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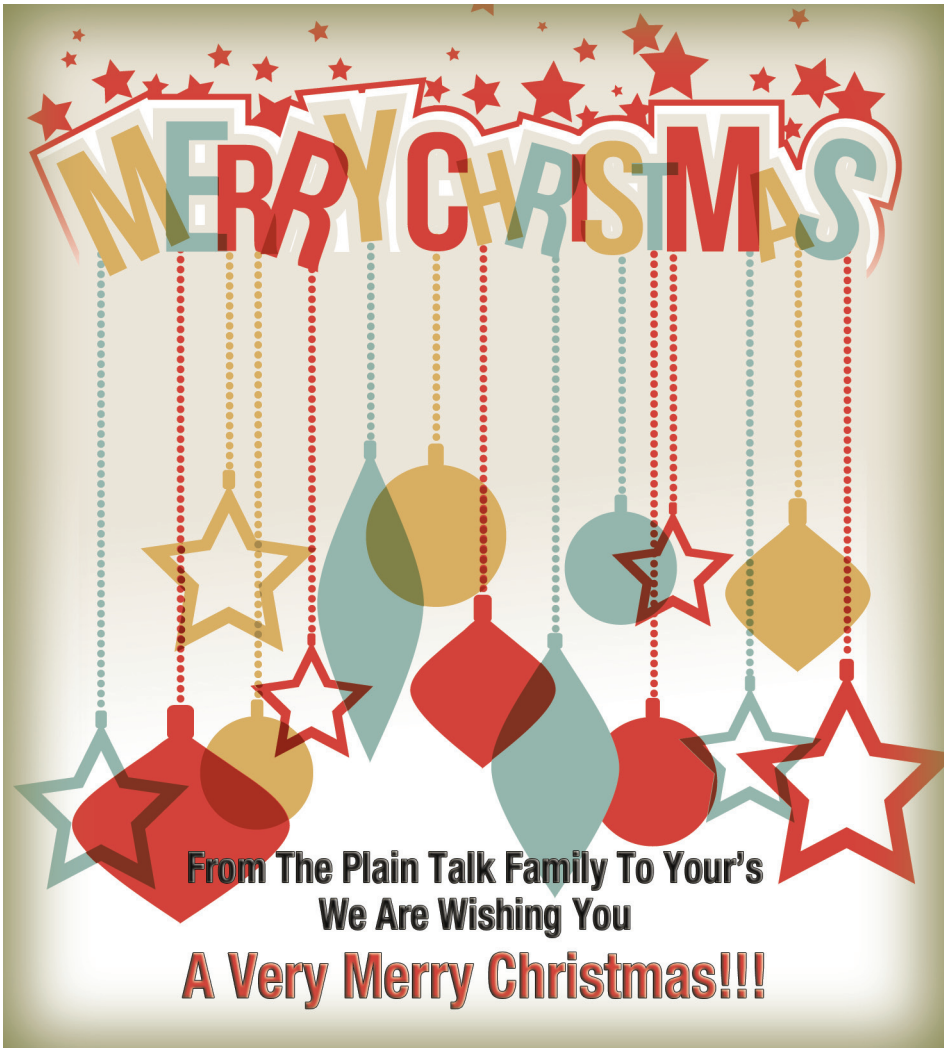


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Tanager Gymnasts Reach For The Top PAGE 6



Looking Forward

Local Officials Excited To See What 2016 Brings To Vermillion

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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As 2015 rolls to a close, one thing is for sure, Vermillion has changed a lot this year. From remodeling of schools, additions to businesses, new construction and more, city and community officials are excited about this year's growth and looking forward to see what the next year brings.

City Manager, John Prescott, and Vermillion Chamber and Development Company (VCDC) executive director Nate Welch, both said this year's successes will lead to more in 2016.

Looking forward Prescott said the biggest and most visible project that will impact Vermillion will be the new pool at Prentis Park.

"To me, for the city part of it, the project that the council has been working on for the last year in a half and will have the biggest impact in 2016 is the Prentis Park project, in particular the swimming pool," he said. "This past year the staff did some rerouting with the electrical wiring, thinning some trees, as well as the new maintenance building and bathrooms for the ball field. That was important steps



Prescott



Welch

and things I think are recognized, but maybe not as big of an impact as digging a new hole in the center of the park. We are excited. Bids are due Feb. 18, so we will see what we get there. We hope the contractor can start construction late spring of 2016."

Prescott said the current pool will reopen with its normal schedule around Memorial Day in May.

"We may be looking at closing it a bit earlier, around the first of August," he said. "For the most part, the construction of the new pool is going to be outside the fence of the current pool. But we will be looking at closing the first of August so we can begin demolition on the current pool and the projects that do cross over into the existing pool."

"In my opinion, that is one of the num-

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Local Store Helps Customers Prepare For Christmas

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
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The HyVee in Vermillion recently wrapped up the taste of HyVee with sampling of traditional holiday fare.

"Each week we had a different theme," said Josh Suing, HyVee store director. "One week we focus more on appetizers. This week we are focusing more on the traditional meal, so we are sampling prime rib today. Also, French silk pie, our new butter flake dinner rolls, anything you would need for a meal along with some different side dishes."

