

Delano Digest

February 2025 | Monthly Newsletter | City of Delano, MN



The Delano Digest is a monthly newsletter that shares important announcements, upcoming meetings, and summaries of the previous month's commission and council meetings.

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City Calendar: Feb.

City Council & City Hall

2/4: City Council Meeting
- 7 PM

2/17: City Offices Closed
- Presidents' Day

2/18: City Council Meeting
- 7 PM

2/25: City Council Meeting
- 7 PM

Commissions & School Board

2/3: Public Safety
- 7 PM

2/10: Planning Commission
- 7 PM

2/11: Spirit of Community
- 7 PM

2/24: School Board
- 5:45 PM

2/26: Park & Recreation
- 5 PM

Support Local Businesses This Valentine's Day

This Valentine's Day, show some love to our small business community by shopping locally!

When shoppers choose to support local businesses, the money stays within the community, helping to create jobs and keep small businesses thriving. Local businesses are the backbone of vibrant communities, and supporting them helps ensure they continue to flourish.

This Valentine's Day, choosing to shop locally not only supports the community but also helps shoppers find personalized, meaningful gifts while making a positive impact on our small business community. Thank you for shopping local!

Sesquicentennial - Save the Date & Get Involved!

A Note From the Sesquicentennial Planning Committee:

The City of Delano is preparing for a celebration in 2026 to mark our Sesquicentennial (150th anniversary), and we want you to be part of the festivities!

The official 150th Celebration will take place on **Oct. 3, 2026**. But the fun doesn't stop there! We're planning 150 ways to celebrate Delano all year long, continuing throughout 2026.



Delano
1876 MINNESOTA 2026

We're excited to bring our community together to celebrate Delano's rich history, vibrant present, and bright future. The planning process is underway, and we're working on a variety of events and activities that will involve everyone. Whether you're an individual, organization, business, or group, there are many ways you can contribute to making Delano's 150th year to remember.

Ways To Get Involved:

- Purchase a brick to be placed in honor of your family, business, or in special memory in the Sesquicentennial Heritage Foot Path at the Delano Sculpture Park.
- Host or partner with an event. Whether you're hosting an annual event, have a special activity planned, or want to create something new, we encourage you to tie the event into the Sesquicentennial celebration.
- We are creating a commemorative book to honor our 150th anniversary, and we'd love your help! If you're interested in contributing or learning more about the project, please reach out to delano150@delanomn.gov or visit delanomn.gov/614/Delanos-150th-Anniversary.

Looking to stay informed in 2025? The City of Delano makes it quick and easy! Sign up to receive notifications straight your phone whenever a City Council agenda is posted, the monthly newsletter is uploaded, or when a new job listing is posted! Visit delanomn.gov/NotifyMe to subscribe today!



Delano City Council & Commission Meetings Recap

This section offers a brief summary of what was discussed during the previous month's Council and Commission meetings and is not an official documentation of meeting minutes. **Official minutes will be posted at www.delanomn.gov/agendacenter upon approval.**



Public Safety Commission – Met on Jan. 6, 2025

The Public Safety Commission discussed event safety options in Delano, including implementing safety measures such as jersey barriers or temporary fences to help direct foot traffic. Commission members recommended that city staff look into jersey barriers for smaller, city-controlled events. They also discussed the possibility of utilizing a Security Trailer, which features a telescoping pole with 1-3 cameras mounted on top, allowing for enhanced monitoring of event spaces. These trailers can be purchased or leased, and the Commission agreed to research the idea further. The Commission also recognized Willie Staunton's resignation as Fire Chief, and acknowledged the donation of two Fire Suppression Tools to the Delano Fire Department by Star Masonic Lodge #62 out of Rockford, MN.



Park and Recreation Commission – Met on Jan. 22, 2025

The Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed the plan for the 2025 Splashpad season. The plan includes new hours, seating updates, and a new "semi-private" rental option. Staff presented different trail options for the Sculpture Park. The Commission voiced their approval for an accessible crushed rock medium to be used on the proposed trail route around the area. The Commission reviewed a letter from the Spirit of Community Commission urging them to keep accessibility concerns in mind when reviewing park designs. Staff give and update on the Archery Park and maintenance needed there. Staff presented a proposal for a new bandstand, plaza, and improved concessions stand in Central Park, which the Commission voted to accept.



Planning Commission – Met on Jan. 27, 2025

The Planning Commission considered an application from Olsen Chain and Cable which included a rezoning request for a parcel in the Delano West Metro Business Park. The Commission recommended approval of the rezoning of 1070 McKinley Parkway. The Commission also recommended approval of building site plans submitted by Olsen Chain and Cable with conditions outlined by staff and commission members.



Spirit of Community Commission – Met on Jan. 14, 2025

The Spirit of Community Commission discussed the Sesquicentennial Celebration, including the writing of a local history book by a local author for the event. The SQ committee is also seeking a grant, hosting a brick fundraiser, and are interested in building a 4th of July parade. The Commission also discussed Public Event accessibility and creating a best practices handout for event organizers to encourage mindful planning of large and small events open to the public. Finally, the Commission discussed the next Spirit of Community Breakfast topic and timing.



City Council – Met on Jan. 7, 21,28, & 30, 2025

Jan. 7 (Regular Meeting): Incoming Councilmembers Todd Belz and Peter Froehle took the Oath of Office. Outgoing councilmember Mike Mathisen was recognized for his service. The City Council accepted the resignation of Fire Chief Willie Staunton and appointed Assistant Fire Chief Matt VanLith as Interim Fire Chief. The city accepted a donation of two portable fire suppression tools from the Star Lodge in Rockford, MN.

Jan. 21 (Regular Meeting): The City Council promoted Kit Sheppard and Steve Wollak from Probationary Firefighter to Firefighter. Staff presented information about a public art application for a sculpture to commemorate the sesquicentennial. The City Council accepted a donation of five ballistic vests from the General Federated Women's Club.

Jan. 28 (Regular Meeting): The City Council interviewed ten candidates for commission positions. Interviewing will resume on Thursday, January 30th, 2025. Staff also presented the City Council with potential alternative management options for the Crow River Villa.

Jan. 30 (Special Meeting): The City Council completed a second round of interviews before appointing candidates and Council liaisons to each commission and advisory board.