

Newport's News

Fall 2016

www.ci.newport.mn.us

(651) 459-5677



City Of Newport
596 7th Avenue,
Newport, MN 55055



Upcoming Events:

City Council

September 1, 2016 @ 5:30 p.m.

September 15, 2016 @ 5:30 p.m.

Planning Commission

September 8, 2016 @ 5:30 p.m.

October 13, 2016 @ 5:30 p.m.

City offices will be closed on September 5, 2016 due to the Labor Day Holiday.

Mayor:

Tim Geraghty 459-6790
timghty@gmail.com

Council Members:

Tom Ingemann 459-9695
tingemann@comcast.net

Bill Sumner 459-1717
sumner.newport@gmail.com

Tracy Rahm 459-6634
councilmanrahm@gmail.com

Dan Lund 331-9324
danlund@live.com

2016 General Election

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 8th from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The polling place for all of Newport is Newport Elementary, 851 6th Avenue. The City of Newport will have the Mayor position and two City Council positions (four-year terms) on the ballot during the November General Election.

If you are unable to vote in person on Election Day, you may vote either in person or by mail during the 46 days prior to Election Day. If you wish to do so, or if you have questions regarding this process, please contact Washington County's Property Records and Taxpayer Services Department at (651) 430-6175. If you are planning to vote by mail, please apply early so that you are able to mail back or deliver your absentee ballot before Election Day.

Election Judges

The City of Newport is currently accepting applications for Election Judges for the 2016 General Election. Election Judges are the officials who staff the polling location and ensure that voter rights are protected on Election Days. The required qualifications for Election Judges are: minimum age of 18 years old, U.S. citizen, Minnesota resident, cannot have had your voting rights revoked, need to be able to read, write, and speak English, and complete a minimum 2 hour training. In addition to these minimum qualifications, Election Judges need to be able to communicate clearly with voters, enjoy helping others, be available to work long hours, and have attention to detail. The rate of pay for Election Judges is \$10.00/hour.

Election Judges are essential to our democracy. Serving as an Election Judge provides an opportunity to learn more about the election process and is a great service to our community. If you would like to serve as an Election Judge, please contact City Hall at (651) 459-5677 for more information.

Visit the City's website at www.ci.newport.mn.us/elections.php for more information on the 2016 Elections and voter registration.

Code Enforcement

Throughout the summer, City staff has been working with Washington County Sheriff's Office on code enforcement. The City and Sheriff's Office inspects a property when a complaint is made or staff notices a violation. Some of the more common code violations are listed below:

- **Garbage Containers:** All refuse, recycling and yard waste containers shall be kept in a building or screened from the road and neighboring properties, except before a scheduled collection.
- **Exterior storage of materials, equipment, or personal property:** All materials and equipment shall be completely screened from eye-level view of adjacent property and public streets.
- **Lawn maintenance:** Grasses and weeds may not exceed a height of eight inches (8"). All trees, bushes and hedges must leave a clear view of all traffic approaching an intersection.
- **Unpaved driveways:** Prior to the sale or property title transfer, non-paved driveways shall be paved with asphalt, concrete or other durable surfacing as approved by the City. Non-paved means gravel and driveways that are past their serviceable life. Please note that a permit is required prior to paving a non-paved driveway.

If you do receive a warning or citation, do not ignore it! Instead, take the necessary steps to correct the issue(s) listed on the notice. Always feel free to call City Hall at (651) 459-5677 if you do not understand the notice or need more time to correct the issue. Failure to resolve the issue may result in additional actions such as fines, a formal court complaint, or City facilitated abatement.

How to report code violations

Complaints may be filed with the City in person, by email, calling, or by mail and will be inspected by the City. Please note that all complaints are kept anonymous. To report a possible violation, please contact City Hall by visiting 596 7th Avenue, calling (651) 459-5677, or emailing reisenbeisz@newportmn.com.

Public Works Department

Compost Site - The Newport Compost and Brush Site is open through November 12, 2016 (will be closed November 11, 2016 for Veterans' Day). The hours of operation are Wednesdays and Fridays from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Grass and leaves are \$5 per vehicle load. Brush may be no more than 6" in diameter and also incurs a fee of \$5 per load. As the compost site is only open to Newport residents, please provide a photo ID or a current utility bill indicating your Newport address. Please note, plastic bags are not accepted and must be emptied and retained. If you choose to bag yard and organic waste, compostable bags are accepted. This reduces processing costs and enhances the quality of the finished compost, as the amount of plastic being sent to the landfills is greatly reduced. You may also drop off loads of unbagged yard/organic waste.

Mailboxes: Now is a good time for all residents to take a look at their mailboxes and posts. It is important to check for obvious damage, such as cracked boards or posts, missing screws, etc. Also, be sure to look below ground level to ensure that your post is still in good condition. A rotted post will not stand up to a Minnesota winter for very long, and repairs are more difficult to make after the ground has frozen. A single post should be used for the mailbox support that is constructed of either a 4-inch by 4-inch square wooden post, a 4-inch diameter wooden post, or a metal support of a weight of three pounds per foot or less for any one foot of vertical measurement above ground.

