A REFLECTION OF THE PAST YEAR

"We should certainly count our blessings, but we should also make our blessings count."

Neal A. Maxwell

2012 was a year full of projects and progress. It seems appropriate that time is taken in this moment to reflect on what changes Newfolden has seen this past year.

NEW SIDEWALKS AND STREET-LIGHTS

Work on the Transportation Enhancement Grant, awarded by the MN Department of Transportation in 2008 and 2009, has almost been completed. This project brought new sidewalks and an expanded sidewalk system to residents of Newfolden; providing a separate and safe route of transportation from the City Park to MCC’s school buildings. It also brought new streetlights in addition to a planned bike trail and seating.

WATER MAIN FOR EAST SIDE SERVICE

Newfolden received low-interest funding from the MN Public Facilities Authority. All remaining cast-iron water mains were replaced. The largest water main, exceeding 50 years old, traveled under US Hwy 59 and the Railroad tracks providing water service to all of Newfolden’s East Side. The replacement was made of a PVC material and provided a looping system which improves back-up protection and increases water pressure to fire hydrants.

LEE’S ADDITION PAVING PROJECT

Sixth Street and a portion of East Bakke Avenue, which comprise Newfolden’s newest housing development - Lee’s Addition, was finally paved. The City waited until the lots were fully developed and resident’s submitted a request to pave the roadway. Lee’s Addition was completed in October.

STAN HOLMAAS MEMORIAL PARK

Phase 1 began in 2012. The demolition and removal of buildings and debris has prepared the site for further development. The DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant Program will fund 50% of this project.

NEWFOLDEN HISTORY GRANT

To tell the story of our community, Newfolden was awarded a legacy grant to create historical signs and displays in the Newfolden Cafe.

NEWFOLDEN CAFE AND SENIOR MEAL CENTER

Newfolden regained ownership of what is now called the Newfolden Cafe. Working closely with and through the generous spirits of the Newfolden senior citizens, the Newfolden Senior Meal Program was relocated and been converted to a Diner’s Club venue. This partnership brought a much needed customer base to the cafe and, along with community support, has greatly improved the viability of our community cafe.

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GREG HUFNAGLE IS APPOINTED TO NEWFOLDEN CITY COUNCIL

With the election of Mayor Lori Warne, a vacant council position was advertised to be appointed. One application was received by the Newfolden City Council. Greg Hufnagle was interviewed and enthusiastically appointed to serve the remaining two years of the vacated position. Thank you Greg!

FIRST FEMALE MAYOR WAS ELECTED TO NEWFOLDEN CITY COUNCIL

After having served the residents of Newfolden for 10 years as Councilwoman and Acting Mayor, Councilmember Lori Warne was elected to the position of Mayor.

NEWFOLDEN FIRE DEPT. UPGRADES FIRE EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES

The Fire Department received a donated Chevrolet Trailblazer from Enbridge Pipeline for the purposes of firefighting. In addition to this donation, the Fire Department was able to purchase, at a greatly reduced cost, a Polaris six-wheel Ranger. This ATV will hold a large-capacity water tank and will better facilitate grass firefighting efforts. After years of fundraising, the fire department purchased a thermal imaging unit. This unit detects hot spots in debris, walls, etc. It can also help identify and locate a downed firefighter when the visual sense is impeded. Lastly, the Fire Department meeting room was painted and provided a much needed facelift.

NEWFOLDEN LEGACY/HISTORY GRANT

This project must be completed by the summer of 2013. Research of documents, photographs, and stories of our rich heritage will be compiled and preserved on the walls of the Newfolden Café.

LOOKING INTO 2013

NEW SIDEWALKS AND STREET-LIGHTS

Weather has delayed completion of the project, it is estimated to be finished by June 15 of 2013! Finishing touches hope to include benches and trash receptacles as well as the return of flowers during the summer season and Christmas lights during the holiday season.

SEWAGE LOW OPPORTUNITIES

Industrial: $46.75 per Month
Senior: $16.50 per Month
Residential: $24.00 per Month
REFUSE: No Change

RECREATION COMMITTEE

St. Holmaas Memorial Park

Phase 2 will begin with the installation of a small playground set amidst a large variety of colorful trees and perennials. Fundraising efforts will commence late winter as the Park and Recreation Committee works with families to finalize project plans.

A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR NEWFOLDEN’S STREETS

It has been approximately 17 years since the paving of Newfolden’s streets. As this infrastructure ages, items such as crack-sealing, overlays, and shoulder become a question of maintenance. A strategic plan will help us assess the immediate needs and long-term needs of Newfolden’s roadways; and develop a plan for meeting those needs. The goal is to extend the life of this amenity for many years to come!

NEWFOLDEN ELECTRIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE PLAN

In 2010, the City Council worked closely with partners such as Ottertail Power Company to develop a maintenance plan for the upgrade and maintenance of our City’s electrical system. The implementation of this plan continues to be a top priority.

NEWFOLDEN DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

The question is often asked, “where do we go from here?” Newfolden is a place where people return home to, search for housing to raise their families and attend one of the region’s finest school districts, or just consider as a place close to work that they want to call home. With the last house built in Lee’s Addition, there are few options remaining for new development. Although, there are existing houses available for purchase, a community must always consider its growth potential by meeting the needs of those in the market for new housing. The challenge is providing the infrastructure such as water, sewer, electricity, and roads to an area that has potential for development. We know the development will happen, slowly over time, however, the cost to make infrastructure available needs to happen immediately. How to coordinate this without burdening current residents is the question the council will tackle!