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CCEC Builds Connection Among Residents & Organizations

On Saturday, October 29, hundreds of kids will morph into princesses, scarecrows, minions and superheroes to attend the annual Community Halloween Party. Kids are all smiles as they play a variety of skill games, and, of course, collect their candy and prizes. The two, one-hour party sessions are the culmination of a lot of planning, phone calls, sponsorship requests and meetings by a hard-working City advisory committee, the Community & Civic Events Committee (CCEC).

Established in 2012, the CCEC plans and executes the Halloween party as well as the annual egg hunt in the spring. It also coordinates communications and outreach among several community nonprofit organizations to help prevent an overlap in events or service, and to support each group's successful events.

The community's Fire Rescue Days held each June is a shining example of the committee's teamwork and coordination. During the celebration's four-day run, several organizations host their own events in addition to the parade and games in the park – all of which must be orchestrated with one another for everyone to be successful. The CCEC does the Yeoman's work of managing all those details.

"The CCEC works hard and has a lot of fun in

the process," said City Clerk Sandra Green, the staff liaison to the CCEC. "Their efforts really bring together our community and give everyone a chance to socialize with their neighbors. One of the best outcomes from the committee might be how the nonprofit organizations have come together to support each other with ideas, promotional help or just providing supplies or tables and chairs to someone else when they need something. It's really great to see."

We at the City extend a hearty "thank you" to the CCEC's current and past volunteers representing:

- ◆ Boy Scout Troop 325
- ◆ Elko New Market Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Elko New Market Fire Relief Association
- ◆ Knights of Columbus
- ◆ Lakeville Area Community Education
- ◆ N.E.W. Lions
- ◆ New Prague Area Community Education
- ◆ Windmill Animal Rescue

In addition to Green, the City is represented on the CCEC by one Councilmember and one Parks Commissioner.



Halloween Party

When: Saturday, October 29, 2016
Where: Eagle View Elementary School
 25600 Nevada Avenue
 Elko New Market
Whom: Children up to 5th Grade
Times: Session 1 - 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
 Session 2 - 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Cost: Pre-registered: \$3/Child
 At the Door: \$5/Child or \$20/Family

This is a wristband event. The deadline to register is Friday, October 21st. Wristbands will be mailed on Monday, October 24th.

Sponsored by the
 Community & Civic
 Events Committee.





Free Yard Clean-up

Each local garbage provider will be doing a **FREE Pickup for their customers only** during the month of November of the following:

- ◆ Leaves
- ◆ Grass Clippings
- ◆ Branches: 3 ft. lengths bundled

Use compostable brown paper bags for leaves and grass clippings.

PLEASE—NO PLASTIC BAGS.

Contact your garbage provider for the exact date of pickup.

**PAST
DUE**

Department Spotlight

Public Works Employs Smart Purchasing Practices to Contain Equipment Expenses

A year ago, the driveway to the new Public Works facility and the Water Treatment Plant was a pot-hole laden gravel road. It had to be upgraded to withstand the daily back-and-forth of maintenance vehicles. Contractors' bids for paving the 3/8 of a mile stretch came in at \$40,000-50,000 – an amount outside the Public Works budget.

Public Works arrived at an alternative: purchase a used road paver and have the Public Works staff pave the driveway as on-the-job training. Total cost? Paver: \$2,700, asphalt: \$11,000. Having the paver allowed Public Works to complete projects throughout the summer that otherwise would not have been done.

In terms of City's physical assets, our Public Works maintenance equipment is among the costliest and most used. Plow trucks, commercial-grade lawnmowers, street sweepers, pavers and utility trucks can be large budget items for a City our size. Schweich and his staff maximize his capital equipment budget through shrewd purchasing practices.

"We wouldn't buy a paver new because it's a specialized piece of equipment that won't get used every day," he said. "Because we were able to pick it up for very cheap, it's been worth it. There's a lot of paving we can do rather than having a contractor do it." Public Works staff learn about quality equipment other cities may be upgrading through their professional peers and auctions. All of the used purchases are evaluated by a mechanic to ensure they will meet the City's demands prior to purchasing.

Public Works' first street sweeper was purchased for \$1,000. After a little paint, a few minor repairs and a couple of years of sporadic use, Schweich got \$5,000 when he traded it in for a newer, nicer, but still used, sweeper. Schweich knew an upgrade was needed when his department took over all of the street-sweeping responsibilities that were previously outsourced.

Similar purchasing savvy has been used to get a bat-wing mower, a tractor with a ditch mower and snow blower, and three plow/dump trucks. They were all were bought for a fraction of the cost of new.

Equipment such as skid-steer loaders and smaller lawnmowers have to be purchased new because Public Works puts a lot of hours on them and the staff cannot afford them to breakdown. As the City grows, Schweich anticipates the increasing demands on equipment will mean more new purchases.

Even when buying new, Schweich finds the best prices through State-negotiated contracts that municipalities can access. These contracts offer upfront pricing that is significantly less than street price. The City purchased a new pick-up in 2013 for about \$10,000 below the going rate.

"We have to be thrifty to conserve our budget and keep taxes down," Schweich said.

"Someday, we'll be buying new more often but we're not there yet. When we're to the point of using a dump truck every day, we can't have a 15-year old truck."