Fall Hours: The Public Works Department will revert to its fall hours on Monday, October 10, 2016. The hours of operation will be from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Winter Parking Ban

The City would like to remind residents that a winter parking ban will go into effect beginning October 1, 2016. This parking ban prohibits parking on either side of any City street between the hours of 2:00 and 6:00 a.m. Deputies will issue warnings until the first snowfall, at which time they will issue citations.

Water Conservation Rebate Program



The City of Newport, in conjunction with Washington County and the Metropolitan Council, is offering rebates for residents and business owners to promote water conservation. This program includes rebates for Energy Star clothes washing machines, WaterSense labeled toilets and WaterSense labeled Irrigation Controllers.

The rebate is 50% of the cost of the item, up to a maximum of \$100 for an Energy Star washer; \$50 for each WaterSense labeled toilet (maximum of two toilets per property); and \$100 for WaterSense labeled irrigation controllers.

REBATE PROGRAM:

To qualify for the rebate program: Applicants must be Newport residents or business owners; Properties must be connected to City water; and Products must be purchased in 2016 and installed at the address listed on the utility account.

Property owners wishing to receive a rebate must complete the required application and submit a receipt and proof of the Energy Star or WaterSense program qualification information. The receipt must clearly show the model number and date of purchase. Funds are limited and rebates will be processed on a **first come, first served basis**.

Energy Star clothes washing machines: By replacing your 10-year old or older washer with an Energy Star-qualified model, a family of four could save up to \$135 in energy costs per year and \$50 in water utility costs. The rebate is a maximum of \$100. **The funds are limited and on a first come, first served basis.**

WaterSense toilets: WaterSense toilets use 20% less water than current federal standard and up to 50% less than older toilets. A WaterSense toilet could use up to 4,000 gallons less of water each year compared to current federal standard. Both the tank and the bowl must have a WaterSense label to qualify for the rebate. The rebate is a maximum of \$50 per toilet (limit two toilets per household). **The funds are limited and on a first come, first served basis.**

WaterSense Irrigation Controllers: Rain sensors or Smart Controllers are devices installed in automatic sprinkler systems to avoid excess watering. They monitor rainfall and/or soil moisture and prevent watering during rainy periods. The sensors allow for normal watering when the soil is dry. The rebate is a maximum of \$100. The resident is responsible for applying for and receiving a permit for an irrigation controller before installation. **The funds are limited and on a first come, first served basis.**

Visit the City's website at ci.newport.mn.us for the rebate forms. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Deb Schulz, Accountant, at (651) 459-5677 / dschulz@newportmn.com.



Controlled Hunt in Loveland Park and Bailey School Forest

Since 2013, the Metro Bowhunters Resource Base (MBRB) have been conducting a controlled hunt in Loveland Park and Bailey School Forest after October 15th of each year. This will be the third year that the MBRB will conduct their hunt. They will be hunting in both parks November 5-6, November 19-20, December 3-4, and December 10-11. During this time, the parks will be closed to the public. Residents living adjacent to the parks will be sent information in October.

Fire Prevention Week and Fire Department Open House - October 9-15, 2016

Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9th falls every year since President Woodrow Wilson issued the very first proclamation back in 1922. This year's theme of "Don't Wait - Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years" stresses the importance of knowing how old your smoke detectors are, and replacing them after 10 years.



Like all electronic devices, smoke alarms have a limited service life. According to the National Fire Protection Agency, in 10 years there is roughly a 30% probability of failure. The chance of failure increases to more than 50% by 15 years. That is too big a risk to take, as three out of five home fire deaths result from fires in properties without working smoke alarms. To find out how old a smoke alarm is, look at the date of manufacture on the back of the alarm; the alarm should be replaced 10 years from that date. While replacing alarms after 10 years protects your home and your family against the chance of failure, monthly testing is still the most important way of making sure your alarm will work when you need it most.

The Newport Fire Department recognizes Fire Prevention Week with a visit to Newport Elementary, including a fun coloring contest. The Fire Department will also be holding an Open House on Friday, October 14th at 6:00 p.m. The Open House will be at Fire Station #1, located at 155 20th Street. There will be refreshments, door prizes, demonstrations, fire truck rides, and much more!

10th Annual Buckthorn Removal Day - October 29, 2016

The City's 10th Annual Buckthorn Removal Day will take place on Saturday, October 29, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Newport Bailey School Forest. Buckthorn invades yards and woods, forms a dense, prickly undergrowth, and competes with native plants for light, water, and nutrients. By volunteering you can help one of Newport's most beautiful parks by removing this invasive plant and learn how to control and prevent buckthorn's spread in your own yard.

