

City Scene

FAREWELL 2025 AND HELLO 2026—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 work 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 2025:

- The Newfolden Flood Mitigation Project is complete. Engineers have applied for a LOMR (Letter of Map Revision) from FEMA and are awaiting final approval. 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 were able to procure and install 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. The City was awarded \$15,000.00 of the total project cost (\$19,500.00) through two Minnesota Department of Health grant opportunities.
- Many efforts have been made to prioritize the resiliency of the Newfolden electrical grid. We have received \$250,000.00 in funding to upgrade a large percentage of Newfolden's overhead lines to underground and pad mount systems. These initiatives will help to protect our grid's more vulnerable areas, and will pre-empt and eliminate weather and animal problems before they occur. Some efforts were started this fall, with the project expected to be completed in early summer of 2026.
- The City was recently notified that we have been selected to receive a \$400,000.00 Housing Infrastructure Grant, bringing us one step closer to completion of the Riverside Housing Development. We are continuing to pursue other opportunities which will assist with the expenses related to the installation of water, sewer, electric, and street infrastructure. To date, land has been acquired, reserves have been built, and planning is in high gear!
- The City was awarded an AARP Community Challenge Grant, which has allowed us to expand an outdoor sitting and meeting space at the Newfolden Community and Senior Center. This outdoor space is designed to meet the accessibility needs for all who utilize it.
- The Newfolden City Office and Council chambers has been relocated to 113 East Minnesota Avenue, next door to the BrewHaHa Coffee Shop. This space is city owned and became available at a time when we were considering options for the ever-expanding Newfolden Senior Center and Living At Home Block Nurse Program. We have a rich and growing community of services and supports for our seniors. With this, comes evolving office and storage needs. This move helps us support this program and ensure it remains a stable community asset, while also securing a larger and more efficient city work-space.
- Utility bill transition. We are continuing to work with GWORKS to successfully migrate and upgrade our utility billing services. This has taken longer than intended, however it is expected to be completed in 2026.

2026 UTILITY RATES

ELECTRIC- NO CHANGE

\$19.90 Fixed

\$0.1025/kwh—126-1000 kwh

\$0.0950/kwh— Over 1000 kwh

WATER- NO CHANGE

\$28.35 Fixed—0-2000 Gallons

8.83 per 1,000 gallons thereafter

SEWER- NO CHANGE

Residential: \$28.25 per Month

Industrial: \$51.00 per Month

REFUSE-NO CHANGE

Residential: \$22.75 per Month

Senior: \$21.75 per Month

CI FEE-NO CHANGE

\$4.00 Per Month

Mosquito Fee—NO CHANGE

\$7.50 per Spray

DIGI-BUCKS IN NEWFOLDEN

A holiday reminder that Digi-Bucks are accepted at all Newfolden retailers and businesses!

You can use your Digi-Bucks to support Newfolden businesses!

Happy Holidays and remember:

KEEP IT LOCAL!

Thank you to the American Legion Post 427, and
Thank you Lori and Kent Warne for all you do to make a day
with Santa Claus magical! Each detail is
meticulously thought out. Your hard work is so greatly
appreciated!



JANUARY SENIOR MEALS AND MEALS ON WHEELS MENU—EVERYONE OVER 60 IS WELCOME!

MONDAY—FRIDAY AT HUMBLEBEE'S CAFÉ. CALL FOR DELIVERY 874-2323

1/5 Egg Salad & Soup Pork Chops	1/6 Chicken Salad Hobo Dinner	1/7 Dumplings Chicken Enchilada	1/8 Chef Salad Spaghetti	1/9 Lemon Pepper Ckn
1/12 Egg Salad & Soup Hot Beef Sandwich	1/13 Chicken Salad Chicken Pot Pie	1/14 Dumplings Goulash	1/15 Chef Salad Meatballs	1/16 Beef Stew
1/19 Egg Salad & Soup Augratin Pot./Pork	1/20 Chicken Salad Scalloped Pot./ Ham	1/21 Dumplings Meatloaf	1/22 Chef Salad Hot Turkey Sandwich	1/23 Lasagna
1/26 Egg Salad & Soup Sloppy Joe/Pot. Salad	1/27 Chicken Salad Fry Rice/Orange Ckn	1/28 Dumplings Swedish Meatballs	1/29 Chef Salad Roasted Ckn Breast	1/30 Hot Pork Sandwich