

Elko New Market

Official Newsletter of the City of Elko New Market

Fire Chief Retires After 35 Years

The City of Elko New Market recently recognized retired Fire Chief Todd Friedges for his 35 years of service on the Fire Department, and 25 years as the Fire Chief.

Todd grew up in Elko New Market and is a current resident. He joined the Fire Department in 1989, and was appointed as the Chief in 2000. During Todd's tenure as Fire Chief, both the community and the Fire Department experienced tremendous change.

As Chief, Todd had a commitment and a vision for the future of the Department. One of his greatest attributes was his forward-thinking leadership, recognizing the importance of advancing the Fire Department and ensuring that it could meet the needs of a growing and thriving community. This vision for the Department wasn't just about its resources or capabilities - it was also about the people. As a leader, he promoted personal growth, knowledge, and professionalism.

During the recognition ceremony, Todd said that it was a great honor to serve the City of Elko New Market, New Market Township and Cedar Lake Township. He also thanked the firefighters that he served with through the years. "It was my honor to work with them. As I've always said, it takes a team. It is not just me. I've had a great team. We've come a long way, we've done a lot of things. I am privileged to have worked with them. I am proud of them...Elko New Market should be very proud." He concluded with, "The Elko New Market Fire Department has come a long ways from the beginning to where we are today."

According to City Administrator Tom Terry, "Todd was the right person at the right time to put the Fire Department in the best position for the future. Todd has been a leader in the Department for so long that I believe many do not realize the total impact he had and the legacy he leaves behind. Many of the issues that small town fire departments face as they mature, Todd addressed proactively. (continued on Page 2).

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Fire Chief Retires After 35 Years

As a result, we didn't have the same growing pains, at least not to the same extent, as other communities. Todd is an example of leadership, public service, and commitment to community."

While not part of his official duties as a firefighter or as the Chief, Todd's contributions as the Gambling Manager for the Elko New Market Fire Relief Association cannot be overlooked. Fire Relief Association President Jodi Muelken explained, "Todd has been the Gambling Manager for the Fire Relief Association since we started our Charitable Gambling program. In that role, he worked to grow the Fire Relief Association's Charitable Gambling, and his efforts over the years enabled the Fire Relief Association to raise funds for scholarships, support youth activities, and support the Fire Department. In the last five years alone, the Fire Relief Association has donated over \$700,000 to the City's Fire Department, allowing it to be better equipped, with less burden on the taxpayers. That was only possible because of Todd."

In recognizing Chief Friedges, Mayor Ganfield stated, "We celebrate not only your 35 years of service but also the deep pride and purpose with which you've served. You've left a lasting mark on the Fire Department, the people who serve in it, and the community you've protected. Your leadership, dedication, and vision have set a standard that will inspire us for years to come."



Reduction in 2025 Water and Sewer Utility Rates

Every year, the City reviews the Utility rates. In late 2024, the City Council made a number of notable adjustments to the utility rate structure for 2025. This included a 10% decrease to water base and user fees, along with a 3% decrease to sewer base and user fees. This decrease was decided upon because it was concluded to be optimal; residents bills will be lowered, while also maintaining a healthy utility fund.

Shown below is a comparison of 2024 and 2025 utility costs for a sample home in Elko New Market that uses 6,000 gallons of water per month.

	2024	2025
Water Base Fee	\$35.02	\$31.52
6,000 Gallons	\$17.70	\$15.96
Sewer Base Fee	\$30.09	\$29.19
Sewer Usage	\$29.22	\$28.32
Storm Water Base	\$6.71	\$6.71
Supplementary Rate	\$2.43	\$2.43
Total	\$121.17	\$114.42

City Staff would also like to remind residents of the Senior Utility Discount Program. Residents aged 62 and over are eligible to receive the discount. Eligible applicants shall receive a 50% discount on water and sewer base fees for their residential premises. More information can be found at the following link: www.ci.enm.mn.us/cityforms, or by calling City Hall at (952) 461-2777, M-F, 8:00-4:30.

