

Nathan Oster

From: Nathan Oster
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2006 12:49 PM
To: Nathan Oster
Subject: City of Prior Lake News



NEWS RELEASES WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Heritage Farmstead's future is topic of March 15 meeting

Prior Lake residents with an interest in the future of the Heritage Farmstead (former Kop Farm) site are invited to attend a town-hall meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 15 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Lakefront Park Pavilion, 5000 Kop Parkway. A master plan, prepared by Hoisington Koepler Group, Inc., will be presented during this meeting.

The 15-acre site, located at the gateway of both downtown Prior Lake and Lakefront Park, has been owned by the city since 1999. The property was utilized for farming purposes for generations, first by the Nauck family and then the Felix family before transitioning to the Kop family. John and Meda Kop owned the property at the time of the city's purchase in 1999, and after John Kop's passing, Meda Kop continued to reside there until her death in 2005. Today, only a few well-worn structures remain on the site.

Complete details about the master plan prepared by HKGI will be shared at the March 15 town hall meeting. For a preview, envision the transition of the existing house to a planned ruin, addition of a barn that could be rented for special events, a community garden with about a dozen lots, an ice skating pond, picnic shelters, a fruiting orchard that doubles as a turf parking lot, and trails leading to Lakefront Park.

In short...a four-season farmstead destination for the entire community's enjoyment!

The Heritage Farmstead project is just one of the initiatives being led by the council's new Heritage Committee, which consists of council members Steve Millar and Cheri Dornbush along with city staff. The committee, which has met three times since its creation in January, is also exploring the possibility of organizing heritage festivals and planning the historical exhibits that will be featured in the new city hall building.

If you are unable to attend the town hall meeting, you can download information about the presentation on the city's Web site, cityofpriorlake.com, after March 15.

City taking steps to address downtown parking

With the new police station and city hall under construction and the proposed mixed-use development set to break ground near the intersection of Hastings and Main avenues, the City of Prior Lake has been fielding calls from business owners and residents about the parking in the downtown area.

To address some of the congestion near the city hall and police station building sites, the city this week posted no-parking signs along a 40-foot stretch of Arcadia Avenue, starting at its intersection with County Road 21. City Engineer Steve Albrecht explained that the change improves sight lines for motorists and creates easier turning movements for large vehicles entering the downtown area.

In a second move, the city reached an agreement with representatives of Holy Trinity Methodist Church that represents a win-win for both. With 20 to 30 building tradesman parking near the police station/city hall site on a daily basis, buses were having a difficult time navigating along Dakota Street to pick up and drop off kids at Holy Trinity Methodist Church in the afternoons. So this week, the city installed no-parking signs on the north side of the church building. In exchange for the removal of those six parking stalls, the church agreed to allow contractors visiting the police station and city hall building site to utilize 22 parking stalls located on the

periphery of the lot of the church. Construction workers have been directed to utilize those stalls before parking their vehicles on Dakota.

Two other recent developments will also impact downtown parking.

On April 1, in a move designed to create more downtown parking south of County Road 21, the parking lot for the Laker Lines bus service will relocate from its present location off Colorado Street to the Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church parking lot. The relocation will coincide with the launch of a third daily bus to downtown Minneapolis. This move will add 60 off-street parking stalls for businesses and the general public.

And finally, Rock Creek Homes plans to break ground this spring on its new mixed-use development at the corner of Main and Hastings avenues. This, too, will have an impact on parking in the downtown area. Once this building is complete, the occupants and their customers will lease the public parking lot at the northeast corner of Main Avenue and County Road 21 so that on-street parking will continue to be available to others along Main Avenue.

The city is exploring its options with respect to parking in the downtown area, and will be distributing a newsletter and map to all downtown businesses in the coming weeks and perhaps conducting a town hall meeting on this subject this spring.

