

Prior Lake American

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TANEK ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN CONCEPT

One possible design concept for the new VFW building, located at the northwest corner of the Pleasant Street and Main Avenue intersection.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENTS

Plans for redevelopment, street reconstruction in Prior Lake resume

BY TRINITY CAREY
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After the coronavirus pandemic postponed plans for a construction project in Prior Lake, city staff and involved developers have tentatively rescheduled the first phase of construction for the downtown reconstruction and redevelopment project for 2021.

The construction for the multi-faceted project was originally scheduled to begin this summer.

The project includes:

RELOCATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF VFW BUILDING

The project begins with relocating the

current VFW building at the corner of Main Avenue and Pleasant Street just south to a newly constructed building in the municipal parking lot at the northwest corner of the Pleasant and Main intersection.

The new VFW building will be two-stories and feature upgraded amenities and a banquet space on the upper level, explained Nat Shea, principal with Tanek Architects who is managing the VFW portion of the project.

"We've been working with the VFW to try and create a new home for them. Obviously, this one is aged and it's really lived out its life," Shea said.

The current VFW building dates back to the 1930s and was formerly a movie theatre.

Plans for the new VFW include a large restaurant and bar area on the first floor for gatherings and a banquet hall on the second floor.

While the exact date of construction for the new VFW Hall is still yet to be determined, reconstruction has been slated for 2021.

"Today is a big step forward to try to make things happen and progress," Shea said. "It's

an exciting opportunity for [the VFW] as they continue to grow and be a vital part of the neighborhood."

FOUR-STORY MULTI-USE BUILDING

Contingent upon the VFW's relocation is the construction of a four-story multi-use building, which will be constructed along Main and Colorado Street. This building, which will consist of apartments and on the first level retail space on Main Avenue, is now tentatively scheduled for construction in 2022.

The multi-use building will feature 114 apartments, 135 bedrooms and house approximately 200 people, explained Ben Beard, Vice President of Beard Group, Inc.

The building will feature a club-quality fitness center, a business center, a rooftop deck, two stories of underground parking and access to a Three Rivers Park District Trail just a block away.

It will be similar to other Beard Group developments like those in Osseo, Hopkins,

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CRIME

Car chase

Police pursue in vehicle and on foot

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SPORTS

Fall sports

Football, volleyball seasons end early

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ENTERTAINMENT

Lakefront Music Fest

Organizers begin planning for 2021

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LOCAL

Finally home

Historic rifle returned to SMSC

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VOLUME 61, ISSUE 9
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