

December 2024

City of Newfolden

City Scene

FAREWELL 2024 AND HELLO 2025—A YEAR IN REVIEW

As December and the holiday season brings time to celebrate traditions, family, and community; so too does it provide a moment to pause and reflect. In doing so, we would like to highlight some of the items that have been accomplished or set into motion this year. We continue to strive for a thriving and flourishing community. As a city council, we strive to be more efficient, more knowledgeable, more resourceful and responsive, and a strong executor of our resident's trust and tax dollars. Just a few highlights as we provide a recap of the year 2024:

- The Newfolden Flood Mitigation Project is in its final stage of completion. We are awaiting a Letter of Map Revision from FEMA. This revised map will remove all of Newfolden's properties, which FEMA had identified as a part of the 100 year flood risk and will formally designate them as risk free. This action will make a significant difference to property owners who have since been required to carry costly flood insurance and will also eliminate existing barriers to future expansion efforts.
- We have finalized the procurement of several acres of wooded land, donated to the City of Newfolden for recreation and preservation purposes. This land abuts nicely to the proposed Rivers Edge Addition, located on Newfolden's northwest end. We are excited for how this beautiful sanctuary can serve our community.
- The Minnesota Department of Health has approved the Wellhead Protection Plan submitted by the City of Newfolden. With the implementation of this plan, we have successfully received partial funding for the procurement and installation of a permanent, on-site, back-up generation system at the Newfolden water tower/pump house. This will preserve the availability of safe drinking water in the case of an emergency or power outage. Additional funding to complete this project in 2025 is pending approval.
- Many efforts have been made to prioritize the resiliency of the Newfolden electrical grid. We continue to move vulnerable overhead power lines and transformers to more secure in-ground and pad-mount systems. We currently have two applications (State and Federal) pending to acquire additional funding that will move those efforts to a more pro-active approach. These initiatives that will help to identify our grids more vulnerable areas, and will pre-empt and eliminate problems before they occur.
- 2024 will close out year four of a five year plan to build assets and relationships that will promote growth and development within the City of Newfolden. Although affordable housing remains a nationwide obstacle, we are continuing to prepare for the next steps. This includes networking with local and state agencies that have put Newfolden on several radar screens, and have assisted with strategies and exposure that will benefit this priority. To date, we have acquired the land necessary to establish housing and other developments (now and into the future). We have named and refined the plat-plan for the potential Riverside Addition, and are continuing to build the capital for this initiative. Newfolden is positioned to be near, shovel-ready so that when opportunities, funding sources, and the economy allow, we are ready to act.
- We are working closely with the Tri-Community Living At Home Block Nurse Program to help champion resources and services for the region's senior population. Capital equipment upgrades to the Newfolden senior and community center and improved infrastructure, that better accommodates all mobility needs, are proud additions brought to fruition in 2024.

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YEAR 2024—A REVIEW AND RECAP—CONTINUED

- We have transitioned to our new website. This is a more cost-effective alternative and puts Newfolden in compliance with anticipated ADA and URL requirements. If you have not logged on and signed yourself up for updates and improved communications, you are encouraged to do that today at www.mnnewfolden.gov.
- The City is collaborating with the Minnesota Department of Health to meet requirements that will reduce any risk of contamination of lead and copper in our water system. Step one was the completion of a system-wide inventory. This inventory is registered with the State and will define need and the future allocation of resources.
- Bulk water system utilization and accountability mechanisms were implemented in 2024. The process includes the permitting of users of the bulk water system, and the provision of a key-system to limit accessibility to only these users. This helps ensure that users of the water station are aware of the reporting and payment requirements for their consumption. We are seeing a significant increase in bulk water sale proceeds. This helps to offset expenses and keeps the overall rates of the water utility system low for our residents.

Winter-time Sledding at the Park

The Newfolden City Park hosts many memories for residents of Newfolden young and old. One memory frequently told by the not-so-young is one of sledding on the snow in the Newfolden City Park..

Sledding will once again be available at the City Park—along with the opportunity to create more childhood and family memories. The City will make every effort to clear snow in the city park, while users are asked to abide by the following rules: 1.

1. HAVE FUN
2. Slide only in designated areas.
3. Walk up on the side of the hill, avoid sledding paths.
4. Helmets are recommended.
5. No motorized vehicles on the sledding hill.

NEWFOLDEN SENIORS

CRAFT AND BAKE SALE

DURING SANTA CLAUSE VISITS!

12 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, December 7
Newfolden Community Center

UNIQUE AND ONE-OF-A KIND ITEMS!

Santa Claus

Santa is visiting Newfolden! Kids are invited to share their Christmas List and get a treat from Santa!

December 7, 1:00 - 3:00 PM
Newfolden Community Center

happy HOLIDAYS