The Taste of HyVee started the first weekend of December and continued through last Saturday, the last weekend before Christmas.

HyVee puts on the tastings throughout the year to allow customers to sample different foods they may not otherwise purchase.

"It makes people excited," Suing said. "So many times people see the items on the shelf and want to know what they taste like. It really gets it out there and allows people to sample it."

HyVee took a different approach to this season's samples. The store utilized a dietitian to offer some healthier alternatives, like sparkling water in exchange for pop or almond butter to replace peanut butter.

"We're putting the health factors in that, too, which people appreciate especially going into the New Year where they want to help with options for the New Year resolutions," Suing said.

Some of the items available for sampling were the boneless beef round roast and the butter flake rolls.

All items sampled are also on sale and advertised, including entire meals available to order to save time in the kitchen.

"They are ready to heat and eat to save time in the kitchen so you are spending

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A TASTE OF CHRISTMAS



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

HyVee held its Taste of HyVee food sampling event during the first three weeks of December leading up to Christmas. Customers had the chance to sample different foods that are typically enjoyed around the holiday season.

City Considers Prentis Street Lift Project Improvements

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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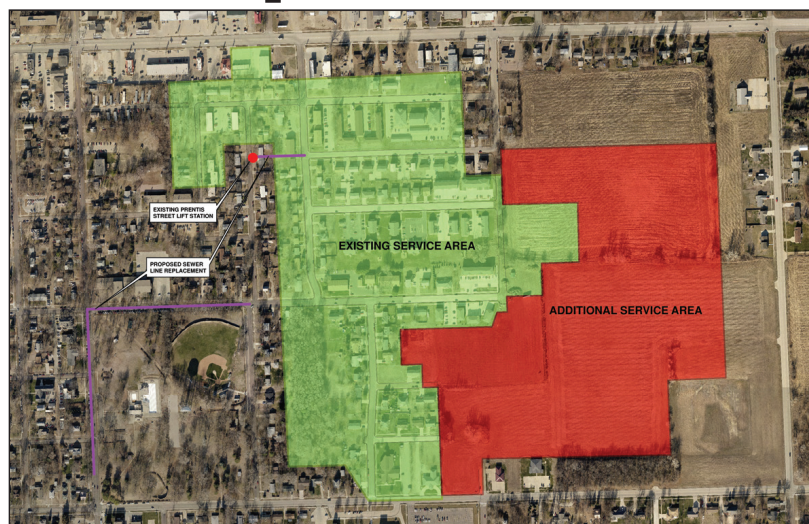
With expanded residential growth comes expanded infrastructure needs and the Vermillion City Council was informed of an upcoming situation.

Jose Dominguez, city engineer, informed the council on Monday that the Prentis Lift Station is within a five year timeline of needing to be updated.

"The city has seven lift stations," Dominguez said. "A lift station is a very integral part of the sanitary sewer system in Vermillion. There are some parts of Vermillion that are very flat, so we in order to service them with sanitary sewer, we have these lift stations. Essentially it is a really deep hole where all the sewer goes to and then it is pumped out of that hole and then through gravity lines eventually makes its way to the main lift station, where it is pumped under the river to the waste water treatment plant."

Dominguez when onto explain that the Prentis Lift station is currently in fair to poor condition.

"The Prentis Lift station is a pan-style dry well," he explained. "So, we have a wet well where the sewage comes to and we have a dry well where all the pumps and electrical work



COURTESY IMAGE: CITY OF VERMILLION

The city of Vermillion is planning for the future when they look at the Prentis Street Lift Station. While the station currently meets the city's needs, if growth continues on the east side of town it won't in the future.

would be. These are two separate wells that were built in 1968. The wet well is located below the street and the dry well is located in the boulevard between the two houses. We have two pumps, each with a capacity of about 260 gallons per minute. We have two pumps for redundancy; we don't run

the two pumps at the same time. The wet well has a capacity of about 342 gallons. When we have one pump on we have the capacity to handle that flow. As far as the conditions it is in fair to poor. It is a 40 year old metal structure

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Peterson Named President Of Masaba

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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Masaba CEO Jerad Higman announced this week that Jim Peterson has been named the new president of Masaba, Inc. in Vermillion.

Peterson who has served the past seven years as vice president of Sales and Marketing was promoted on Dec. 4.

"Peterson's hard work and leadership have molded our dealer network into one of the best in the industry," Higman, said

in a release sent to Masaba's customers. "I am turning my attention to strategic initiatives, research and development and drive internal efficiencies."

In an interview with the Plain Talk, Peterson said it is an honor to serve as Masaba's president.

"I was named president on Dec. 4," he said. "It was discussed off and on. Jerad will be CEO and will focus on the things he likes better: research and development, some other initiatives in our shop and a couple strategic initiatives. I will do more of the day-to-day operations and that structure type of thing. I am excited. It will be fun. I am looking forward to working with the expanded Masaba team and expanding our culture."

Peterson said for the 110 plus employees the biggest change is they will see him more.

"The people on the floor will see me more in meetings with them - we have always done quarterly and annual meetings with them, but we will be doing more open management with them so they can better understand things," he explained. "It is really focusing on the customer and bringing the voice of the customer to the shop

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