

**AUGUST
2023**

CITY OF



NEWS

For the latest City News on the web, visit:

www.ci.new-prague.mn.us

City Hall/Utilities
(952) 758-4401

General E-mail
info@ci.new-prague.mn.us

-City Council-

Duane J. Jirik, Mayor
952-758-4885

djirik@ci.new-prague.mn.us
(Term: January 2023 – December 2024)

Rik Seiler, Council Member
651-336-0243

rseiler@ci.new-prague.mn.us
(Term: January 2023 – December 2026)

Maggie Bass, Council Member
612-282-5561

mbass@ci.new-prague.mn.us
(Term: January 2023 – December 2026)

Shawn Ryan, Council Member
952-758-7050

sryan@ci.new-prague.mn.us
(Term: January 2021 – December 2024)

Bruce Wolf, Council Member
952-758-2874

bwolf@ci.new-prague.mn.us
(Term: January 2021 – December 2024)

City Government Boards &
Commissions:

EDA Board,

Golf Club Board,

Park Board,

**Planning Commission, and
Utilities Commission**

Chat with your City Council

By Bruce Wolf



Our garden is really just a novel reflection of our past efforts. Two small plots with only a few items correlated to the amount of time we have or want to devote to it—nothing close to the gardens my parents managed on the farm when I was growing up. Then, it was an essential part of feeding a large hungry family. In addition to providing sustenance, I suspect their passion was motivated in part as a plan to keep my siblings and I busy. I credit this experience to developing my interest in business.

In addition to the typical gardening, my Father would grow other produce that my siblings and I would be able to sell. Early on, it was strawberries, but sales evolved into primarily a sweet corn operation. At the end of the summer, we were able to divvy up the profits. My first year earnings provided the \$27 funding for the purchase of a very cool bicycle with a banana seat. This entrepreneurial enterprise provided valuable business lessons in customer service, money management, and growing a business.

Gardening is a useful analogy for community economic development efforts. Economic development activities are meant to create fertile ground to support the growth of commercial/industrial development and the community. Under authority of State Law, our Economic Development Authority (EDA) was created by the City Council through an enabling resolution in 1990. It is the chief economic development agency of the City with the purpose of supporting the growth of our tax base and job creation. The Mayor, one other City Council member, and five other commissioners appointed by the City Council make up the members of the EDA. Recently, our composition requirements were changed to allow up to two non-residents to be eligible for appointment. The gardening tools we use to support growth and expansion may include: grants, loans, business consultations, public financing options, tax abatement and various other training, as well as educational and incentive programs offered through the state or county. These activities often provide needed resources that help a project take off that otherwise would not happen, for example: adding employees, expanding a building, or building a new facility. Our Industrial Park is an economic development project which provides shovel ready industrial lots for business expansion. It is an industrial zoned parcel of land owned and developed by the EDA. It is a busy place now. Currently, the new street extensions are being completed as new building projects for Brick's Boatworks and Scott Equipment are under construction.

STREET AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

On the 2023 Street and Utility Improvement Project, Holtmeier Construction will have all utility reconstruction complete and around 2/3 of the streets paved by the middle of July with only reconstruction of 2nd Street NE and Sunset Avenue N planned for the later part of the month. Bituminous paving is likely on those streets at the beginning of August. Crews will continue with boulevard grading and turf restoration on those streets in addition to trail paving in Greenway Park in August and September.

City Council approved preparation of a Feasibility Study to plan for the 2024 Street and Utility Improvement Project. This project area will include street and utility reconstruction primarily in the area just west of the current project. Pavement rehabilitation is also being considered for 10th Avenue SE. Residents affected by this Project should have already received notification. Additional public hearings will be held this fall to provide additional information.

Questions about the projects can be directed to City Engineer, Chris Knutson at cknutson@sehinc.com or 507-237-8383, or to Public Works Director, Matt Rynda at mrynda@ci.new-prague.mn.us or 952-758-1144.



WE'RE HIRING FOR FALL

JOIN OUR TEAM

LIFEGUARDS FOR ALL SHIFTS

- Early Morning
- Daytime
- Afternoon/Evenings
- Weekends

SWIM LESSON INSTRUCTORS

- Evenings

PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT NEWS

Time to close out building permits:

Any residents, commercial businesses etc., who have “open” building permits will need to call the New Prague Planning & Zoning Department at 952-758-1138 to have their final inspections completed so related permits can be closed.

Swimming Pool Permits: The City reminds residents that all below-ground, above-ground, or easy-setup pools more than 2 feet deep or 150 square feet need a permit. Please check the complete pool requirements on the [City’s website](#): open “Zoning Ordinance – April 2021.” Details are located in Section 735, page 130.

Park Shelter Rentals Available:

If you live in New Prague, consider reserving a park shelter for your next event, class reunion, or family gathering. Electricity is available with a paid rental of a shelter. Call City Hall at 952-758-4401 to make your reservation or find the application on the [City’s website](#) under “City Departments” and “Parks.”

THE READMOBILE IS COMING!

The Readmobile will be parked at [Northside Park \(401 Lexington Ave N.\)](#) from 9:45am to 10:15am on Friday August 11th. This 32-foot vehicle delivers free books and learning activities to neighborhoods around Scott County. You can browse & borrow from a diverse collection of books (no library card needed!), grab a healthy snack, and enjoy a fun activity.

DEHUMIDIFIER REBATES AVAILABLE

ENERGY STAR dehumidifiers can save you more than \$400 over the life of the unit—more than the new dehumidifier cost! As an electric customer of New Prague Public Utilities Commission, you can receive a rebate for the purchase of a new **ENERGY STAR** qualified dehumidifier. Customers who also trade-in their used, **working** dehumidifier are eligible for an additional rebate for the recycling cost up to \$15. Rebates are limited to 2 per electric account.

- \$15 dehumidifier rebate (no recycling of working unit)
- \$25 dehumidifier rebate (with recycling of working unit) + recycling rebate up to \$15

Please see our rebate form for specific requirements, terms & conditions. Rebate forms can be found on the [City’s website](#), or stop by the City Hall at 118 Central Ave N to pick up a rebate form. For questions, call City Hall at 952-758-4401.

TRY A TRADITIONAL HORTICULTURAL LANDSCAPE IN YOUR YARD!

When homeowners convert even a small portion of their traditional horticultural landscapes back to native plantings, they begin to reconnect critical natural habitat. Natural areas with native plants are relatively low maintenance, require less water, no fertilizer, no conventional mowing, and are critical to the wellness of every living thing on the planet. Natural habitats also provide essential building blocks for a healthy environment by creating habitat and shelter for pollinators, songbirds, and other wildlife as well as catching and filtering storm water runoff. Visit www.prairieresto.com to see how you can start “Sowing it Back Together”!

**Complimentary Native Pollinator Mix seed packets are available for pick up at City Hall (1 per customer please).*



NEW PRAGUE GOLF COURSE FRIENDLY REMINDERS!

The New Prague Golf Club (NPGC) is a Municipal daily-fee golf facility, open to the public. The paths on the grounds of the Golf Club are designated for golfers and golf carts. Please use the miles of beautiful walking paths around town for personal walking, dog walking, and bicycling.

Also, we ask golfers who drive their carts to the golf course to please use the cart path access provided near the green building (near the ballpark). Golf carts are prohibited from use on City sidewalks.

Finally, range balls on the driving range are the property of New Prague Golf Club and may not be collected. If you or someone you know has yellow range balls with black stripes around them, please return them to the Clubhouse.

For any questions, contact operations manager Kurt Ruehling at 952-758-5326 or email at info@newpraguegolf.com

