

# JANUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER



## PARKS COMMISSION VACANCY

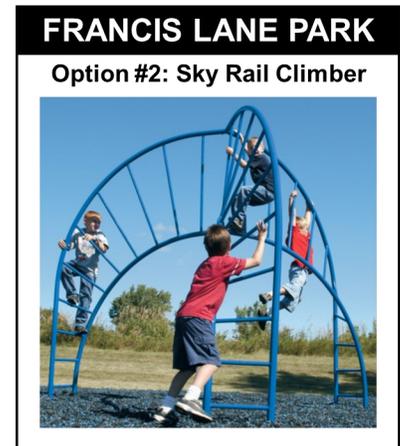
The Elko New Market Parks Commission is looking for a person to fill a vacancy due to a resignation. The new member would be appointed by the Elko New Market City Council to complete a term ending March 31, 2015. Applications must be received at Elko New Market City Offices by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 17, 2014.

Among the Commission's responsibilities are to advise the City Council on development and maintenance of all parks, to monitor the parks comprehensive plan, to assist in the formulation of annual budget, and to develop long term capital improvement plans for city parks. More importantly, to assist in the implementation of Elko New Market Community Oriented Local Government Policy by acting as a representative to the public for better lines of communication and citizen input on all parks and recreation matters.

The Parks Commission Application Form can be found on the City Website at [www.ci.enm.mn.us](http://www.ci.enm.mn.us) under Employment, or by contacting City Offices at (952) 461-2777 to request an Application Form be mailed to you. More information on the Parks Commission can be found on the City Website under Government, or by calling Assistant City Administrator Mark Nagel, at (952) 461-2777 or email [mnagel@ci.enm.mn.us](mailto:mnagel@ci.enm.mn.us).

## THE RESULTS ARE IN FOR NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT!!!

The Parks Commission has tallied the 63 online ballots for new playground equipment at 3 neighborhood parks for installation next Spring. The results are as follows: Wagner Park – Spinami; Whispering Hills Park – Cascade Climber; and Francis Lane Park – Sky Rail Climber. Pictures of the new playground equipment are shown below and can also be found on the City's website at [www.ci.enm.mn.us](http://www.ci.enm.mn.us), under the Parks Department. The Parks Commission approved purchase of these new pieces at their November meeting. Thanks to all that took the time to vote!



## ICE RINKS

Elko New Market ice rinks are now open from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., depending upon weather conditions. Please visit the City's website at [www.ci.enm.mn.us](http://www.ci.enm.mn.us) for information on ice rinks status.

## NEW PRAGUE AREA COMMUNITY EDUCATION WINTER CATALOG IS HERE!

January and February bring lots of cold weather activities to Elko New Market including a Family Beach Party, Parents' Night Out (date night for parents with children Pre-K to 5th Grade), Moms Who SNAP (tips on how to capture those adorable photo moments with your children), Driver's Education, Fencing, Zumba and much, much more.

The New Prague Area Community Education Winter Catalog was delivered to all New Prague Area school district homes the first week of January. If you did not receive it, you may pick one up at the Elko New Market Library, City Hall or Eagle View Elementary School. You can also check us out online at [ce.np.k12.mn.us](http://ce.np.k12.mn.us).



## **FIRE SAFETY TIPS DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON**

There have been 30 fire related deaths to date in 2013, compared with 44 this time last year. The state's all-time low fire death figure was 35 in 2009; the high was 134 in 1976.

According to State Fire Marshal Division records, people leaving food unattended on the stove is the main culprit in home fires. Stove fires are particularly dangerous because they don't behave like other fires. Most of them are grease-fueled, and people who panic and use water or a fire extinguisher on a stove fire will only spread the flames.

**Stove fires should be smothered. Put a lid on the pan or close the oven; fire can't live without air.**

Other tips that can save your holiday from ruin:

- Keep a close eye on food cooking on the stove top.
- Keep a tight lid next to each pot or pan.
- Keep rags, pot holders, paper towel and curtains away from the stove.
- Roll up your sleeves and keep an apron snug.
- Clean cooking surfaces, oven and equipment often; grease and heat are a deadly combination.
- Keep children out of the kitchen, away from the stove.
- **Make sure your smoke alarms are working!**

Have a Happy & Safe holiday season!!

## **WINTER EMERGENCY PARKING**

Police Chief Mortenson would like to remind all Elko New Market residents of the Winter Emergency Parking Regulations. City Ordinance (Parking Regulations: 7-2-3 (B)) prohibits parking on any City street until the street has been cleaned curb to curb during a winter snow emergency. A winter snow emergency is when the national weather service forecast accumulation is two (2) or more inches of snow. A violation of the winter parking ordinance is a Misdemeanor and may result in a citation and/or towing of the vehicle. The term "Emergency" means a condition created on City streets because of the presence of snow, freezing rain, sleet or ice thereon, or other natural phenomenon which creates hazardous road conditions or impedes or is likely to impede the free movement of fire, health, police, emergency or other vehicular traffic, when the same has been duly declared.



No owner of a motor vehicle, trailer, boat, snowmobile, or recreational vehicle shall leave, park, or permit the same to stand on a street, city-owned parking lot, or alley when winter parking emergency has been declared.

**SNOWBIRDS WILL BE TICKETED, AND MAY BE TOWED, AT THE OWNER'S EXPENSE!** Thank You for Your Cooperation.

For a complete copy of the City Code pertaining to winter parking rules, please contact the Elko New Market City Hall, 601 Main Street, telephone (952) 461-2777 or email [info@ci.enm.mn.us](mailto:info@ci.enm.mn.us).

