



4646 Dakota St. SE
Prior Lake, MN 55372

July 13, 2013

A Message from the Mayor

Construction Fulfills Many Vital Objectives

Minnesota has just two “real” seasons: winter and road construction, right? This year brought an incredibly long winter and a rainy spring right into the summer. And certainly, many of us have already experienced the huge amount of road construction, including the Hwy. 13 and County Rd. 5 intersection work on the Savage/Burnsville border, the center median work along I-494, the bridge reconstruction on I-35E at the split in Burnsville, the I-35 resurfacing from Lakeville south for a number of miles, the upcoming work on the bridge entrances to U.S. 169, and on and on.

Here in Prior Lake, we have a very busy road construction season under way, too. Each project is important just for fluid and safe traffic movements, but each also fulfills other vital objectives, as well.

County Rd. 12 and Sunset Ave. in the southwest corner of the city and on the northwest corner of Spring Lake has already begun construction. When the combined county/city project is completed by late this year, we will have achieved several important things. First, County Rd. 12 will finally be completely reconstructed to meet the traffic needs of the next generation – a process that began with design work in 2004 and 2005, and has proceeded with three distinct projects over the years. Second, the folks living along the west end of County Rd. 12 and those living on Sunset will be connected to city sewer and water, allowing them to realize better value and marketability for their property. Many have been facing severe restrictions due to their aging wells and septic systems. Third, the project will remove potential discharge of effluent into Spring Lake, and also control drainage of more than 60 acres of farmland into Spring Lake. This project is a collaboration among the watershed, county and city. These steps are important for the long-term process of improving the water quality of our lakes, including Spring Lake.

In a few weeks, a construction project will start, installing streets and utilities in the **Welcome Avenue** Industrial Park, in the eastern part of the City and north of County Rd. 21. For many years, that area has had dirt roads, individual wells for water and individual septic systems. We’ve realized for a decade that the underground source of most of our city drinking water flows right under this area (referred to as our ‘wellhead’ area). For all that time, we have known just how important it is to protect our wellhead and ensure that our water supply isn’t subject to potential contamination. This project will give us that wellhead protection. In addition, many residents will remember the problems the city had with our neighbors in Credit River Township living on the shores of Markley Lake about 15 years ago. Markley Lake flooded during a very wet year, and those residents pointed to the development in Prior Lake as a significant source of increased runoff into Markley Lake and a major cause of their problems. Now we’re seeing the large housing and commercial development on the north side of County Rd. 21 at Fish Point Rd. and the risk of flooding due to runoff just goes up and up. This project will enable us to construct a large storm water holding pond and virtually eliminate the risk of flooding Markley Lake. Finally, this project will

make the properties in that area much more attractive for redevelopment, with paved streets and city utilities.

Our final project for 2013 will start as soon as Lakefront Days ends in early-August. We'll reconstruct the intersection and approaching roads at **Main/Ridgemont County Rd. 44/ Hwy. 13** at the north entrance to downtown and Lakefront Park. This intersection has seen terrible traffic congestion and an unacceptable level of accidents for many years. Finally, we'll be able to fix these problems. In addition, this project will create a much more attractive and functional entrance to downtown from the north and east, and we'll install another monument sign highlighting this.

For each project, city staff will keep the folks directly affected fully up to date on the progress of the projects, and will let us all know how the projects are proceeding. Thanks for your patience as we work to improve the city.

Sincerely,
Mayor Ken Hedberg