

**JUNE
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
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-City Council-

Duane J. Jirik, Mayor
952-758-4885

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(Term: January 2023– December 2024)

Rik Seiler, Council Member
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(Term: January 2023 – December 2026)

Maggie Bass, Council Member
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Bruce Wolf, Council Member
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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



June is already here! The year is half over and your City Council has been busy! I want to highlight a few items and bring everyone up to date.

- The yearly reconstruction of streets is in full swing. You may have noticed that construction work has started in the area of Sunrise Avenue N, Sunset Avenue N, 1st Street NE, 2nd Street NE, and 3rd Street NE. The area will get new sewer lines, water lines, curbs, gutters, pavement, and gas lines. This area of town is approximately 65 years old.
- The Columbus Avenue North project is almost done. You may have noticed that the final layer of blacktop still needs to be put down from Main Street to 4th Street N.E. This was done intentionally. First, we want the project to go through a freeze/thaw cycle to give us any indication of settlement, and secondly, we are waiting until school is out. There will then be less traffic to contend with for the final paving.
- Last year, I mentioned that New Prague was approved for a grant to put up pedestrian warning signs by Praha Village on 10th Avenue SE and 1st Street SE. I thought it would have been completed by the end of last summer. Well, when you deal with the federal and state government for funding, things majorly slow down, and that is what happened here. I assure you that this project will be completed by the end of this construction season.
- As I mentioned last year, we approved a facilities study to access our needs into the future, and the study has been mostly completed. The first item that came up in the study is that we need to build a new police station. As of right now, the council is determining the logistics, financing, and other items, so more will come on this.
- Lastly, I want to mention that we are still working with the United States Postal Service to get a new post office in New Prague. I keep forging ahead with this issue, but as I mentioned earlier, working with the federal government is a slow process. It will happen as I believe New Prague deserves better.

These are just a few of many items that have come in front of the council in the last 6 months. Rest assured that our city council strives to make New Prague the best place to live and work. Please have a great and safe summer! Thank you!

If you have any questions or concerns you can always contact me at 952-758-4885 or send me an email at djirik@ci-new-prague.mn.us. Thank you!

CENTRAL AC / AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP TUNE-UP REBATE!

Be prepared for the summer heat! Air conditioners and air source heat pumps must be maintained to perform at optimum efficiency. Properly maintained cooling equipment provides improved comfort, runs more efficiently, lowers your energy costs, and lasts longer.

The New Prague Utilities Commission offers **our electric customers** a rebate for the completion of a professional inspection, cleaning, and tune-up of each air conditioner or ASHP between April 1 and September 30. A tune-up provides an opportunity for a licensed HVAC technician to professionally evaluate your cooling system and ensure that it operates efficiently. A professional tune-up can improve unit efficiency by about 10 percent. It includes cleaning the outdoor condenser, checking for refrigerant leaks, checking air flow, and checking refrigerant charge and pressure.

1. Print or pick up a rebate form and complete/sign the "Customer" section of the form. **Please note: Only one tune-up per cooling unit every two years or every ten years depending on the service provided.**
2. Schedule a tune-up with your AC contractor.
3. Have your contractor perform the tune up between April 1 and September 30, and complete/sign the "Contractor" sections of the rebate form. Mail or bring in your rebate form and original invoice (showing customer name, address, and date of service) to the utility office.

Please see our rebate form for specific requirements, terms & conditions. Rebate forms can be found on our website: ci.new-prague.mn.us, go to Utilities/Rebates & Programs or stop by City Hall at 118 Central Ave N to pick up a rebate form.



410 Central Avenue N | New Prague, MN 56071 | 952-758-1753



npaschools.org

FITNESS & AQUATIC CENTER

TOT TIME AT THE POOL

SATURDAY, JUNE 18 | 9:30 AM - 12 PM | FREE FOR FAC MEMBERS

50% OFF DAILY ADMISSION FOR FAMILIES

Join us for fun in the Rec. pool. Music, toys and the play features will be on!

npaschools.org/fitness-aquatic-center

GENERAL REMINDERS FOR RESIDENTS:

Build Permits – 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.

Nuisance Reminders - Property owners are reminded of the City’s nuisance ordinances which requires keeping your lawns mowed to 12 inches or lower and free of noxious weeds as well as keeping yards free of refuse and junk vehicles. While staff will always send out a reminder letter, failure to comply may result in a fine of \$1,000 or up to 90 days in jail, but most likely would result in the City cleaning up your yard and assessing back the costs to your property taxes. We appreciate your support in keeping New Prague beautiful!

Spraying of Noxious Weeds - Between the months of May and October the City of New Prague will be spraying the pond areas for noxious weeds and the park areas for dandelions and other weeds. Before spraying in heavy traffic areas like parks, trails and road right-of-ways, a sign will be posted. You might see little droplets of foam on the grass which will help alert people to stay off the grass until dry.

2023 STREET AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The 2023 Street and Utility Improvements project is underway with work starting on Sunrise Avenue N and 3rd Street NE. Crews are working their way west toward Lexington Avenue N with most utility work expected to be complete by July and streets paved by August. The Project includes reconstruction of sanitary sewer, water main, storm sewer, and streets. There will be significant improvement for pedestrians with new sidewalks and trail improvements in Greenway Park. Two new streets are proposed for construction north of 6th Street NW in the City’s Business Park. Interested residents and property owners are encouraged to contact Julie Brinkman at jbrinkman@sehinc.com to be included on the weekly emailed Neighborhood Update newsletter.

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.

THANK YOU TO THE CITY’S ADOPT-A-PARK VOLUNTEERS!

The City would like to acknowledge and thank the following groups who volunteer their time to keep our parks looking nice and clean! Thank you to:

- Giesenbrau Bier Co: Southside Park
- National Honors Society of New Prague High School: Heritage Park
- New Prague Rotary: Central Plaza
- New Prague Girl Scouts: Northside Park
- Edina Realty: Memorial Park (West Side)
- Park Board: Greenway Trail and Heritage Trail Ditch Areas
- New Prague Lions Club: Greenway Park

If you and your group are interested in participating in the Adopt-A-Park program, visit the city’s website under Departments/Parks or contact the Planning Department at 952-758-4401. Your group can select an available park for adoption and sign an agreement with the city to begin participating in this program. Available park areas include: Memorial Park (East Side), Philipps Park, Foundry Hill Park, Settlers Park, Sliding Hill Skate Park, and Various Sections of Greenway Trail.

2022 DRINKING WATER REPORT:

The 2022 Drinking Water Report is available for interested residents. The report details New Prague’s water with EPA guidelines, explanations of New Prague’s water source, and what you can do to conserve this precious resource. The 2022 Drinking Report is available on the City’s website home page within “News and Announcements.” You can also request a copy by calling City Hall at 952-758-4401.



THE READMOBILE IS COMING!

What is the Readmobile? The Readmobile is a 32-foot vehicle that delivers free books and learning activities to neighborhoods arounds Scott County. When you visit, you can: 1) Browse and borrow from a diverse collection of books (no library card needed!), 2) Grab a healthy snack, and 3) Receive a fun activity! The Readmobile will be in New Prague at Northside Park (401 Lexington Ave N) from 9:45 to 10:15 am on these Fridays in the summer: June 9th, July 7th, and August 11th.



NEW ORGANICS WASTE COLLECTION SITE

With a \$25,000 grant from Scott County, the City will be creating an organics collection site which will be open to the public in Fall 2023. The site will be free to all New Prague, Scott, and Le Sueur County residents. More information will be made available in the coming months.