



## MAYOR'S UPDATES...



Mayor Fred Horne

It is now officially safe to put away the snow shovels! After a couple of brutal winters, the warm winds, long days and countless summer activities are upon us. This summer season promises to be a busy one for the City of New Richmond. You will see our various departments busy working throughout our community.

Some of the highlights will include major capital improvement projects. Over the last year, the City Council has reviewed several capital improvement projects that include street projects set for construction in 2015 and 2016. Some of the more immediate projects will include complete reconstruction of 115th and 175th streets as well as High Street leading into Lakeside. In 2016, we hope to complete Paperjack and North Shore Drive.

- Mayor Fred

## Loyalty Day

New Richmond was proud to host the 2015 Loyalty Day Celebration! On April 25th, people from around the State of Wisconsin participated in the parade and evening program. We want to thank the many volunteers, participants, and stakeholders for making this event a huge success. Many of the comments included the amount of pride that our community showed in preparing for and celebrating this event.



## News at Freedom Park

Freedom Park will see a lot of activity this summer. Last year, the irrigation system was finalized and this year a road and additional parking will be constructed in time for the Moving Wall, which will take place in September. We'll provide updates on the construction status in the coming months.



## Skate Park Update

Both the Park Board and City Council approved an amendment to the City's official Park Plan to allow a skate park in the City of New Richmond. Private funds have been solicited for the construction of a park to be located at Hatfield Park. Construction of this project could occur later this summer. Check out the City's Facebook page for project updates:

[www.facebook.com/CityofNewRichmond](http://www.facebook.com/CityofNewRichmond)



## New Richmond Seeks Approval for Community Solar Garden Project

Under a proposal filed with state regulators, electric utility customers in New Richmond could have a new option for participating in a homegrown, sustainable energy program as early as fall 2015. The community's locally owned, not-for-profit utility is seeking approval from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin for a community solar garden program.

"As New Richmond grows and develops, our community solar garden will serve as yet another example of our emerging leadership in the region's green power economy," said Mike Darrow, City Administrator and Utility Manager. "By providing customers with an option to participate in a solar garden program, New Richmond Utilities is helping to make our community a great place to live and work."

Community solar gardens use arrays of solar electric panels to generate renewable energy for the benefit of local subscribers. The projects can make the benefits of local solar energy more accessible for renters, customers whose property may be too small or too shaded to install rooftop solar panels, or others who may not be interested in or able to pursue and maintain such a project on their own.

Participants in New Richmond—who could include local residents, businesses, and non-profit organizations served by the utility—would pay to subscribe to the program, and in turn, receive a credit on their monthly electric bill based on the solar energy production of the project. Depending upon the subscription level each participant chooses, approximately 100 to 200 local utility residential and business customers will be able to subscribe to New Richmond Utilities' (NRU) 250-kilowatt community solar garden.

New Richmond is one of two communities chosen to pilot a community solar garden initiative by WPPI Energy, NRU's wholesale power supplier. Together, the 51 not-for-profit community-owned member utilities of WPPI Energy are pursuing the pilot projects in New Richmond and in River Falls to gain program design and technology insights that will help all WPPI Energy member communities continue to provide new renewable energy options for customers.

If the utility's plan is approved, next steps for the project will include completing development and construction arrangements, and marketing solar garden subscriptions to customers. Utility customers in New Richmond could begin subscribing within a few weeks, and construction would likely commence in September. NRU customers who would like more information are invited to fill out an online interest form at [www.nrutilities.com/solargarden](http://www.nrutilities.com/solargarden).

## New Employee Introduction



Welcome Noah! Noah Wiedenfeld joined our team in May as our new Management Analyst. Noah is originally from Lake Mills, WI. He earned his Bachelor's Degree from UW-Eau Claire and his Master's Degree from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs. His professional experiences include working with the White House Domestic Policy Council, Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, and University of Minnesota - Extension. In his free time, Noah enjoys running marathons and spending time outdoors camping and canoeing. He is also an enthusiastic Green Bay Packers fan. Fun fact: Noah is the youngest of seven children - he has five brothers and one sister.