

**DECEMBER
2023**

CITY OF



NEWS

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-City Council-

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(Term: January 2023 – December 2024)

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(Term: January 2021 – December 2024)

City Government
Boards & Commissions:
**EDA Board, Golf Club Board,
Park Board,
Planning Commission, and
Utilities Commission**

A Minute with the Mayor

By Mayor Duane Jirik



As we come to the close of 2023, and look forward to 2024, I want to take time to recap some of the notable projects and decisions that the city council made this past year:

- The Economic Development Authority sold a large number of lots in the industrial park and completed two street extensions to accommodate the development in the park.
- The council performed a Facilities and Recreation Study to plan for the future of New Prague. The city council has determined that we should look at a new police facility. We have engaged with Wold Architects to do a schematic drawing of the proposed facility. We want to build a facility that will get the best for our dollar and also to keep spending in line with the levy.
- Streets on the east side of New Prague for the 2023 reconstruction project were completed. We have two more years of total street reconstruction left and the city will have been all rebuilt. This was started in approximately 1997 and has taken about 25 years to complete. At that time, the council made a commitment to reconstruct the streets, and I am grateful that council since kept that same commitment.
- Central Plaza was completed downtown and is a very nice addition.
- The Comprehensive Plan Task Force is about 3/4ths-way through reviewing and updating the City's comprehensive plan. When the plan is complete in the early part of 2024, the council will review it, make changes if needed, and approve the plan. This will help future city councils to make decisions for our growth.
- A new United States Post Office is still being worked on. In early October, I received a letter from the Postmaster General stating, "a new review of space for our local operations in New Prague." I feel good that we finally caught the attention of the USPS, and things will begin to move forward.
- Finally, the major work at the intersection of 10th Avenue SE and 1st Street SE is complete for the flashing crosswalk signs. Now we need to wait for the lights as they are behind in shipping. I was told that winter to early spring is when they will be installed. I know the residents at Praha Village will be excited as they waited a long time for this improvement.

New Prague is a great place to live, work, and go to school. The community should be proud of what we have! I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year as we look forward to a joyous 2024.



ANNUAL PARADE OF LIGHTS & CELEBRATION IN MEMORIAL PARK!

New Prague's Holiday Parade of Lights and Celebration is planned for Friday, December 1st, 2023 at 6:30 pm. The Parade of Lights starts the night next to Kubes Furniture & Flooring and will head east on Main Street ending in Memorial Park. Grab a hot cup of cocoa while watching the holiday firework show following the tree lighting. Santa will be available after the event for some visits with the kids. Please be aware that the fireworks are set up in the ball field just west of the concessions stand. For your safety, we ask that all parents keep their children away from the ball field during the event. We appreciate your cooperation. Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay up-to-date @newpraguechamber.



ICE RINK/WARMING HOUSE OPENING SOON!

The sliding hill, as well as the recreational skating and hockey rink at 1501 Columbus Ave. N., (across the street from the high school) will be open soon, pending weather conditions. The warming house will be available for all users of the park. Hours will be posted on the city's website and on the warming house itself. A large "open/closed" sign is located on the side of the warming house, facing the parking lot to indicate availability on any given day.

Hours: December to Mid-February/March

(Pending Weather):

Monday-Friday - 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday - 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Holidays - 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Closed Christmas and New Year's)

FITNESS & AQUATIC CENTER
410 Central Avenue N | New Prague, MN 56071 | 952-758-1753

fac.napaschools.org

Holiday STUDENT MEMBERSHIP *Promo*

Only \$35

1 MONTH FOR \$35. OFFER AVAILABLE IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER. MEMBERSHIP IS VALID FOR ONE MONTH AFTER THE DATE OF PURCHASE. AGES 10 - COLLEGE UNDERGRAD (AGE RESTRICTIONS APPLY).

HOUSEHOLD ORGANICS SITE
A Household Organics site is now open and available to Scott and Le Sueur County residents. To receive an access key, please fill out the online registration form on the City's website. Once registered, go to the Planning and Building counter at City Hall during normal business hours (Mon-Fri 8:00am-4:30pm) and provide a valid ID, bank statement or utility bill to confirm Le Sueur or Scott County residence. This project was funded by the Scott County Local Recycling Development Grant.

KEEP SIDEWALKS CLEAR OF SNOW AND ICE
The City continues to enforce the local ordinance that requires all snow and ice remaining on a public sidewalk to be removed as soon as possible, but no more than 24 hours after the end of a snow event (and is reduced to no more than 8 hours after a snow event for businesses along Main Street).

2023 STREET AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UPDATES
The 2024 Street and Utility Improvement Project has been ordered by council to proceed with final design. This project includes water main, storm sewer, sanitary sewer, and street reconstruction primarily in the area just west of this year's project. This includes Lexington Avenue N, Lyndale Avenue N, Sunset Avenue N, 1st Street NE, 2nd Street NE, 3rd Street NE, 6th Street NE, and 1st Street SE. Residents affected by the project should have been provided notifications of previous neighborhood and public hearings. Final design of the project will continue through the winter with completion of drawings in January and project bidding during February. A second neighborhood meeting will be held during January to review the proposed project with residents. The mill and overlay improvements on 10th Avenue SE have been delayed as the City is seeking outside funding to pay for the safety and pedestrian improvements that are being considered. These are expected to include a mini-roundabout at 3rd Street SE and a landscaped median through at least part of the corridor. The enhanced crosswalk at 1st Street SE and 10th Avenue SE (north side of Hy-Vee) is substantially complete with the sidewalk and pavement patching installed. A temporary crosswalk sign has been installed as material availability will delay installation of the RRFB (flashing lights) until February or March of 2024. This project was substantially funded by a federal grant administered by MnDOT.
Questions?: Questions 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.

REBATE AND RECYCLE REMINDERS
REBATE - New Prague Utilities help you save money at home through the rebates offered. If you purchased any energy-star items in 2023 that qualify for a rebate, please submit to New Prague Utilities at 118 Central Ave N. no later than January 3rd, 2024. For a full listing, visit our website: www.ci.new-prague.mn.us go to Utilities/Rebates & Programs.
RECYCLE - Don't know what to do with those old/holiday strings of lights? Recycle them! New Prague Utilities is accepting holiday lights through January 31 at no charge for City of New Prague customers who receive an electrical bill from New Prague Utilities Commission.



NEW RESIDENTIAL RENTAL INSPECTION PROGRAM STARTS IN 2024!
Effective January 1, 2024, the City's existing Residential Rental Registration is being replaced by a new Residential Rental Inspection Program. What does this mean if you own rental property in the City? Instead of registering your rental units for the next period, you will instead apply for a rental license and an inspection of your unit(s). Inspections will start after the first of the year and will be valid initially for a two year period, which can possibly be extended to a four-year period in certain circumstances (such as if the tenant and landlord do not change, and no violations have been found, over the two year time period). The purpose of the new ordinance is to guarantee that the property is free from life/safety concerns for both the owner and tenant. City inspectors will follow a checklist to determine if any maintenance issues or concerns need to be addressed. The rental inspection fee is \$100 per building and \$25 per additional unit. Please visit the City's website at www.ci.new-prague.mn.us for a copy of the application form and to view the inspection checklist. If you should have any questions, please call the Community Development Department at 952-758-4401.

TIME TO CLOSE OUT BUILDING PERMITS
Residents 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.

