

SEPTEMBER
2023

CITY OF



NEWS

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on the web, visit:
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City Government
Boards & Commissions:
EDA Board,
Golf Club Board,
Park Board,
Planning Commission,
and Utilities Commission

Chat with the Chief of Police

By New Prague Police Chief Tim Applen



The New Prague Police Department would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable 39th Dožínky Festival weekend Friday, September 15th and Saturday, September 16th. I am always impressed by the celebration and the family atmosphere for Dožínky. Please continue to allow everyone to enjoy the weekend by celebrating safely and responsibly.

Safety of everyone in attendance is our number one concern for this event. This is even more significant with the safety of children during the parade.

Thanks to all the parents, grandparents, family members, and friends that supervise children and keep them seated on the curb line. When children begin moving into the roadway, it narrows the distance for the parade units. Drivers indicate they cannot see along the sides of their units or by the tires. Due to this risk, children must stay on the curb line throughout the entire parade. Keep up the good work by supervising your children.

Parade units must have “walkers” distributing candy and other items. Items will be placed near the children (or adults) at the curb line or into the crowd. No items should be thrown from moving parade units. We kindly ask that no candy be thrown from vehicles in the car cruise Friday night. If we all work together, we can make this a safe event. Due to the large number of people that attend, many safety measures are taken. Here are just a few:

- Extra law enforcement are utilized from Scott and Le Sueur County Sheriff's Offices.
- During the weekend events, no dogs (other than service dogs), bikes, rollerblades, skateboards, golf carts, or ATV/UTV's will be allowed in the downtown area.
- To prevent injuries from broken glass, the bars and the Chamber will be using plastic and/or aluminum containers. We would ask that all alcohol consumption is done with these types of containers.
- Alcohol consumption in public will be allowed from 5:30 p.m. on Friday night to 1:30 a.m., Saturday. On Saturday it will only be allowed from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Outside of these times, the city ordinance prohibiting consumption and possession of alcoholic beverages on streets and public property will be enforced.
- Area law enforcement will be conducting a Toward Zero Death patrol in the area to detect and apprehend impaired drivers.

I ask those in attendance to watch for anything suspicious whether it is behaviors or situational. If you observe circumstances or behaviors that put others at risk, please contact law enforcement immediately, so it can be addressed appropriately.

2023 DOŽÍNKY® FESTIVAL AND CLASSIC CAR CRUISE

The New Prague Chamber of Commerce is excited to invite you all to join us for our annual Classic Car Cruise and Dožínky Festival on Friday, September 15th and Saturday, September 16th in 2023! **New in 2023:** We're kicking the weekend off on **Thursday, Sept. 14th** with a special Dožínky bingo night at Giesenbräu Bier Co. starting at 7 pm! All proceeds are given back to the local community! Follow the New Prague Chamber of Commerce on social media for more information as planning unfolds @newpraguechamber.

On **Friday, Sept. 15th**, the fun continues with the annual Dožínky Zero K, Classic Car Cruise, and street dance in the Chamber beer garden on Central Ave N. *Good for Gary* will perform on stage from 8:30 pm to midnight.

On **Saturday, September 16th**, the highlighting event: the 39th Annual Dožínky (Doe-Shink'-key), a Czech Harvest Festival, happily hosted by the Chamber of Commerce! Please visit their website for more information on specific events throughout the weekend: www.newprague.com. As always, **safety is our top priority**. No carry-in alcohol, dogs, bikes, or golf carts are allowed. Please take a moment to read New Prague's Chief of Police Tim Applen's note (above) regarding safety during the Parade of Farm Pride taking place at noon on Saturday. We strongly urge parents to keep their kids close by and away from moving vehicles.

Finally, please remember that shopping locally keeps New Prague's economy thriving and allows local businesses to give back to the community in a number of ways, including Dožínky®. Show your love for local! Have a great Dožínky® Festival! Na zdraví!