Delinquent Utility Bills to be Certified to Property

The City of Elko New Market would like to remind residents that all unpaid delinquent utility bills are certified once a year to Scott County to be collected with property taxes.

Letters were sent to property owners on September 30th with delinquent utility balances on their accounts. This letter informed property owners of the full amount that is pending

certification to property taxes. If full payment of the delinquent utility bill is not received at City Offices by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, October 31, 2016, the City will certify the outstanding balance to Scott County.

If you have any questions, please contact City Offices at (952) 461-2777 or email sschultz@ci.enm.mn.us.

Getting Answers: Contacting City Hall vs. Social Media

Got a question about something happening within Elko New Market? While your tendency may be to open your Facebook app and post a question in a neighborhood group, actually contacting City Hall will generally get you a more accurate answer, faster. Let's play this out...

Question: I have a major plumbing project—how do I get the water shut off to my house?

Method #1:

Call City Hall at (952) 461-2777

Our helpful Administrative Assistant, Stephanie Schultz, schedules a time for the water shut off and contacts Corey Schweich, the Public Works Superintendent, to have Public Works come to the home to shut off the water. Done.

Method #2:

Email the City at info@ci.enm.mn.us

Your email is received in our general email inbox, which is monitored throughout the day, and either responded to immediately or forwarded to the appropriate department for a response, generally within a few hours. If you prefer, you can also email staff directly. You'll find all staff contacts under "Departments" on our website (www.ci.enm.mn.us).

Method #3:

Post to a Neighborhood Facebook Page

You post your question, hoping someone provides a helpful response immediately so you don't need to continuously watch for notifications. Up pops a response, "Boy, I wish I knew. If you find out, let me know." Another response, "Call a plumber. Here's my wife's second cousin's info. I think he does that kind of stuff." Wait, another response: "I looked for my house shut off once and couldn't find it." By now, you're probably growing tired of the exchange and go about your business. Ping, a notification comes in. Checking it, you see that someone, perhaps a helpful City Councilmember, tells you to contact City Hall. What a great idea! Why didn't you do that sooner?

City staff is here to answer your questions. Save yourself time and contact us first.

Grading Permits

Depending on where you are within the City, you may soon notice dirt moving on two parcels of land. The City has issued a grading permit for the lot that is on the southeast quadrant of the intersection at County Roads 2 and 91. Another permit was issued for a 50-acre parcel on the south side of 275th Street, a parcel of land recently annexed into the City from New Market Township.

No formal development applications have been filed with the City for either site. Based on discussions with the developers, however, the City has been contacted on a commercial/retail building proposed on the County Road 2 and 91 site, and a development of approximately 130 single-family homes is planned for the location on 275th Street. More information will be provided if and when formal applications are received.

Lawn Care Tips for Fall

- Leaves, rake em' up!** Left in the street, they can clog storm drains, contributing to localized flooding. When washed into nearby ponds, lakes and streams via storm drains or ditches, the leaves become a major source of phosphorus, the nutrient that allows algae to bloom in the summer. Dispose of leaves by composting them in your yard, bringing them to your community compost facility or bagging them for curbside pick-up. Keep leaves and yard waste out of the regular garbage, and never dump them in wetlands or buffer areas – it's illegal!
- Mow:** Cutting your grass 2-3" tall allows for more root growth and water infiltration. Less than 2" of leaves on the ground can be mulched into your lawn using a couple passes of a power mower.
- Test your Soil:** Before you move on to step 4, find out what your soil is hungry for. Details at <http://soiltest.cfans.umn.edu>.
- Fertilize:** Fall is the best time to fertilize lawns, providing nutrients for spring growth. Use Zero-Phosphorus fertilizer and water lawn for 1-2 hours after application.
- Control weeds:** Autumn is the best time to treat invasive plants found in turfgrass. Hand pull or spot-treat with herbicide.



CITY OF ELKO NEW MARKET

601 Main Street
PO Box 99
Elko New Market, MN 55020

Phone: (952) 461-2777
Fax: (952) 461-2782

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Elko New Market, MN



Residents should be aware that all dogs residing within Elko New Market city limits must be licensed with the City. Please clean up after your pet. In addition, frequent or continual barking is prohibited. Questions? Call (952) 461-2777

October 2016 Calendar

6	Planning Commission	7:00 pm
11	Parks Commission	4:00 pm
13	City Council Work Session	6:30 pm
	City Council Business Meeting	7:30 pm
27	Economic Development Authority	6:30 pm
	City Council Business Meeting	7:30 pm

2016 Community Events

2016 Event Schedule

Halloween Party October 29th
(Register Now! - Deadline Oct. 21st)

2016 General Election November 8th

November 2016 Calendar

3	Planning Commission	7:00 pm
11	Veterans Day	City Offices Closed
15	Parks Commission—Rescheduled	4:00 pm
17	City Council Work Session	6:30 pm
	City Council Business Meeting	7:30 pm
24	Thanksgiving Holiday	City Offices Closed
25	Day After Thanksgiving	City Offices Closed

Watch upcoming newsletters and the City website at www.ci.enm.mn.us for more community events as they are scheduled.



(All meetings are subject to change.)