

NOVEMBER
2023

CITY OF



NEWS

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on the web, visit:
www.ci.new-prague.mn.us

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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



The City Council has been working hard on next year's budget. It seems that every time I write an article, that is all I talk about. But it is a very important process in city government, and we want to account to the taxpayer every dollar we need and spend on your behalf. It is a challenging job to balance what is needed and what we can do without.

Again, this year is no different than other years as we need to set a tax levy percentage. The State of Minnesota lets cities set a preliminary rate that we cannot go higher than that rate. This needs to be done by the end of September of every year. This year the City Council set that rate at 6% with instructions to city staff to sharpen their pencils and see how we can get that rate lower than 6%, and I know this will happen. Then, the final levy will be adopted in December.

There are a couple of things I want to mention before closing out. The first is the street reconstruction project on the east side of New Prague is substantially completed. I believe this is the first time a contractor was done early, and from what I understand, Holtmeier Construction was great to work with for residents and city staff. We have approximately two years left on reconstruction of streets, and then the whole city will be done. It has been a long road to get to this point, but the City Council in the late 90's committed to this program, and it was carried through until now. It really needed to be done.

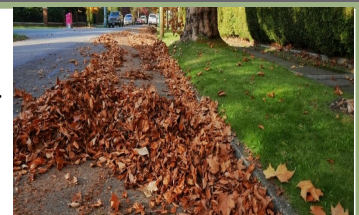
Lastly, you may have noticed construction activity along 10th Avenue from Main Street East to 4th Street NE. New Prague Utilities is replacing the water main. The water main started to fail, and it was decided to directional bore in a new 10" inch water main. It may not look like it, but there was a lot less digging and disruption to traffic and businesses by doing this process. Completion on this project should be done in the next couple of weeks.

In closing, I want to let everyone know that you can always call or send me an email if you have a question or concern. Just remember New Prague is a great place to live and raise a family!

NO BLOWING OR RAKING LEAVES INTO STREET

This fall, please keep your leaves and other natural yard waste out of streets and storm sewers as City Code **(92.37N Declared)** prohibits the disposing of these items in the street. City residents who have any yard waste, including leaves and other natural debris that collect on storm sewer catch basins or in the street, may use the City's Yard Waste Site, free of charge. The site is located at 1503 Columbus Ave. N. Any garbage or litter should be placed in your trash.

If you should have any questions, please contact Public Works Supervisor Josh Hennen at 952-758-1146.



2023 "BE BRIGHT" ENERGY STAR LED CAMPAIGN

Be Bright this fall! Through December 31, while supplies last, our residential electric customers are eligible for reduced pricing on ENERGY STAR® labeled LED light bulbs at participating retailers, including ACE Hardware & Paint, for as little as \$0.25 each (at select retailers).

This is our FINAL YEAR and supplies are limited, so get your discounted LEDs before they sell out! Visit

SaveEnergyInNewPrague.com/LED for the entire retailer list. **Discounted LEDs purchased during this promotion are not eligible for our LED rebate program.**

ENERGY STAR-labeled LEDs use 80% less energy and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent light bulbs - but less watts doesn't mean less light! LEDs produce bright light for less cost because they use less electricity and last longer than incandescent and compact fluorescent bulbs - saving time and money on replacements.



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

[f](https://www.facebook.com/fac.napaschools.org) [i](https://www.instagram.com/fac.napaschools.org) [t](https://www.twitter.com/fac.napaschools.org)

[fac.napaschools.org](https://www.fac.napaschools.org)

Tot-Time At the Pool
MUSIC, TOYS, AND THE PLAY FEATURES ON IN THE RECREATION POOL!
DESIGNED FOR CHILDREN AGES 0-5 YEARS OLD - BUT THE WHOLE FAMILY IS WELCOME TO ATTEND!
50% OFF ADMISSIONS FOR FAMILIES USING THE POOL!

Saturday, November 18
9:30am - 12pm

Note: an adult must be in the water with all children under the age of 7.

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.

NO OVERNIGHT PARKING NOVEMBER 1ST TO APRIL 1ST

A friendly reminder that overnight winter parking restriction takes effect November 1st, 2023. No overnight parking on city streets is allowed through April 1st, 2024. If you have an undue hardship and would like to request a variance you will need to complete a hardship application to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Variance requests can be found on the Police Department website www.ci.new-prague.mn.us/police or can be picked up at City Hall. If you have additional questions, please contact the New Prague Police Department at 952-758-2791.

2023 STREET AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Feasibility Report for the 2024 Street and Utility Improvement Project was presented to council in early October and a public hearing held on October 16th. Council will consider whether to proceed with the project based on that public hearing at a later date. This project includes water main, storm sewer, sanitary sewer, and street reconstruction primarily in the area just west of the current project. Sidewalk on at least one side of each street is also being proposed. A complete pavement overlay with ADA improvements on 10th Avenue SE between CSAH 29 and Main Street is also proposed. Additional measures to control traffic speeds and improve pedestrian mobility along the 10th Avenue SE corridor are being considered, including a potential mini-roundabout at 3rd Street SE and median islands. If this project proceeds, final design will start in late October with project bidding in February 2024. An additional neighborhood meeting will be held when design is substantially complete, likely in January 2024.

Work on the enhanced crosswalk for the south side of the 1st Street SE and 10th Avenue SE intersection (near Hy-Vee) is scheduled for the second half of October. This will include construction of new curb ramps and a flashing crosswalk sign to improve pedestrian visibility. This project is substantially funded by a federal grant administered by MnDOT. Due to the availability of some materials, a conventional crosswalk sign will be installed at the intersection until the final RRFB can be installed, likely in February or March 2024.

The water main improvement project on 10th Avenue NE is wrapping up with final restoration occurring in mid-October. This project involved directionally drilling over 1,500 feet of new 10-inch water main on the east side of the street next to the older water main that has experienced multiple breaks.

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 mrunda@ci.new-prague.mn.us or 952-758-1144.

EMERALD ASH BORER IN NEW PRAGUE

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), a beetle that attacks ash trees, was identified in New Prague in 2021. Since then, the City of New Prague was awarded grant funding to remove the ash trees at the library, establish a public tree inventory, create an EAB Management Plan, and purchase 75 new diverse trees. The city will continue to pursue funding opportunities to mitigate the spread of EAB. If a tree on private property is found to have EAB, it would be considered a nuisance tree and subject to treatment and removal as per City Code. For more information on EAB, please visit the [city website](#).

LED HOLIDAY LIGHTING REBATE PROGRAM

With the holidays just around the corner, it’s time to start thinking about your lights and decorations! New Prague Utilities is once again offering their electric customers **rebates of up to \$12** for each plug-in LED string or decoration of energy-efficient LED holiday lighting they purchase through the end of the year.

We are promoting LED lighting because it uses up to 90% less electricity than regular holiday lighting and lasts up to 10 times longer. A typical household can save up to \$50 during the holiday season. In addition to the financial savings, there are environmental benefits, making our community a little greener. LEDs are also cool to the touch-which reduces the risk of fire and personal injury.

Rebate coupons and additional information can be found at www.SaveEnergyInNewPrague.com or stop by City Hall, 118 Central Ave. N to pick up a rebate form. Please submit coupon, original receipt, and part of **each** box showing the number of LED lamps per string or decoration purchased. Rebate request must be submitted by December 31, 2023. Residents can drop off their old Christmas lights for free at City Hall during the holiday season to be properly recycled.

