



PUBLIC WORKS MINUTE

June 2015



It's construction season! If you haven't noticed orange barrels out and about as you drive around the state, well it might be time to get that eye exam. So what does this mean for the City of New Richmond? Well, consider this issue of the Public Works Minute a quick glimpse at the projects that you can expect to see around the City in the months ahead.

In general, we'll see City staff, County staff, and private contractors take on projects in streets, highways, parks, water and trail facilities. We live in an area of the world that allows us a relatively short window of opportunity to get these things done, so once the frost is out of the ground it is a mad rush to get as much done as possible before old man winter comes around again (Ok, too soon to start thinking about that!).

It's an exciting time as we expect to see a lot of things get done this summer, and we'll do our best as a City and as a Public Works Department to keep you informed of the projects that we're working on!

Jeremiah Wendt
Director of Public Works

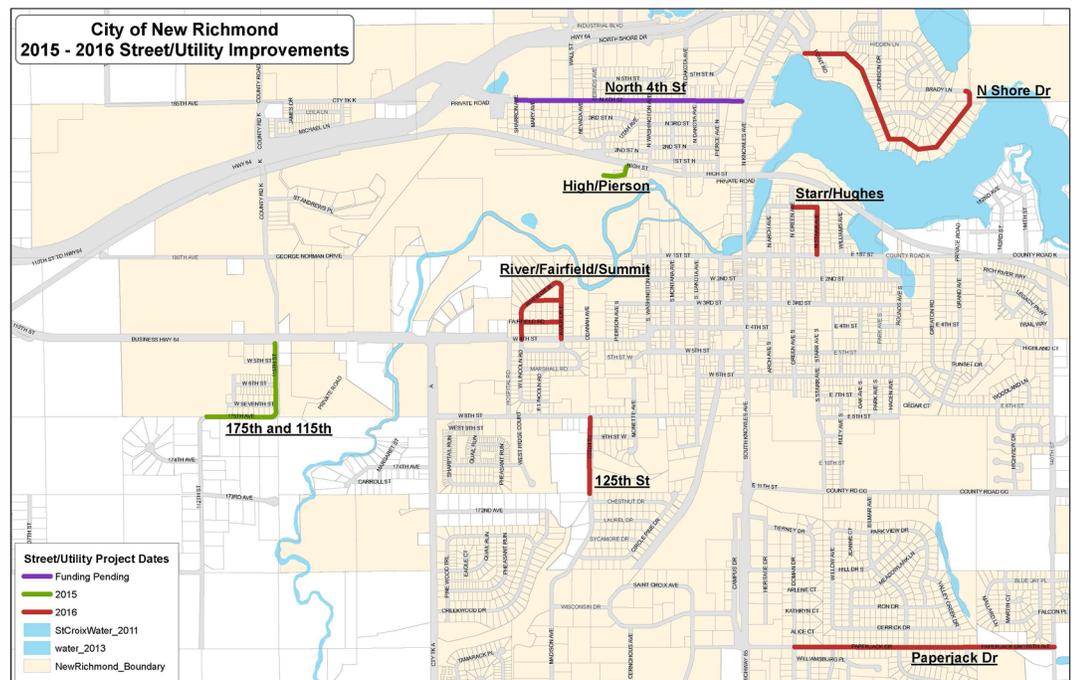
Street Projects

Several street projects are tentatively slated for construction in the City of New Richmond in 2015. If all goes as planned, St. Croix County will be using their crews to complete a repaving project on CTH A west of the Willow River all the way to the railroad crossing. This project is waiting on final confirmation from Madison, but if it does move forward the county is proposing to complete it in late summer.

The City has a few projects tentatively scheduled for late summer/fall as well, pending final approval from the City council. These include reconstruction of High Street/North Pierson from the railroad tracks westward to the entrance to Lakeside Foods, reconstruction of 115th Street, and reconstruction of 175th Avenue in a joint project with Richmond Township. These projects are shown on the attached map.

Also pending council approval is the design of several larger projects for construction in 2016, including Paperjack Drive, North Starr Avenue/East Hughes Street, North Shore Drive, East and West River Drive/Fairfield Road/Summit Road and 125th Street, which would be another joint project with the Town of Richmond. The City is also planning to pursue state funding for reconstruction of North Fourth Street, which means construction likely would not begin on that project until 2017 at the earliest.

Continue to watch our website and Facebook and Twitter pages for project updates and opportunities to get involved. We value your input!



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Staff Spotlight

This issue's staff spotlight is actually on our Wastewater Treatment Plant. Our longtime Wastewater Superintendent, Dennis Holtz has retired from his position. After a search of internal and external candidates, Steve Skinner, who has served as Wastewater Operator for the last 10 years, has been promoted to Lead Operator. Steve is now in charge of overseeing all operations at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and ensuring that the City properly treats its 700,000 gallons per day of sewage before it is discharged to the Willow River.

By promoting Steve to the Lead Operator position, we created a vacancy at the Operator position. We've remedied this by bringing on David Pufall, formerly of Ashland, WI as Wastewater Operator. David has an Associates Degree in Water Quality Science, and over 4 years of experience with the City of Ashland in Water and Wastewater Operations. We're excited to have him on board.

Dennis – Thank you for your 14+ years of service to the City of New Richmond!

Steve – Congratulations on the well-deserved promotion!

David – Welcome aboard!

Park/Trail Projects

The City has an ambitious slate of park/trail projects lined up for 2015, including the remodeling of the bathroom facilities at Citizens Field, the replacement of the scoreboard at Citizens Field, the construction of about 3,000 feet of access road and parking lots along with other facilities at Freedom Park, and the design and possible construction of a skate park at Hatfield Park.

The majority of the work on these projects is being done with City staff, and all of the materials purchased are funded through impact fees, outside donations, or funds raised by groups that help support the parks. That means taxpayers aren't funding these improvements to the City! We're excited to see these projects take shape and are confident that they will be a resource to the City's residents for years to come.

Dam Ramp Construction Project

City Crews plan to begin construction on an accessible ramp on the north side of the mill pond dam on Monday, June 22nd, in an effort to provide all of our citizens with greater access to and from the Doughboy Trail (and Elements Café!), and provide greater connectivity in our bike and pedestrian transportation system. What's the catch you ask? Well, we are going to have to shut down the walkway across the dam for most of the week while we complete this project. So, if your usual commute involves walking across the dam, you may have to allow a few extra minutes to get around the other side of the mill pond! If you have questions, contact Director of Public Works Jeremiah Wendt at 715-246-4268.

South Water Tower Reconditioning

The City's south water tower, located on St. Croix Avenue just west of the intersection of Knowles Avenue and Paperjack Drive, is currently undergoing a facelift. The City contracted with SEH for design and Champion Coatings for construction of this major rehabilitation. The work consists of some minor structural modifications, but the bulk of the work will be in removal and replacement of the existing interior and exterior coating system. That means a new paint job!

The most visible part of the project for most people, besides the elimination of the rust spots, might be the addition of a New Richmond Tigers logo on the southeast quadrant of the water tower – facing the high school. That logo is being funded by a group of local businesses and citizens. Thanks for the support, and go Tigers!

