A Minute with the Mayor

By Chuck Nickolay

In regards to City activity, I feel this year we will be working on some long term issues. As the city continues to grow and the needs of our citizens expand, the city has to start to develop a long-term strategy to be able to handle these issues. These are some of the areas to be addressed:

♦ The increased demand for athletic fields. We not only need more fields for baseball/softball, but soccer and lacrosse are growing sports in our area. This review will be a joint venture with the School District as they face the similar issues.

♦ The review of our IT structure. This includes the expansion of our online services, website, and communications. We also need to make sure that we have the proper network security in place to protect our data.

♦ The update of our infrastructure. We need to do a comprehensive study of the total capacity of our infrastructure and where future distribution system extensions will be needed. This will show us where the shortfalls are in regard to being able to handle city growth.

♦ The expansion of our city limits. Due to the fact that we only have approximately 150 lots available to build on, the city needs to look at where the next future areas of expansion will likely be. At the current rate of new building permits, this means we have about 2-4 years of available lots left.

♦ The update of our street CIP projects. Due to the fact that we have temporarily put our street projects on hold so we can put all our energy in the 2020 Main Street project, we need to re-evaluate and update the final street projects that we have left. It would be great to get these finished in the next five years.

As you can see, when a city continues to grow as New Prague has, the city not only needs to address how we continue to offer the services our citizens want and expect, but what the future needs might be.

Thanks for all your support!! If you have any questions, please let me know.

Travis Scheffler is new Water Operator

Travis Scheffler is our new Water Operator here at New Prague Utilities. He started his duties with New Prague Utilities on Sept. 11, 2017. Travis is a graduate of Montgomery/Lonsdale High School and a Minnesota State University, Mankato graduate with a bachelors degree in Natural Resource Management. Travis is also a graduate of St. Cloud Tech. with an associates degree in construction technology and the WETT program. Along with his education, Travis came to us with a class “C” Water Operators license from the MN Dept of Health, a class “B” license in Wastewater from the MN Pollution Control Agency, PAMAC certification and an OSHA certification. Prior to Travis coming to New Prague Utilities, he was also employed with the cities of Prior Lake, Waconia and Lakeville. In Travis’ spare time he likes to hunt, fish and take vacations when he can. Travis and his wife, Kathie, live in New Prague.

Brandon Belch joins Utilities Dept.

Brandon Belch started Oct 9th, 2017 as an Electrical Lineworker for New Prague Municipal Utilities. Brandon graduated from Elk River High School. After graduating from the electrical lineman program at Wadena Vocational School, he took a job as an electrical lineworker /water operator /power plant operator for Kenyon Municipal Utilities. Brandon worked for them for 19 years before coming to New Prague. He has also been a volunteer fireman since 2002. He has a lot of experience and knowledge which makes him a good fit for us. He and his wife have been married for 12 years and have 2 daughters, Abby (9) and Julie (6). Brandon enjoys spending time with his family, snowmobiling, fishing and doing other outdoor activities.
Keep sidewalks free of snow and ice

As in past years, the City continues to enforce the local ordinance that requires all snow and ice remaining on a public sidewalk to be removed as soon as possible after the end of an event in which it was deposited. Snow and ice must be removed within 24 hours of the conclusion of the event.

Again this winter season, snow and ice must be removed from all sidewalks within the Central Business District (downtown area) as soon as possible, BUT no more than 8 hours after the completion of the event or after Main Street has been plowed open, whichever comes later. If you have questions about the updates or this ordinance in general, please call City Hall for more information.

Recycle Your Holiday!

New Prague Utilities is accepting old or no longer working holiday lights thru January 31, 2018 at no charge for residential customers who receive an electric bill from the New Prague Utilities Commission at 118 Central Ave N, New Prague, MN.

Rebates for LED Holiday Lighting are good until December 31, 2017. Please submit coupon, original receipt, and part of the box(es) showing the number of LED lamps per string or decoration purchased. Rebates are available at City Hall, our city website at www.ci.new-prague.mn.us; go to utilities, or www.SaveEnergyInNewPrague.com. You must be an electric customer of New Prague Utilities Commission to be eligible for a rebate. Lights/decorations must be used where service is provided by the Utility. Battery or solar operated LED’s do not qualify. Submit rebate requests to New Prague Utilities no later than January 5, 2018.

HOCKEY RINK / WARMING HOUSE HOURS

The sliding hill, as well as the recreational ice skating rink and hockey rink, are open at Sliding Hill Skate Park (1500 Columbus Ave N, across the street from the high school). Again this year, the warming house will be available for all users of the park. Hours will be posted on the city website and on the warming house itself. A large “open/closed” sign is located on the warming house wall facing the parking lot, notifying parents if warming house is open or not.

For the latest City News on the web, visit:
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