

**Winter 2023
St. Paul Park
Events**

Offices Closed (Christmas) Dec 22, 25, 29
Offices Closed (New Years) Jan 1

Glow-in-the-Dark Sledding Dec 28 at 5-7pm
Parking Ban Nov 1 - Apr 1

Park News



ST. PAUL PARK ON THE MISSISSIPPI ■ WINTER 2023

Mayor Dingle's Goodbye

After 18 years on the Council, my time has come to an end and it's good to move over and let someone else take the reins. New and fresh ideas are sure to come, and this is something we can all be excited about. I want to thank the residents who have voted for me over the years and allowed me to serve the City again, and again, and again.... It has been a pleasure getting to know many of you and being your voice at the City level.

There's much to be proud of. My favorite is establishing an Annual Volunteer Dinner. I've always felt the utmost gratitude for our volunteers who truly make light work with many hands. It's important to recognize their countless hours of giving to their City. There are always opportunities to volunteer and give back and I encourage everyone to do so! You'll make new friends and feel a sense of connection and satisfaction.

I also want to recognize the staff within the City that make the job of Council Member and Mayor so much easier. Kevin Walsh, City Administrator has been on board through most of my tenure. He has been a wealth of information and understanding and always willing to help. Everyone from the office staff, to the Police, Fire, and Public Works staff are all truly top notch and so responsive and accommodating of citizen's needs/concerns. My gratitude goes beyond to the great relationships with neighboring

Mayors, City Councils, County Commissioners and State Senators and Representatives. Collaboration with each of them is key to our many successes. The City of St. Paul Park is a City we can all be proud of because of all their hard work and dedication.

I'd be remiss if I didn't thank all of the other Mayors/Council Members that I have worked with over the years and there have been many! While we didn't always agree, we remained respectful and friendly in our conversations and decision making. For that I feel forever grateful and blessed!

Lastly, I want to thank my family. They have given me their full support over the years – especially my husband Dan. He served on our Planning Commission for almost 20 years! He attended many events by my side and spent many evenings home alone while I was out serving the City. He wasn't my only family member to volunteer. My son Nick served on our Park and Recreation Commission and my sister-in-law Mari Dingle serves as the St. Paul Park representative on the Yellow Ribbon Commission – serving Veterans and their families.

In conclusion, I just want to say it has been my greatest pleasure serving the citizens of St. Paul Park. I look forward to seeing what the future holds for our little town!

Mulch Upgrade at Lions Levy and NEW Steps:

Lions Levee Park received a much-needed upgrade this summer with the installation of new steps to provide better access from the parking lot to the boat launch. This project was completed by Tree Trust Landscape Services. They are a non-profit organization that works with local youth to transform lives and landscapes. This project was also completed in coordination with the St. Paul Park Marathon refinery.



2023 St. Paul Park Election

Congratulations to the top three candidates that will be representing their City on the Council in 2024.

Mayor Candidate:
Keith Franke: 94.62%

Council Member Candidates:
Tim Conrad: 26.36%
Charlene Whitbred Hemmingson: 17.16%

COMMUNICATIONS CORNER

City of St. Paul Park

600 Portland Avenue
St. Paul Park, MN 55071

Phone: 651-459-9785

Fax: 651-459-6144

www.stpaulpark.org

CITY HALL OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

City offices will be closed on the following days:

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- President's Day
- Memorial Day
- Juneteenth, June 19
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Veteran's Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Day after Thanksgiving
- Christmas Eve
- Christmas Day
- New Years Eve (11:30 a.m.)

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Keith Franke**, Mayor
- Tim Conrad**
- Charlene Whitbred Hemmingson**
- Jeff Swenson**
- Bruce Zenner**

Kevin Walsh, City Administrator

FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| City Hall | 651-459-9785 |
| City Hall Fax | 651-459-6144 |
| Fire | 651-459-9918 |

Police Emergency and Non-Emergency 911

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Police Admin | 651-459-9785 |
| Public Works | 651-459-3730 |
| After Hours | 651-439-9381 |
| Utility Billing | 651-403-5961 |

MEETING CALENDAR

City Council
6:30 p.m. at City Hall, 1st and 3rd
Monday of the month, unless noted.

Planning Commission
7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 2nd Monday of
the month, unless noted.

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Tarah Beyer, Good Dog Marketing & Design

Goodbye Julie!

On behalf of the great city of St Paul Park and its residents, we would like to congratulate our City Clerk Julie Pelton on her well-deserved retirement at the end of the year. Julie has been the core of City Hall for many years. She is funny, hardworking and loves her job. The relationships she has built with our residents and business owners over the years is something to revel at. Julie is looking forward to spending time with her 9 grandkids, working in her yard and with her newly open schedule, hopes to do some traveling with her husband. Though her shoes were big ones to fill, we are confident our new City Clerk Amy Truhlar will fit right in. Welcome aboard Amy! Congratulations Julie, you will be missed.