Chief Steve Mortenson

## **POST OFFICE NEWS**

The Post Office would like to remind residents of the following regarding mail delivery: To ensure delivery of your mail, customers must remove obstructions such as SNOW, ice, vehicles, trash cans, sporting equipment etc. from blocking the mailboxes. A clear path of 30 feet approaching and 30 feet beyond the mailbox is required for the mail carrier to safely and efficiently deliver the mail.

**Your carrier must have access to the mailbox without leaving the vehicle.** The Postal Service appreciates your cooperation in this matter.

Any questions or concerns regarding your mail delivery should be directed to the Elko New Market Post Office at (952) 461-2150.

## WINTER SALT TREATMENTS



It's hard to imagine anyone is eager to get up early to shovel snow from their driveway and sidewalk during the upcoming days of winter, but as long as our neighborhoods have clear roadways and walkways, snow doesn't seem to present much of a problem.

Snow gets piled in grass areas and sections of parking lots where it can eventually melt, however its not just the snow being transported, snowpack piles also include the accumulated cinders, stones, salt and other de-icing chemicals that were used to treat the roads, driveways and sidewalks.

Tips:

- ◆ **Don't apply more than you need**
- ◆ **Instead of traditional rock salt, look for non-toxic, biodegradable ice-melts**

Otherwise you may be flushing chlorides and your money down the storm drain.

Biodegradable may be more expensive, but it's less harmful to environment and it can have lingering effects requiring less applications.

Traditional rock salt (sodium chloride) corrodes steel in bridges and cars. It can harm plants if it accumulates into to the soils and can affect drinking water wells.

- ◆ **Avoid using sand**

Snow melt and wind transport the sand and grit into storm drains, which ultimately enters nearby streams. Sand settles in stream bottoms, reducing fish habitat and aquatic life.

Just like rain, snow melt has the ability to transform our lawns into mud flats and fill our stream banks in spring. Help reduce winter's polluting impact to our Watershed by monitoring your use of salt and de-icing treatments.

## KEEP "FLUSHABLE WIPES" OUT OF THE SEWER SYSTEM

The past few years have seen the introduction of more and more disposable wipe products for a variety of household uses. Many of these products are labeled as not only disposable, but also flushable. While marketed as convenience items, these products may potentially become a huge inconvenience because they may clog not only the sewer on your property, but also cause blockages and backup problems in Elko New Market's public sewer system and lift stations.



To understand how these wipes can become a problem, it's important to know how the sewer system works. Every home has a sewer connection that runs from the home to the public sewer system. This sewer service line is the responsibility of the homeowner to maintain so there are no backups of wastewater into the home. From there, the sewage moves into larger collector lines, and pump stations help lift the wastewater across different elevations in the sewer system.

Why are household wipes a problem? Unlike toilet paper, these products do not break down once they are flushed. They can then cause blockages in your home sewer lines, especially in older pipelines that may have already existing grease, roots or other obstructions, resulting in the backup of sewage into the home. A repair of the service line can leave the homeowner with a nasty repair bill—often not covered by homeowners' insurance—and an even nastier cleanup.

On a larger scale, when these products make their way into the public sewer system, they collect together and cause clogs in the collector lines and get tangled in lift station pumps. When pump stations are clogged, they stop working and require cleaning and repair— or even replacement—in order to get the sewage moving again.

Avoid a nasty cleanup in your home and help protect the city's sewer system by never flushing any consumer item that is not toilet paper into the sewer system, regardless of what the packaging promises. Put these items in the trash instead:

Diapers  
Toilet cleaning pads  
Moist towelettes

Disinfecting wipes or baby wipes  
Mop refills  
Feminine hygiene products

Cotton swabs  
Paper towels

CITY OF ELKO NEW MARKET

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Residents should be aware that all dogs residing within Elko New Market city limits must be licensed with the City. Questions? Call (952) 461-2777

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSSDDM\*\*\*\*

Postal Customer  
Elko New Market, MN

**JANUARY 2014 CALENDAR**

- 1 New Year's Day City Offices Closed
- 7 Planning Commission 7:00 pm
- 9 City Council Workshop 6:30 pm
- City Council Business Meeting 7:30 pm
- 14 Parks & Rec Commission 4:00 pm
- 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day City Offices Closed
- 23 Economic Development Authority 6:30 pm
- City Council Business Meeting 7:30 pm

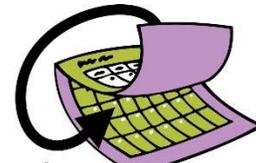
**FEBRUARY 2014 CALENDAR**

- 4 Planning Commission 7:00 pm
- 11 Parks & Rec Commission 4:00 pm
- 13 City Council Workshop 6:30 pm
- City Council Business Meeting 7:30 pm
- 17 President's Day City Offices Closed
- 27 City Council Workshop 6:30 pm
- City Council Business Meeting 7:30 pm

**2014 COMMUNITY EVENTS**

- April 12th Egg Hunt
  - May 15th-17th City Wide Garage Sales
  - June 7th Spring Clean Up
  - June 27th-29th Fire Rescue Days
  - August 5th Night to Unite
  - October 25th Halloween Party
- (Tentative dates—subject to change.)*

Watch upcoming newsletters and the City website at [www.ci.enm.mn.us](http://www.ci.enm.mn.us) for more community events as they are scheduled.



Mark Your  
Calendar