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

1. Are you aware that the city has checklists and handouts available for the following:

- 1) Mailbox Locations**
- 2) Fence Construction**
- 3) Location of Sheds**
- 4) Deck Construction**
- 5) Permits**

Mandy N.: Mailbox locations: no; Fence: no; Sheds: no; Deck: yes; Permits: no

Cindy W.: Mailbox locations: no; Fence: no; Sheds: no; Deck: no;
Permits: yes.

Kelly G. : Mailbox locations yes; Fence yes; Sheds yes; Deck yes;
Permits: no.

Kelly G.: Mailbox locations no; Fence no; Sheds yes; Deck yes; Permits yes.

Dave E.: Mailbox locations yes; Fence yes; Sheds yes; Deck yes, Permits yes.

Matt P.: Mailbox locations no; Fence no; Sheds no; Deck no, Permits no.

Ryan W.: Mailbox locations no; Fence yes; Sheds no; Deck yes, Permits yes.

Paul H.: Mailbox locations yes; Fence yes; Sheds yes; Deck yes, Permits yes.

Liz W.: Mailbox locations no; Fence no; Sheds no; Deck yes, Permits no.

Fred O .: Mailbox locations no; Fence no; Sheds no; Deck no, Permits no.

F. J. B.: Mailbox locations no; Fence no; Sheds no; Deck no, Permits no.

SMALL-TOWN FEEL

1. In the 2005 Resident Survey, citizens said the thing they like best about living in Prior Lake is its small town feel. What one thing could the city do to better promote that small-town feel?

Christy A.: I haven't lived here very long, but fall festivals seem to bring out the small town feel. Maybe a "Barn Dance" at Lakefront Park in October, with some largest pumpkins contest or best scarecrows. There are a lot of things one can do. And I really think the main street needs some more interesting shops, hardware and fireplaces stores. Auto shops really don't bring in the visitors you want to attract.

Mandy N.: Provide more places for the community to gather in town. Nicolett Commons in Burnsville is fantastic.

Eileen W.: I would do away with the small-town feel. We need stores to move in so we can shop here, and they'll give us a better tax base with cheaper taxes. We moved here from Savage and everything was very convenient. In Prior Lake everytime we need to go shopping we have to go to Savage, Burnsville, Lakeville, or Shakopee because Prior Lake has no stores - mostly hardware stores and bars. I'm sick of hearing about small-town feel - lets get some big businesses here so we can shop here instead of going elsewhere! The businesses the City Council allows here are businesses like the Buss Student Transportation Company that will be built in the Deerfield Industrial Park just east of our townhouse complex, and we're not happy! Apparently they OK'd it because it wasn't in their neighborhood. Our homeowners protested, but they allowed it anyway. In the June 3 issue of Prior Lake American there was an interview with Chris Schultze. She liked the sense of a small community, but she'd change our downtown with more businesses so we can shop here and put our dollars back into the community rather than going to Burnsville to shop at the mall. She wants the small-town feel, but she hates that she has to drive to other suburbs to shop. All the people moving here need to go shopping someplace, it might as well be right here in Prior Lake. In conclusion, the worst thing about living in Prior Lake is because the City Council is keeping it a small town with no businesses that we can shop at.

Kelly G.: Keep improving the vitality of the actual "downtown area". Keep supporting activities and businesses that bring people to downtown Prior Lake.

Kathy S.: Have more sidewalks and bike/walking trails. Especially down highway 13, so the main street would be accessible to everyone living north of main street.

Mike C.: Limit development - require larger lots, open space and promote the downtown area. I want to tell you how much I like the park cleaning "evening shift" prior lake has going. It's so nice to have the parks cleaned up in the evenings - the next day the parks are clean and ready for use. They look great and I'm glad that the park director has made this decision. Great job and well done!!

Dave E.: More small downtown events such as ladies night out.

Chris P.: Don't allow 'crowded' housing. Keep the lots large.

Brian K.: Stop Raising Taxes.