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.

ART SCULPTURE GRAND OPENING

Local art sculpture *Towering to Our Future* will have its official grand opening on Sept 14th at 6:00 pm, Sept 15th at 5:30 pm, and Sept 16th from 1:00-4:00 pm at the New Prague Library. The event is free, all are welcome, and visitors will be able to participate in a fun activity, speak with the artist, and eat treats! We strongly encourage the previous artists who made this community sculpture to attend. 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.



STREET AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR 2023 UPDATE

Holtmeier Construction is nearing substantial completion of the 2023 Street and Utility Improvement Project. The first lift of bituminous pavement will be complete by in mid-August with final topsoil grading and turf restoration. Paving of the trail through Greenway Park is planned for either late August or early September. The contractor will come back next year to complete the final placement of bituminous pavement throughout the entire project.

The Feasibility Study reviewing the 2024 Street and Utility Improvement Project is currently underway. This project area will include street and utility reconstruction primarily in the area just west of the current project and a pavement overlay on 10th Avenue SE. A public hearing on the project will be conducted this fall and the study will be presented to council in mid-October.

Installation of an enhanced crosswalk on the south side of the 1st Street SE and 10th Avenue SE intersection (near Hy-Vee) is planned for this fall. This will include construction of new curb ramps and a flashing crosswalk sign to improve pedestrian visibility. This project will be substantially funded by a federal grant administered by MnDOT.

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.

SALVATION ARMY HEATSHARE PROGRAM OFFERS HEATING ASSISTANCE

What is HeatShare? HeatShare is a voluntary nongovernmental program of The Salvation Army that has been in existence since 1982. When you give to HeatShare, you are helping warm the lives of the elderly, people with disabilities, and others who have nowhere else to turn. HeatShare provides financial assistance on a year-round basis and is used for natural gas, oil, propane, wood, and electricity.



How can I support my neighbor? You can give the gift of heat by sending a tax-deductible donation to: The Salvation Army HeatShare Program 2445 Prior Ave N Roseville, MN 55113

*Please make checks payable to HeatShare www.heatshare.org 1-800-842-7279

UPDATES ON THE CITY'S FIGHT AGAINST EMERALD ASH BORER (EAB)

EAB was confirmed in New Prague in late 2021 by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and City Staff are seeing widespread evidence. This insect's larvae feed on the part of ash trees that moves nutrients, and with roughly one billion ash trees in our state, susceptibility is high. Ash trees infested with EAB are considered a public nuisance by [City Code Chapter 92.01](#), and these trees must be treated or removed. The City received a “Protect Community Forests by Managing Ash for EAB Grant” from the DNR in 2022. The funds have helped the City tackle many tasks, such as \$60,800 for the creation of a gravel bed for bare root trees to be used City Park replacements, writing an EAB Management Plan, a public tree inventory (near complete), and removal of infested trees near Memorial Park Library. 75 replacement trees and water equipment were purchased to continue efforts in 2024. Further grant money will also be sought as EAB continues spreading. The City encourages residents to help in these efforts with the following:

- **Be Sure You've Identified An Ash Tree:** This is important as EAB only feeds on ash trees. Ash has opposite branching – branches come off the trunk directly across from each other. On older trees, the bark is in a tight, diamond-shaped pattern. Younger ash trees have a relatively smooth bark.
- **Find Woodpecker Damage:** Woodpeckers like EAB larvae and their holes may indicate the presence of EAB.
- **Check For Cracks:** EAB larvae tunneling under the bark can cause the bark to split open, revealing the larval (S-shaped) tunnels underneath.
- **Contact A Professional:** If you feel your ash tree may be infested with EAB, contact a tree care professional or the MDA at arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us or 888-545-6684 (voicemail) or visit www.mda.state.mn.us/eab-info-homeowners
- **More information** can also be found on the City Website at www.ci.new-prague.mn.us then going to Departments, Planning, then Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).