Xcel Energy Offers Energy And Safety Tips This Holiday Season:

Decking the halls and decorating your home this holiday season doesn't have to break the bank. Xcel Energy is sharing tips to save on energy costs with holiday lights and to stay safe while decorating.

Depending on the type and number of lights used, customers can save up to \$100 for holiday lights based on Minnesota electric rates. Customers using a strand of 100 LED mini-lights for five hours a day will save about 70 cents a month per strand, when compared to a strand of incandescent bulbs. Each strand of 25 LED standard C7 lights used for five hours will save about \$2.60 per month, while each strand of 25 LED standard C9 lights can save about \$3.70 a month. Savings can vary depending on which manufacturer consumers use.

Most people use multiple strands of holiday lights for up to two months during this festive time of year, which can lead to significant savings. Customers who use 15 strands of LED lights instead of incandescent lights for five hours a day can save

- **LED mini-lights: about \$20**
- **LED standard C7 lights: nearly \$80**
- **LED standard C9 lights: about \$110**



Follow these tips to safely hang holiday lights:

- **Plan your decorating and lighting ahead of time to reduce potential safety hazards.**
- **Use only Underwriters Laboratories-approved lights and follow the manufacturer's instructions.**
- **Keep holiday lights, ladders and extension poles more than 10 feet away from any overhead power lines.**
- **Check the cords, socket connections and plugs on strings of lights. If these are worn or damaged, replace the lights.**
- **Plug in lights before stringing them to determine whether any bulbs are burned out.**
- **Unplug lights before hanging them as well as when asleep or away from home.**
- **Avoid attaching too many light strings together and plugging them into one outlet. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions for recommended maximum number of strings per outlet.**
- **Keep lights away from combustible materials, including draperies.**
- **Keep lights away from metal railings and banisters, aluminum siding, and metallic trees. These materials can become energized if a short-circuit occurs.**
- **Make sure rooftop decorations don't block vents or vent pipes.**



From the Desk of Our Chief of Police



The heavy decline in the interest of becoming a police officer and the increase in early retirements, and simply a desire to change career paths for some, has hit law enforcement hard, not just here in St. Paul Park, but nationwide. In addition to this, historically, smaller cities are often seen as a steppingstone for officers just starting their career and it is common for officers to move on after gaining some experience with smaller departments. Gone are the days of starting and retiring with the same agency. Due to the nationwide shortage of law enforcement officers, it has also led to a huge increase in competition among departments to hire and this competition can be seen in hiring incentives and large wage increases. In my 25-year career in law enforcement I have never seen anything like this.

During this last year, due to staffing shortage, we needed to reach out for assistance to other agencies to assist in shift coverage. A huge thank you to Sheriff Starry, Washington County Deputies, retired Chief Eastman, Interim Chief Jackson, and Bayport Police officers.

Despite this difficult time, we are happy to say we are back to being full-staffed, and we are very excited to be 100% back in the community. With this, I would like to introduce the following new additions: Officer Chue Vang, Officer Craig Elgin, Officer Shaun Doheny, Detective Luke Fridstrom, and Officer Kevin Fisher. Each of these officers were hired laterally, meaning they came to us from other agencies as police officers.

Officer Vang worked for several larger agencies in the Twin Cities Metro area and realized he prefers to work for a smaller agency. One of our current officers who knows Officer Vang suggested he apply with us, and we are very glad he did. Officer Vang always has a smile on his face and is very passionate about working with our community. He was hired in September, and you may have seen him handing out candy at the annual Trunk-n-Treat event.

Officer Elgin has over ten years of experience as a law enforcement officer up north. If you are interested in tattoos, he has many to show off! You will primarily see him working nights. He is a huge animal lover, especially when it comes to his own. Officer Elgin was hired in October. You may have seen him helping hand out candy with Officer Vang.

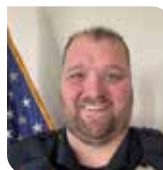
Officer Doheny, Investigator Fridstrom, and Officer Fisher are our most recent hires, all come here with previous working relationships with Sgt. Ikonitski.

Officer Doheny was a Chief in a smaller agency for many years but decided the commute was just too much and wanted to work closer to home. He wanted to stick with a smaller agency and community and applied here. You will see Officer Doheny

Detective Fridstrom has five years' experience as an officer in the southern metro area, he was a great choice to fill the open Detective position. He is very knowledgeable and passionate about investigating cases. You will occasionally see him in uniform, but primarily plainclothes working cases.