Sarah S.: 1) Revitalize downtown. I know this is underway but I cannot stress enough how important it will be to attract the right businesses, the businesses Prior Lake citizens will utilize and enjoy for years to come.

2) Plan community festivals. When I was little, I spent a few weeks over the 4th of July with my grandparents who really did live in a small town. All year I looked forward to the 4th of July festival where the town blocked off downtown and served food and played live music. The best for us kids was the street dance they held at night.

3) Build a community pool. I know, we have the lake, why do we need a pool? Well, for one it is a little cleaner than the lake (hopefully) and second of all, you can build water slides, diving boards, and other fun things to help keep the kids entertained. Just my thoughts. Also, I feel obligated to tell you that I am not a PL citizen - yet. We are building in the Jeffers Pond community and can't wait to move in sometime in early December. Even though we don't live here yet, both my husband and I are very excited and proud to be future residents in such a great community.

Tim L.: How about sidewalks connecting neighborhoods and tar path along 13?

Matt P.: Prior Lake in my opinion could project a small town feel by best continuing the development and encourage the development of the downtown area. Unfortunately Prior Lake has already been spreading itself around, instead of being centered about a central point, development of strip malls around the city in my opinion has detracted from that small town feel....given the already external development however and the fact that it can be retreated. Seriously start focusing on downtown, special shops, coffee, eateries, galleries, music events, shops that give reason to bring us downtown. Whitebear Lake would be an excellent minor example of what can be done.

Paul H.: At the intersection of Main St. & Hwy. 21, if we could close off Main between Dakota & Pleasant and put a wooden walking bridge over Hwy. 21, that would be nice. When they change Hwy. 21 through downtown Prior Lake that would be the best time to do it. Just lower Hwy. 21 a little and have a nice arching wooden walking bridge.

Liz W.: I am a 40 plus year resident of Prior Lake and remember when there was still the grain elevators next to the railroad tracks in town. Now that was a small town. The population sign said 497 people but that was before any of the township annexations. By creating the Heritage site using the Kop property near Lakefront Park it will help recall the small town feel as well as the farming history of the area. This will help identify some of the small town feel. Another way is to continue to promote the caring and concern that neighbors have for one another. One thing that has helped the small town feel is the opening of Village Market. You can go in there and usually see someone that you know which promotes the small town feel. Local stores owned and operated by local people gives a small town feel. I was raised in a retail family and either everyone in town knew us or my dad new them. Promote not only office buildings but also retail business. The small town feel can also be promoted by having the downtown area remain individual and not have the fronts of the stores look alike. We are fast becoming just another suburb with nothing to make us stand out. The Heritage Site will help that.

Fred O.: Promote and improve communications.

When my Family moved to Prior Lake in 1978 the population was about 2,800. Over the last 28 years I have seen just about every change that has occurred in Prior Lake.

Tom S.: What gives it the small town feel is places like Village Market, Carlson Hardware Store, TJ Holligans to name a few. It is the small-town family-owned business that has an impact.

It's going to Memorial park and watching local kids playing baseball for the town team or taking in a high school football game with the neighbors.

Most importantly it is the people. I can still go to the local establishments and possibly run into a former classmate or someone from my church. Even a member of the city council I went to high school with.

We are a changing and growing community that cannot forget where we came from and how we are to proceed for the future. We must maintain our current parks and expand with more. Not build so many high-density housing projects and cookie cutter town homes or apartments. Build nice yet affordable housing while maintaining the quality we have been used to.

Ed J.: Keep the big franchise restaurants from coming to Prior Lake.

Vicky G.: I think that we need to do even more to protect the trees that buffer the new neighborhoods and STOP the acre upon acre upon acre of high density housing. They are ugly in their sameness, stand out like sore thumbs and heavily tax our roads and schools.

Mary E.: Stop multi-family building and large developments.

Kelly G.: Keep green spaces open wherever possible. Retain mature trees and wetlands wherever possible and limit new building height.