

**MAY
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 Council

By Maggie Bass



As I'm writing this article, it is 51 degrees outside and the first 50-degree day we've hit this Spring. All I can think about are the warmer days to come and the pent-up energy that I can't wait to unleash to get my yard cleaned up and my garden ready for planting.

The City is much the same way. Our Parks Department employees worked over the winter months getting equipment ready for mowing. They also used the time to sand and refinish some of the older picnic tables, so you can enjoy time outside in our parks. The Public Works Department has also been busy gearing up for the 2023 street projects, hoping to get an earlier rather than later start, weather permitting. There is a buzz of energy and anticipation as the City takes advantage of packing winter goodbye and unpacking all that is needed for the upcoming months.

There are a few special projects that are happening as well. The City will be conducting a public tree inventory which is being paid for by the 2022 DNR Emerald Ash Borer Grant the City was awarded. This inventory is important, so the City can identify the various tree species and prepare for the possible replacement, if needed, of ash trees. The inventory will gather information on the type, location, size, and general health of all trees in city parks, including the golf course, which meet the following minimums: evergreen trees of at least 5' tall and deciduous trees of 15' in height and 3" diameter trunk.

The City is also exploring, with the involvement of a local non-profit, an outdoor food waste compost site. The push is to keep food waste out of landfills and instead use it to put nutrients back into the soil. Details are still being worked out, so stay tuned.

At a previous City Council meeting, the Council approved designating approximately four acres to a dog park. A volunteer group of New Prague residents interested in moving ahead with a dog park project provided details of its minimum needs for the park. At this time no City funds are designated for the project, however, if built, the City will provide general maintenance, such as mowing, to the park.

Lastly, the Park Board will be scheduling its annual clean-up event. Each year the Park Board members choose a park area to pick up trash and other general debris. The event usually targets a waterway, such as the stream starting in Greenway Park. Please periodically check the City website for details in the event you are interested in helping. It really is a nice way to get to know others and have a little fun.

I hope you enjoy this Spring and Summer and are able to accomplish whatever fun projects you have on your list.

2023 STREET AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The City's 2023 Street and Utility Improvements will be starting up in mid to late April with construction lasting through most of the summer and early fall. Improvements include the reconstruction of sanitary sewer, water main, storm sewer, and streets throughout the project area. Sidewalk will be added to the neighborhood streets and trail improvements in Greenway Park are proposed for late summer. Interested residents and property owners are encouraged to contact Julie Brinkman at jbrinkman@sehinc.com to be included on the emailed Neighborhood Update newsletter that will be released weekly once construction starts.

Questions about either 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.

SEE WHAT'S GOING ON IN 2023 AT NEW PRAGUE GOLF CLUB!

- 2023 Memberships available and Gift Certificates, too!
- Check out newpraguegolf.com for additional details



For information, contact operations manager Kurt Ruehling at info@newpraguegolf.com, 952-758-5326, or stop in.



npaschools.org

New Prague Summer Miles Challenge June 5 - July 16, 2023

This 6 week run/walk challenge allows you to commit and stay active together as a community! There are 4 different activity levels to choose from (25-150 miles).



- \$25 registration fee includes a t-shirt.
- Facebook challenge group will be put together for routes, tips, motivation and more!
- All ages are welcome to join!

Register Here



GENERAL REMINDERS

FOR RESIDENTS:

ATV-UTV & Golf Cart Permits

Drive either of these within City limits? Please complete an application located on the [City's website](#), see "departments" and click on "Police." The annual fee is \$30 for Golf Carts and \$40 for ATV/UTVs. Drop off or mail to the City Hall: 118 Central Avenue N.

2023 City-Wide Clean Up

Saturday, May 20, 2023: See attached flyer for additional details. Also, details located on the [City's website](#) within the News & Announcements section.

Time to Close 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.

Park Shelter Rentals

If you live in New Prague, consider reserving one of the City's beautiful park shelters for your next summer picnic, class reunion, or family gathering. Electricity is available only with paid rental of the picnic shelters. Call City Hall at 952-758-4401 to make your reservation or find the application on the [City's website](#), under "City Departments," "Parks," and click "Renting a Park Shelter."

Dog License Reminder

It is time to purchase your annual dog license if you own a dog in the City of New Prague. Failure to properly license your dog is a violation of the City Code. Licenses are available at New Prague City Hall. You are required to show proof of your dog's rabies vaccination and pay \$10 for a one-year tag, \$20 for a two-year tag or \$30 for a three-year tag. For more information, please visit the [City's website](#): click on the Permits & Licenses tab and scroll down to Dog License application. Or you can pick up information at City Hall.

RESIDENT REBATES AVAILABLE THROUGH NPUC!

On average, home appliances—including clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers and dehumidifiers—can count for 20 percent of your home's total electric bill. ENERGY STAR certified appliances help consumers save money on operating costs by reducing energy use without sacrificing performance. Customers of New Prague Utilities Commission electric are eligible for rebates for certain energy efficient items. Here are some examples:

ENERGY STAR Clothes Washers—\$25 per unit

ENERGY STAR Most Efficient Clothes Washers—\$40 per unit

ENERGY STAR Dishwashers—\$25 per unit

ENERGY STAR Most Efficient Dishwashers—\$40 per unit

ENERGY STAR Refrigerators—\$25 per unit, plus an additional rebate of up to \$50 for recycling your old, **WORKING** refrigerator

ENERGY STAR Freezers—\$25 per unit, plus an additional rebate of up to \$50 for recycling your old, **WORKING** freezer



Visit the [City's Website](#) for a complete list and forms.

CITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE SCHEDULED FOR MAY 13, 2023



With the City-Wide Garage Sales scheduled for Saturday, May 13, 2023, the City of New Prague would like to remind residents of the garage sale sign ordinance for this sales season. The ordinance states that signs, including garage sale signs, not posted by authorized government officials are prohibited within the public right-of-way, easements, or publicly owned land. New Prague Police Department and the MN Department of Transportation may remove signs in the right-of-way if they pose a safety issue. Typically, on City Streets, the right-of-way is the area from the back of the curb into a yard about 12 feet, often referred to as the "boulevard." This is not private property; thus signs are not permitted here, nor on state highways, such as Hwy 19/Main Street. Residents may place their garage sale signs on private property as long as they have property owner's permission. If you have any questions, please contact the City Hall at 952-758-4401.

HELP US PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF NEW PRAGUE!



The City of New Prague is updating their Comprehensive Plan which will guide development for years to come! We want to hear your thoughts about the future of New Prague in our short, community-wide survey. Use a QR Scanner or camera application on your smartphone to visit the survey from on the project website.



newpragueplan.com

GRANT AWARDED TO REBUILD A LOCAL ART SCULPTURE

The City received a \$7,000 grant to rebuild Towering to Our Future which will be installed at the library near the intersection of Main St E and Lincoln Ave S in the Fall of 2023. The grand opening will occur during the 2023 New Prague Dožinky Festival (Sept 15th-16th) where visitors will be able to create their own visual narratives. All are welcome, and we strongly encourage the original artists of the sculpture to come to the official unveiling. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