Officer Fisher has twelve years' experience as an officer in southern Minnesota. He occupies his off time with his children and black lab. He loves interacting with the public and is looking forward to growing with our department.

You will have the opportunity to meet all of them at our public swearing in during the first council meeting in February so save the date!



NEW Face in the Office:

Amy Truhlar has joined the group; she is the new City Clerk. Amy brings 17 years of government experience. She worked as the Deputy City Clerk at Lake St. Croix Beach for 10 years. She also worked with the City of Shoreview as their Deputy City Clerk for the last 7 years. She will be a good addition to the city. Stop in sometime and say "Hi".



Snowmobile City Ordinance:

(City Code Sections 66-132 and 66-133)

St. Paul Park City Code prohibits the operation of a snowmobile upon the roadway shoulder or inside bank or slope. The snowmobile may be driven on the streets between the residence of the operator and any public or private property upon which the operation of a snowmobile is permitted provided that the most direct route is used, the driver yields the right-of-way to all pedestrian and vehicular traffic and when driven upon the street the speed does not exceed 10 miles per hour.

To drive upon a public street the snowmobile must be equipped with at least one headlamp, one taillamp, muffler, and brakes that conform to state standards. Hours of operation are between the hours of 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sundays through Thursdays and only between 7 a.m. to 12 midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. The only exception to time limitation will be for the purpose of returning to the residence of the operator by the most direct route at a speed not exceeding 10 miles per hour.





City of St. Paul Park
600 Portland Avenue
St. Paul Park, MN 55071

3rd Street Road Project Update:

3rd Street from Broadway Ave to 14th Ave rehabilitation project is scheduled for the summer of 2025. In the recent legislative session the State of Minnesota has voted to provide the City of St. Paul Park \$7 million to reconstruct 3rd St. The project scope is to replace all underground utilities within the right of way along with replacement of curb and roadway surfaces.

The city along with our engineering team is currently collecting data for the design of the project.

Neighborhood and community input is valued as part of the process to ensure any issues, concerns and ideas are reviewed for consideration with this project.

As part of this project, we will be creating a website where all residents will be able to provide feedback and ideas for this project. This will also be a great resource for all information related to this project.

Watch the city's website and social media sites for more information about this project and when the project website goes live. If you have any questions or comments currently, please call Public Works at 651 459 3730.

St. Paul Park Parking Ban Reminder:

City Code Section 66-39 prohibits parking on any street between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. between November 1 through April 1.

On-street parking is permitted at all other times during this period, when such parking does not interfere with the removal of snow and ice from the City streets. The Police Department will be enforcing this ordinance this winter. If you have a specific problem with a vehicle, contact the St. Paul Park Police office by calling the Washington County Dispatch center via **911**.



When Should I Call 9-1-1

You might think, calling 9-1-1 is just for emergencies only? It used to be that way but not anymore. Washington County Dispatch Center advises people to call 9-1-1 when you "need direct access to law enforcement, fire, or emergency medical services." Calling 9-1-1 is the best number to use to process accurate, timely responses for both emergency and non-emergency situations.

PAYING YOUR WATER BILL: Did You Know?

To make sure your payment is applied to the right account it is very important that you include your nine-digit account number (i.e., 123-4567-89) and your service address with your payment, whether you write that information on your check or money order or by returning the top part of your bill.

When coming into city hall to make your payments make sure to bring your bill with you, this will help speed up the process and you can keep the bottom portion for your receipt and records.

REMEMBER THE ABCs OF FIRE HYDRANT SAFETY THIS WINTER

Always Be Clearing three feet and clear to the street!

The City of St. Paul Park is asking residents who live near a fire hydrant to help keep the hydrants clear this winter.

- Keep it clear of snow and ice
- Clear a path between the hydrant and the street
- Clear snow to make a three-foot perimeter around the hydrant
- Remember, in fighting fires.... every second counts!



Mailbox Damage and Repairs

Is your mailbox ready for winter? Will it stand up to the rigors of a winter plowing season? What happens if your mailbox is damaged by snowplow activities?

If your mailbox is damaged by a snowplow striking it, the city will repair or replace it. That is provided it conforms to the U.S. postal specifications of minimum height and setbacks.

If a mailbox is tipped over or knocked down by snow during snowplow operations, it is the responsibility of the property owner to make the necessary repairs.

Please contact Public Works at 651-459-3730 if you believe that your mailbox was damaged due to snow activities. City staff will investigate each complaint, and if the investigation determines the mailbox was hit by a piece of equipment, we will install a temporary mailbox until the spring when a new one can be properly installed.

If you have questions about your current mailbox and would like Public Works to come out and help evaluate it, please contact the Public Works Department at 651-459-3730.