Please be sure to wear long sleeved shirts, jeans or old pants, work shoes, and gloves. If you can, please bring any channel-locking pliers, a hacksaw, or loppers. Individuals will need to sign a liability waiver on Saturday morning and parents must sign for children who participate. To participate, please contact Renee Eisenbeisz at (651) 459-5677 / reisenbeisz@newportmn.com, by Monday, October 24, 2016, so that supplies and snacks can be arranged.

Express Station for MN State Fair at the Newport Transit Station

The Newport Transit Station, located at 250 Red Rock Crossing, will be an express station for the 2016 State Fair. The State Fair buses will operate from 8:00 a.m. to midnight and will leave the station approximately every 30 minutes. Rides are \$5 per person (4 and under ride free). Visit <http://www.metrotransit.org/state-fair> for more information.

The Newport Transit Station's schedule is below. The Transit Station offers express bus service between Newport and downtown St. Paul and features an indoor waiting area and large parking lot for commuters. Route 364 provides three express trips each weekday morning and afternoon. Visit www.metrotransit.org/Route/364 for more information.

Weekday Mornings			
Leaves Newport Transit Station	6:16 a.m.	6:59 a.m.	7:28 a.m.
Arrives Downtown St. Paul (6th Street and Cedar Street)	6:38 a.m.	7:22 a.m.	7:52 a.m.
Weekday Afternoons			
Leaves Downtown St. Paul (5th & 7th Streets)	4:05 p.m.	4:35 p.m.	5:25 p.m.
Arrives Newport Transit Station	4:34 p.m.	5:04 p.m.	5:54 p.m.

Senior Citizen Utility Discount - MUST BE RENEWED BY END OF NOVEMBER

Senior citizens who are 65 years of age and older are eligible for a discount on their quarterly utility bill. Individuals can sign up for the discount at City Hall by filling out an application and showing an ID. Individuals who have already signed up for this discount need to come into City Hall to renew it by the end of November 2016.

City of Newport
596 7th Avenue
Newport, MN 55055

PRE-SORTED
 STANDARD MAIL
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 PERMIT #29

City Hall:

Hours: M - Th 8 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
 Phone: (651) 459-5677
 Fax: (651) 459-9883
 www.ci.newport.mn.us

Public Works:

Phone: (651) 459-2475
 Fax: (651) 459-2043

Washington County Sheriff's Office

Records: (651) 430-7600
 Dispatch: (651) 439-9381
 Emergency: 9-1-1

Fire Department:

Office: (651) 459-9390
 Emergency: 9-1-1

Library:

Hours: Monday 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.
 Tues. & Wed. 1:00 - 8:00 p.m.
 Thursday 3:00 - 8:00 p.m.
 Friday 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
 Saturday 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.
 Sunday 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
 Phone: (651) 459-9631

POSTAL CUSTOMER NEWPORT, MN 55055

Winning Numbers from Pioneer Day Raffle

The City would like to thank everyone that came out to help celebrate Pioneer Day on August 14th, it was a great day! The City would also like to thank the following sponsors: 3M, Aggregate Industries, Amerect Inc., Anchor Bank, Cloverleaf Bar and Grill, Cottage Grove Area Chamber of Commerce, GRE Newport Services, John Bartl Hardware, Kiss' Auto Body, Marlon Naysmith, MN Renaissance Festival, Newport St. Paul Cold Storage, Newport Drug, North Pole Restaurant, Red's Savoy Pizza, Roscher Dental, RSI Agency, South Suburban Rental, St. Paul Park Newport Lions, Subway, Super America and St. Paul Park Refinery, Ten-E Packaging, Tinucci's, and Xcel Energy.

The raffle drawing took place at 5:00 p.m. on Pioneer Day and the winning numbers for prizes that weren't claimed that day are below. These numbers are located on your Pioneer Day button. If you have a winning number, please bring your button to City Hall to claim your prize.

Prize	Button #	Prize	Button #
4 Tickets to the September 25th Twins Game from Newport St. Paul Cold Storage	532	\$25 Gift Card to the Saint Paul Hotel	592
2 Tickets to the MN Renaissance Festival	334	\$20 Gift Card to Tinucci's	305 and 581
\$100 Gift Card to SuperAmerica	45 and 354	\$10 Gift Card to Tinucci's	299, 362, and 437
\$75 Gift Card to SuperAmerica	290 and 504	\$15 Gift Card to Taco John's	324
\$50 Gift Card to SuperAmerica	192, 241, and 341	\$15 Gift Card to the North Pole Restaurant	557
\$25 Gift Card to SuperAmerica	84, 100, 124, 189, 193, 254, 271, 275, 292, 306, and 519	\$20 Gift Card to the North Pole Restaurant	155, 277, and 360
		T-Shirts and Hats from Kiss' Auto Body	82 and 287
\$50 Gift Card to John Bartl Hardware	34 and 573	Free Party Platter from Subway	96