March Family Fun Nights

Please see the schedule below for the family fun nights planned for March. The family fun nights are planned for Thursdays at the Elko New Market Library (110 J. Roberts Way). A special thank you to the City's Recreation Specialist Jessica Davidson for doing such a great job of putting together family friendly community events. We highly encourage residents to participate in the events, not just in March, but for the entire year. We will send out additional information for future family fun nights both via the City Newsletter and the City Facebook Page.

MARCH FAMILY FUN NIGHTS


CITY OF ELKO NEW MARKET PRESENTS

FREE Events
Starting at 6 pm



Family Engineering Night


Hosted by: The Works Museum

 Get ready to unleash your inner inventor with hands-on engineering fun. Perfect for those curious minds!



Wildlife Show


Hosted by: Sustainable Safari

 Check out this awesome wildlife show! It's a great way to learn about animals, natural history and sustainability practices.



Build a Birdfeeder

Hosted by: Elpis Enterprises

 Join us for an engaging and hands-on workshop where you can create your very own birdfeeder to take home.

**Thursdays at
the ENM Library**



March Calendar

City Council

Meeting - 13th @ 7:00 PM

Meeting - 27th @ 7:00 PM

All City Council meetings include a work session portion of the meeting, which occurs prior to the business meeting. If the work session is canceled, the business meeting will be moved to 6:00 P.M., except on dates Economic Development Authority (EDA) meetings are scheduled. On those dates, the business meeting will be moved to 7:00 P.M.

Parks Commission

Meeting - 12th @ 6:00 PM

Planning Commission

Meeting - 25th @ 7:00 PM

April Calendar

City Council

Meeting - 10th @ 7:00 PM

Meeting - 24th @ 7:00 PM

All City Council meetings include a work session portion of the meeting, which occurs prior to the business meeting. If the work session is canceled, the business meeting will be moved to 6:00 P.M., except on dates Economic Development Authority (EDA) meetings are scheduled. On those dates, the business meeting will be moved to 7:00 P.M.

Parks Commission

Meeting - 9th @ 6:00 PM

Planning Commission

Meeting - 29th @ 7:00 PM



Annual Egg Hunt

When	Saturday, April 12, 2025 @ 10:00 am
Where	Eagle View Elementary School 25600 Nevada Avenue
Who	Children up to 5th grade
Cost	\$3 Pre-registration Per Child \$5 Day of Egg Hunt Per Child

The Civic & Community Events Committee (CCEC) will be hosting our annual 2025 Egg Hunt. This event is fun for toddlers through 5th graders. The Egg Hunt will be on the playground and outdoor fields. Dress warm and arrive early. (Alternate accommodation may need to be made in inclement weather).

Take pictures with our special guest: the Easter Bunny! All kids will receive a gift bag filled with candy and prizes.

Pre-register by mail through Friday, April 4, 2025. Wristbands will be mailed out. Pre-register in person at City Hall through Friday, April 11, 2025. Wristbands are handed out at City Hall. We strongly suggest pre-registering to avoid delays at the Egg Hunt. Registration forms are available at City Hall or on the City's website at www.ci.enm.mn.us/events.

Return completed form along with payment (\$3.00 per child) to: City of Elko New Market, Attn: Egg Hunt, PO Box 99, Elko New Market, MN 55020.

Please contact Lynda Jirak at (952) 461-2777 or email ljirak@ci.enm.mn.us if you have any questions.



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2025 Community Events

Easter Egg Hunt - Apr. 12
City Wide Garage Sale - May 15
Spring Clean Up - June 7
Fire Rescue Days - June 26-29
Night to Unite - Aug. 5
Community Picnic - Aug 23
Halloween Party - Oct. 25
Tree Lighting - Dec. 6

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

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Twitter (X): bit.ly/ENMtwitter

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