

**OCTOBER
2023**

CITY OF



NEWS

For the latest City News
on the web, visit:
www.ci.new-prague.mn.us

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-City Council-

Duane J. Jirik, Mayor
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(Term: January 2023 – December 2024)

Rik Seiler, Council Member
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Bruce Wolf, Council Member
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(Term: January 2021 – December 2024)

City Government
Boards & Commissions:
**EDA Board, Golf Club Board,
Park Board, Planning
Commission, and Utilities
Commission**

Chat with the City Administrator

By Josh Tetzlaff



As many of you have likely heard, a bug that first reportedly visited Minnesota in 2009 has been reported to be in New Prague as of 2022. This bug I am referring to is the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). By all information that has been shared, once EAB enters a community, it is only a matter of time before it attacks all ash trees. Once a tree has been attacked, unless a treatment program is started, that tree will die. This is significant news because the City of New Prague has numerous ash trees across public property, and many more on private property. Losing all of the ash trees across the city can potentially be very noticeable.

In an effort to mitigate the damage done by the bug, the City passed an Emerald Ash Borer Plan in 2022. This plan recognizes that every ash tree in City Limits is vulnerable and that the impacts will be significant. The plan calls for various measures be used. First, some trees will just be lost, and we should plan how to replace them in a tactical way to promote diversity of tree species. The City is doing this by starting a tree nursery with a variety of native species that we will start planting in public areas where ash trees are prevalent. Second, the plan calls for using ash borer treatment on trees that the City ultimately deems as important. This is a tough choice to make because treatment will need to continue for the life of the tree.

While the City has a plan in place for public property, each landowner will need to make decisions on how they want to proceed. The City has information available on [its website regarding Emerald Ash Borer](#). I recommend anyone who may have an ash tree on their property read the EAB Plan. There is also a lot of information on the [Minnesota DNR website](#). If you decide that you'd like to remove your tree and plant something else, the City can be of assistance of tree species that would work and help create diversity across the City. If you decide you'd like to treat your tree to save it, the City EAB plan lays out the criteria residents should look for when hiring a contractor.

The loss of ash trees across the City is going to be felt by everyone and whether or not to try to save a tree is a decision that is not easy. The City wants to help you make the best decision for the trees on your property. If you need more information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

SETTLERS PARK PRAIRIE AND WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT

The City of New Prague was awarded funding for the Settlers Park Prairie and Wetland Restoration project by the MN DNR Conservation Partners Legacy Grant through the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment. The project will convert the wooded western section of the park into a native prairie. The purpose of the project is to eliminate the existing noxious/invasive trees and plants in the park that degrade the native plant communities and hinder the water quality of the wetland. Work will begin in mid-Fall.



2023 ENERGY STAR "FLIP YOUR FRIDGE"

It's Time to Flip Your Fridge! Why not recycle that old energy wasting refrigerator and replace it with a new ENERGY STAR® certified model? You'll save energy and you can save even more with a utility rebate! We offer rebates of \$25 on the purchase of new ENERGY STAR Refrigerators, plus an additional rebate up to \$50 to pay for recycling your old **working** refrigerator.

Please note you must be an electric customer of New Prague Utilities.

Rebate forms are available at City Hall, or on our city website: www.ci.new-prague.mn.us under Utilities/Rebates and Programs.

Refrigerators that are 15 years or older use twice as much energy as a new ENERGY STAR certified refrigerator. Replacing that old energy-wasting refrigerator with a new ENERGY STAR certified refrigerator could save you as much as \$270 in energy costs over the next five years. Flip Your Fridge to ENERGY STAR, the simple choice for energy efficiency!





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**PUBLIC POWER WEEK:
OCTOBER 1ST—7TH**

Public power utilities across the U.S. celebrate Public Power Week: the first full week of October every year and is observed by the New Prague Utilities Commission. The utility is a valuable community asset that, in addition to reliable power, provides safety awareness, economic development, and dedicated customer service. "Public Power Week is an annual event that celebrates the benefits of hometown, community-owned electric utilities," said Bruce Reimers, General Manager of New Prague Utilities. "Our electric utility operates to benefit the entire community and to provide safe, reliable power with high-quality customer services. This observance reminds residents that New Prague is a trustworthy, hometown source for both power and energy information."

The New Prague Utilities Commissioners Dan Bishop, Paul Busch, Dick Jordan, Tom Ewert, and Bruce Wolf invite customers to stop

by City Hall during Public Power Week to pick up a free gift.



STREET AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR 2023 AND BEYOND!

Holtmeier Construction has substantially completed this year's Street and Utility Improvement Project, with trail paving completed at the beginning of September in Greenway Park. The final placement of pavement will not occur until 2024, so there will be a small bump where the new project streets match into the older streets and along the curb. Though most work is complete, there may still be some minor construction activity in the neighborhood. The assessment hearing for this project will be held in October, likely at the October 16th City Council meeting.

A neighborhood meeting will be held on September 13th to provide information on the upcoming 2024 Street and Utility Improvement Project. 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. 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, curb bumpouts at intersections, and median islands. The study will be presented to council in mid-October with recommendations for the project.

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.

A water main improvement project on 10th Avenue NE was awarded to Widmer Construction over the summer and is expected to be take place in September or October of this year. A new water main on the east side of the street between Main Street and 4th Street NE will be installed using horizontal directional drilling. Some excavation will be required to complete connections to water services, gate valves, and adjacent water mains. Traffic will be allowed to continue through the project area, though there may be some temporary disruptions requiring lane shifts or short-term closures of side streets or driveways.

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.

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.

FALL GOLFING AWAITS AS MEMBERSHIP PROMOTIONS ARE ON!

Promotional Membership! For only \$200.00 you can be a Member of New Prague Golf Club for the remainder of the 2023 season! For only \$300.00 you can be a Member and have a single-seat cart pass for the remainder of the 2023 season! If you choose to continue your Membership in 2024, we will give you \$200.00 credit towards the Membership fee!

OFFER BEGINS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2023. There is plenty of great golf to play in 2023—Hope to see you on the links!

For any questions about the golf operations, contact manager Kurt Ruehling at 952-758-5326 or email him at info@newpraguegolf.com.



New Prague
GOLF CLUB