

**JANUARY
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**

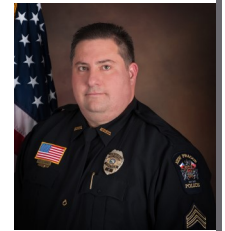
A Minute with the Mayor

By Mayor Duane Jirik



2022 is in the history books, and with the change of the year, the City of New Prague also has a change of the guard in the police department: after 35 years with the New Prague Police Department, Police Chief Jim Gareis will retire at the end of this year. Jim has seen a lot of changes throughout those 35 years: getting computers in squad cars, radios going from VHF to 800 MHZ, defibrillators for medicals, manpower increasing, and more individuals calling the police for assistance for just about anything. As Mayor, I want to wish Chief Gareis (pictured right) a sincere “thank you” and “job well done” for his dedication to the citizens of New Prague! Good luck and enjoy your well-deserved retirement!

Chief Gareis’ replacement is no stranger to the New Prague Police Department. Sgt. Tim Applen will assume his duties immediately following the official retirement of Chief Gareis. This will be a seamless transition and there will not be one minute that is missed that the city will not have a police chief or emergency management director in place. So how did we get to this point? About a year and a half ago, Chief Gareis announced that he would be retiring. In the past, the city has hired from within when there are qualified candidates available. The city policy is to do a job posting within, and if no one applies, then the hiring process will go outside. The city wanted to continue this possibility for upward mobility within the organization, and the city policy allows for internal promotion when it is felt that internal candidates are the best fit to fill a position. In this case, Sgt. Tim Applen (pictured left) applied and was interviewed. The interview was conducted by myself, Councilmember Maggie Bass, Councilmember Bruce Wolf, City Administrator Josh Tetzlaff, and City Finance Director Robin Pikal. The interview lasted about 2 hours with general and very pointed questions asked. After in depth discussion by the committee, a recommendation was made to offer Sgt. Applen the position. Staff put this item on the December 5, 2022 city council agenda for final approval and was unanimously approved. Congratulations to Police Chief Timothy Applen on his appointment as the next police chief/emergency management director for the City of New Prague, effective December 22, 2022. Good luck and best wishes!



Looking forward to 2023 and representing this great community. From my family to yours, I wish you all a Happy New Year!

Happy New Year
2023

GOLF CLUB OFFERS HOLIDAY VENUE, GIFT IDEAS, AND MORE!

- 2023 Memberships available and Gift Certificates, too
- All merchandise is now 20% - 30% off
- Chamber Bingo starts Thursday, January 5th, 2023!
- Holiday Venue: Need a beautiful location to host your holiday party? Contact Holly for availability at banquet@newpraguegolf.com or 952-758-5326.
- **Reminder** – No snowmobiles or ATV’s on the Golf Course!

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



DOG LICENSE REMINDER

Attention dog owners of New Prague! It is time to purchase your annual dog license! Failure to properly license your dog is a violation of the City Code. Licenses are available at New Prague City Hall and New Prague Veterinary Clinic. 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 information, please visit the City of New Prague’s website: click on the Permits & Licenses tab and scroll down to Dog License application. Or you can pick up information at City Hall.



FITNESS & AQUATIC CENTER

BE ACTIVE. BE STRONG. BELONG.

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

npaschools.org/fitness-aquatic-center

Jump Start Challenge 2023

January 8 - March 17

10 WEEK WEIGHT LOSS CHALLENGE

- Join as an Individual or a Group of 2-3
- Includes:
 - Beginning & End Measurements & Body Composition Analysis
 - Weekly Weight-ins & Health Coach Check-ins
 - Fridays: 5:15-7:45am
 - Access to Healthy Recipes
 - Weekly Nutrition Education

*Register & Pay at the front desk starting Monday, Dec. 12.

Cost:
 FAC Member: \$25
 Non-Member: \$45

Kick-off is Sun. Jan 8 between 9-10:30pm

410 Central Ave N, New Prague, MN 56071 | 952-758-1753 | npaschools.org/fitness-aquatic-center

City Seeks Rink Attendant

The Ice Rink Attendant position is a part-time, seasonal position working at the outdoor rinks. Must be able to work approximately 15-25 hours per week (weather permitting). Applications are available at New Prague City Hall, 118 Central Ave. N. and also on the City's website, www.ci.new-prague.mn.us/employment.



Questions? Call 952-758-4401.

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.

SAVE ENERGY WITH THESE NEW PRAGUE UTILITIES SPECIALS!

GARAGE HEATER SPECIAL OFFER - Receive a free garage heater valued at \$630 when you purchase and install a Westinghouse electric water heater with limited lifetime warranty or, enroll an existing electric water heater in the New Prague Utilities Water Heater Storage program. To qualify, the garage heater must be installed and enrolled in the New Prague Utilities electric heating program.

ELECTRIC WATER HEATER - Check out the Westinghouse Stainless Steel Electric Water Heater. Built to last longer – Industry best Lifetime Warranty (residential) and 10-year warranty (commercial). No anode rods needed, lightweight and durable.

For additional information on these programs, call 952-758-4401 or go to www.NewPragueUtilities.com and go to Rebates & Programs.

RENTAL REGISTRATIONS DUE FOR 2022/2023

If you haven't done so already, stop by City Hall or find the form at ci.new-prague.mn.us/rental_registration_form to renew the rental registration if you own residential rental property in the city. The renewals are for the 2022-2023 registration period. The rental registration is \$25 per building. Contact the Planning Department at City Hall if you have any questions 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 before the end of the year.

ICE SKATING/HOCKEY RINK/WARMING HOUSE HOURS

The sliding hill, as well as the recreational ice-skating rink and hockey rink at 1501 Columbus Ave. N., (across the street from the high school) will be available for all users of the park. Hours will be posted on the City's website homepage, Facebook page, or call the City Hall at 952-758-4401. 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 Years)



ATTENTION SNOWMOBILERS, ATV/UTV OPERATORS, OR OTHER MOTORIZED VEHICLE DRIVERS!

You are prohibited from driving your motorized machines in the following areas within city limits: boulevards of streets, sidewalks or private properties, on publicly owned property (golf course, schools, cemeteries, parks, etc.) or in close proximity to churches, nursing homes, hospitals, skating rinks, or Sliding Hill Skate Park. For additional information, visit the city website at www.ci.new-prague.mn.us and select City Charters & Codes, Chapter #73 - Snowmobiles and All -Terrain Vehicles.



DO NOT PUSH SNOW INTO ROADWAYS

Under Minnesota Statute 160.27 and New Prague Ordinance 92.18 U, the City reminds residents that taking snow from a private property and depositing it into a public street, sidewalk, or trail, without a prior agreement with the city, is considered a public hazard. According to the laws of the State of Minnesota, depositing snow in any fashion onto a public street is illegal and punishable as a misdemeanor. The act of placing snow onto a public roadway may subject a person to a civil liability if a road hazard (slippery area, frozen rut, or bump) occurs and causes a traffic accident. The civil liability may extend to both the property owner and the person who actually placed the snow on the roadway. The City of New Prague asks all citizens to obey these rules which are designed to keep the streets and sidewalks safe during winter months.