Spring Break trips planned to 3rd Lair, Grand Rios

The Prior Lake Recreation Department, in conjunction with the Savage Recreation Department, is planning trips to the 3rd Lair indoor skate park in Golden Valley and Grand Rios indoor water park in Brooklyn Park during spring break for students in the Prior Lake-Savage Area School District.

The trip to the 3rd Lair facility, for children ages 9 to 17, is planned for Wednesday, March 29, with the bus picking up at 11 a.m. and dropping off at 4:30 p.m. at the Prior Lake Library/Resource Center. The facility is professionally staffed with experienced skateboarders. Skaters will get free rental of elbow pads, knee pads, and helmets but must supply their own skateboard or inline skates. Lunch will be provided. The fee is \$20 per person, or \$25 per nonresident.

On Thursday, March 30, children ages 7 to 14 are invited to experience the twists and turns of Minnesota's largest indoor water park, Grand Rios. The bus will pick up at 9 a.m. and drop off at 3 p.m. at the Prior Lake Library/Resource Center after a full day of swimming and sliding fun. Grand Rios features a four-story water tower with body and tube slides, a sport pool, the Big Splash dumping bucket, Coconut Island play area and The Hurricane Plunge. A hotdog with chips or slice of pizza and beverage lunch is included in the trip fee. Don't forget a towel and swimsuit. The fee is \$22 per resident, \$27 per nonresident.

The registration deadline for both of these trips is Monday, March 20. To sign up, visit the Recreation Department which is located at Prior Lake Fire Station No. 1, 16776 Fish Point Road SE, or call (952) 447-4230 or (952) 447-9820 for more information.

Wavelength to appear in March 4 issue of American

Be looking for the newest edition of the Wavelength newsletter in the March 4 issue of the Prior Lake American. This month's issue contains details about a town hall meeting on a master plan prepared for the Heritage Farmstead (former Kop Farm property) site, excerpts of Mayor Jack Haugen's State of the City address, a closer look at the Housing Quality and Diversity element of the 2030 Vision, and details about the upcoming deck seminar and clean-up day.

The issue will also contain eight pages of summer recreation listings and information about Summer Registration Night, which is Wednesday, March 22.

If you do not receive the American, you can pick up a copy of the newsletter next week in any city building as well as in these locations: Village Market, Prior Lake Library/City Perks, Edelweiss Bakery, Lakefront Plaza, Shell, Sinclair, Fong's Restaurant and Bar, Captain Jack's, Park Nicollet Clinic and the U.S. Post Office.

For more information, contact Communications Coordinator Nathan Oster at (952) 447-9804.

Deck-building tips to be shared at March 18 seminar

There are still openings for applicants interested in attending the free deck-building seminar that will be hosted Saturday, March 18 by the Prior Lake Building Inspections Department. The annual seminar will be held at Prior Lake Fire Station No. 1, 16776 Fish Point Road SE, from 9 a.m. to noon.

If you're planning to build a deck in 2006, the seminar could be just the thing to get your project off to a successful start. Members of the building department will explain how to obtain a permit, how to locate the deck on your house and property, how to design the deck's frame, and the basics about footings, decking, railings and stairs.

Preregistration is required. **To register for this free seminar, call (952) 447-9850.**

Voice your opinion on the future of dance studio space

With Premiere Dance Academy moving to a new downtown location later this year, there will soon be space for lease in the Prior Lake Library/Resource Center, 16210 Eagle Creek Ave. SE, that now houses the city library and City Perks Coffeehouse.

The city is currently soliciting comments from the public about what should be done with this part of the facility. You can voice your opinion by logging on to the city's Web site, www.cityofpriorlake.com. Look for the new Your Turn forum, which was added to the site to enhance two-way communication between the city and its residents.

Responses will be posted on a separate forum webpage. And please make sure language used is appropriate and not slanderous.

Visit us on the web at www.cityofpriorlake.com

To unsubscribe from this mailing list, please email noster@cityofpriorlake.com