

MARCH 2024

CITY OF NEW PRAGUE CITY NEWS



www.ci.new-prague.mn.us · (952) 758-4401 · info@ci.new-prague.mn.us

Chat with your Council

By: Bruce Wolf

Congratulations to Taylor Swift for receiving a Grammy for Album of the Year and being named Time Magazine's Person of the Year. There, I did it. By naming Taylor Swift I have tapped into her enormous drawing power and increased the likelihood of you continuing to read this article. Not only that, I hope to have gained the appreciation of some of my family members who have a passionate appreciation of her talent and personality. There are so many demands and competition for everyone's time, attention and involvement. As citizens of New Prague we are in charge of building and maintaining our community. We rely on active citizen involvement and contributions to maintain a successful community. Often times we only hear about the purposefully provocative and sometimes negative or sensational messages. In contrast I would like to thank and highlight all of those citizens who make a difference by taking pride in our community and supporting our local government. Whether serving on a City Board or Commission, contributing to a public hearing, volunteering on a community organization, maintaining your neighborhood, providing feedback to staff or Council members or in any other way, small or large, you have contributed to the common good of our community.

There may be other opportunities for your community input and participation as we look at few of our "to do" list items for this year:

- The Council continues to review our facility needs and will receive an update in March on our Needs Study, particularly as it relates to a new Police Station. In addition, we expect Wold Architects and Engineers to present an update to our Recreational Facility Study at the same time.
- The Council recently approved the creation of a redevelopment plan for the property referred to as the City Center area. This small area plan will look at the needs and requirements for installing a storm water pond, any clean up or grading needs, as well as studying the ability to accommodate the POPS (Praha Outdoor Performance Stage) and other uses.
- As we look to our growth and infrastructure needs, the City is completing a Sanitary Sewer Feasibility Study. The study will look at the future potential locations and costs to expand our existing sanitary sewer system.
- A lot of the heavy lifting regarding the updating of the City's Comprehensive Plan occurred last year. The previous two mentioned studies will become a part of our plan, so we hope to have all of this come together and conclude our Comprehensive Plan update later this year. The next step will be to look at possible updates to our zoning ordinance.
- Under the hood, there a number of administrative action plans teed up for next year including refreshing our website, continuing to review and update City policies, creating a long term financial plan, and updating our annexation agreements with our neighboring townships.

The official newsletter for the City of New Prague. Published monthly to update community members on city government news.

Mayor Duane Jirik

Councilmembers
Shawn Ryan
Maggie Bass
Rik Seiler
Bruce Wolf

City Administrator
Josh Tetzlaff

City Hall
118 Central Avenue North
New Prague, MN 56071

 City of New Prague
Government

 NewPragueCityCouncil

HAPPY EASTER



Golf, ATV, & UTV Permits

All motorized golf carts, Class 2 All-Terrain Vehicles, or Utility Task Vehicles operated within the City Limits require an annual permit, along with a fee of \$30 for Golf Carts and \$40 for ATVs and UTVs (payable to the City of New Prague). The application and additional details are located on the City of New Prague's website, or, you can pick up at the City Hall, Utilities Counter.

Street and Utility Improvement Projects

Public bidding for the 2024 Street and Utility Improvement Project is underway with consideration of award of the construction contract anticipated for March 4th. City crews have been removing trees conflicting with the improvements ahead of the project. Trees will be removed and stumps ground down, though full removal of wood shavings and restoration will not occur until construction begins. Centerpoint Energy will be working this spring throughout much of the project area as they will be providing a gas main on either side of the street to eliminate service crossings of the roadway. Some work by private utility providers may occur outside of the project area to facilitate connections or in preparation for future projects. SEH will be placing right-of-way stakes within the project area to provide limits of construction and guidance for utility relocation.

A third neighborhood meeting will be held in March after the project is awarded and a schedule is provided by the contractor. Construction on the project is anticipated for early April and to last through October, though weather may impact those dates. Residents on the upcoming project are encouraged to contact Julie Brinkman at jbrinkman@sehinc.com to be put on the list for construction updates that will be emailed on a weekly basis once work starts. Please be sure to include your name, property address, and preferred email address to be added to the list. A text update service will also be provided at a later time.

The scope of the project improvements includes full replacement of water main, storm sewer, sanitary sewer, and reconstruction of streets primarily in the area just west of last year's project. The project streets are Lexington Avenue N, Lyndale Avenue N, Sunset Avenue N, 1st Street NE, 2nd Street NE, 3rd Street NE, 6th Street NE, and 1st Street SE.

Dog License Reminder

It is time to purchase your annual dog license if you own a dog in the City. 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 \$15 for a one-year tag. For more information, please visit the City of New Prague's website, or you can pick up information at City Hall.

Why should you hire a licensed general contractor for your home improvement projects?

Whether it's a bathroom remodel, a new addition, or a roofing/siding project, a licensed general contractor can oversee your home project to ensure the job is done correctly and efficiently. Be sure your contractor has the necessary license and skills to get the job done; some general contractors specialize in specific projects, like roofing, siding, while others are multifaceted. Having a written contract with your contractor will protect you if something goes wrong. If legal action needs to be taken during or after the project, a contract will help you in your case against them. Include all agreed-upon details in the document and ask your contractor to sign it before they start any work. For more information, check out "A Consumer's Guide to Hiring a Residential Building Contractor" which can be found on the City's website.

Attention Residential Utility Customers

Starting on April 1, 2024, the City will no longer collect a refuse base fee of \$5.50 per month with your utility bill. This amount will instead be collected by Laker's New Prague Sanitary Inc. and will be reflected on your quarterly bill you receive from them. If you have not previously received a bill from Laker's (ie. if you utilize the bag system of collection), they will now send you a quarterly invoice that includes the base fee that had previously been reflected on your city utility bill. No increase is proposed to your refuse collection costs. There will, however, be a new fee you will see on your monthly utility bill for \$0.40/month (\$4.80/year) called the "Yard Waste Site Fee." This fee is new and will be used for improvements to the City's Yard Waste Site Operations & Improvements. If you hadn't previously heard, in the fall of 2023, organics waste collection is now available at the Yard Waste Site, but a key is required for access to the organics collection bin. Please see the city website for more information about acquiring a key for the organics collection area.



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

  

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, March 16
9:30am - 12pm

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