

Newport's News

Spring 2022

www.ci.newport.mn.us

(651) 459-5677



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



Upcoming Events:

City Council

March 3, 2022 @ 5:30 p.m.

March 17, 2022 @ 5:30 p.m.

Planning Commission

March 8, 2022 @ 5:30 p.m.

Mayor:

Laurie Elliott 612-403-6096
lelliott.newport@gmail.com

Council Members:

Kevin Chapdelaine
612-508-1284
chapdelaine61@msn.com

Tom Ingemann 651-459-9695
tingemann45@gmail.com

Marvin Taylor 612-760-0756
marvinnewport@gmail.com

Roz Johnson 651-459-1089
rjohnson.newportmn@gmail.com

Message from the Sheriff's Office

As Spring approaches and the weather gets warmer, please watch for more pedestrian and bicycle traffic. As always, if you see something suspicious, give us a call 24/7 at 651-439-9381 or 911. The WCSO Newport Deputies are happy to respond and check it out.

Adopt-A-Park

Adopt-a-Park/Trail Program - The City would like to thank the multiple families, organizations and individuals who have taken it upon themselves to adopt a park or trail in Newport. Currently, 17 of the 25 parks and trails are adopted! The remaining parks and trails are **Loveland Park, Pioneer Park, 12th Street & Park Place Overlook, Maxwell Avenue, Red Rock Road, the flower gardens at City Hall, Oliver Overlook, and Planters on the wall along Hastings Avenue.** If you would like to adopt any of these, or would like more information, please contact Deb Schulz at (651) 459-5677 / dschulz@newportmn.com.

Library and Community Center Update

Winter warm-up reading challenge is on! Youth may stop in to receive a reading log. Join the challenge.

Free tutoring for K-5 grade students Mondays & Tuesdays 4:30-5:30 p.m. Contact the Library at (651) 459-9631 to sign-up. This is a combination of peer tutoring and adult led tutoring. The program includes: homework help, small group reading, active breaks, learning games, and educational crafts.

PAWS to Read - Visit with Charlie, a registered therapy dog, Tuesdays from 4:15-5:15 p.m.

The 4th Saturday of the month is Adult Craft Day from 12:00-4:00 p.m. Bring your current project and enjoy social time with members of the community.

Library and Community Center hours: Monday & Wednesday 2:00-8:00 p.m., Tuesday 2:00-6:00 p.m., Thursday 2:00-5:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00-5:00 p.m.

Message from Mayor Elliott

State of the City: Here are some highlights of Newport's many successes in 2021.

Safe Drinking Water. The City secured 3M settlement funds for water interconnects to Woodbury and Cottage Grove. When PFAS contaminants are detected in our water supply, we will connect to their water systems (with PFAS filtering funded by the trust) and Newport will enjoy the same water quality as surrounding cities.

New Public Service Building. Construction of our new City Hall/Fire Station/Law Enforcement Center will be completed later this year. The building has been designed for a 100-year life span, serving residents for decades to come.

Park Priorities. 250 randomly selected residents were surveyed about our park system. The top three priorities were playground replacement and upgrades, a dog park, and sports courts. Staff and Council are working on these items.

Refinery Safety. Rep. Franke, Sen. Bigham and the Council successfully passed a bill requiring a full-time firefighting crew at the Marathon refinery. This improves safety for our residents and Newport's paid-on-call firefighters.

Logo Updated. An updated logo will be rolled-out with our new website design and new building opening. The new logo stays true to our current paddleboat theme.

Nuisance Code Updated. This update clarified the process for handling nuisance complaints and timelines for compliance, improving its effectiveness.

Recycle Everywhere You Go

Even when you are not home, you can make decisions that are environmentally friendly:

- Don't buy individually wrapped items and bring your own bags with you.
- Don't buy bottled water, instead bring a refillable water bottle.
- If the closest trash bins don't have recycling, look for recycling bins or bring a bag for recyclables.
- If you don't see recycling bins at your favorite places (outside or inside), ask for it.

Visit RethinkRecycling.com for more ideas. Minnesotans recycle over 2.3 million tons a year creating new products.

Before Selling a Home in Newport

Televise Sewer Line—All properties connected to the City of Newport's sanitary sewer shall have the sewer lateral inspected and certified to be in compliance with City standards prior to sale or title transfer.

Paving Driveways—All parking areas and driveways that are unpaved or past serviceable life that are connected to paved roads are required to be paved with asphalt, concrete or other materials approved by the City prior to sale or title transfer.

Water Meter Reading—The City of Newport will perform a final read of your water meter on the day of sale. Contact City Hall at least two days before a closing date to set up a final water meter read. The fee for a final water meter read is \$25 and will be applied to your final bill. If you have any questions call City Hall at (651) 459-5677.

Get SMART About Salt

Winter salt helps keep us safe but it also causes damage.

Winter salting can cause damage to our water, wildlife, plants buildings and cars. We can all play a part in getting smart about salt.

Here's what you can do this winter:

- **Shovel:** Clear walkways before snow turns to ice & before you apply salt. The more snow you clear, the less salt you need.
- **Prevent ice patches:** Ensure eaves don't drip or drain onto walkways and driveways.
- **Treat ice patches:**
 - 1) Create traction with kitty litter or sand. (Salt doesn't melt ice if the pavement is below 15° F.)
 - 2) Remove ice with an ice chopper and only use salt when necessary and according to package instructions.

Help Keep Newport Streets Clear of Snow

Please keep recycling and garbage containers in your driveway and not on the street to help the plows clear snow to the curb.

Water Conservation Rebate Program

The City of Newport, in conjunction with Washington County, is offering rebates for residents and business owners to promote water conservation. This program includes rebates for replacing old clothes washing machines with Energy Star clothes washing machines, replacing old toilets with WaterSense toilets and installing a WaterSense irrigation controller.

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 toilet (maximum of two toilets per property); and \$100 for a WaterSense irrigation controller.

REBATE PROGRAM:

To qualify for the rebate program:

- Applicants must be Newport residents or business owners.
- Properties must be connected to City water.
- Products must be purchased and installed at the address listed on the utility account.

The resident is responsible for applying for and receiving a permit for an irrigation controller before installation.

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**. For rebate forms and more information, visit www.ci.newport.mn.us or call City Hall at (651) 459-5677.

Community Garden

The City's Community Garden is located at the north east corner of 4th Avenue and 15th Street on the west side of Highway 61. There are 16 individual garden plots that can be rented out. The 10 foot by 10 foot plots are \$20 each and the 5 foot by 10 foot plots are \$10 each. Each plot also requires a \$20 deposit. If you are interested in reserving a spot for the 2022 season, please contact City Hall at (651) 459-5677.

Volunteers Needed: Volunteers are needed for the Newport Giving Garden at the Community Garden. All of the produce grown in the Giving Garden is donated to the *Friends In Need Food Shelf*, which serves Newport, St Paul Park, and Cottage Grove. Volunteers don't need to be experienced gardeners. Amateurs are welcome. Work times are flexible and don't require an ongoing commitment. Help is most needed in July and August. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Marge, at mecphi@gmail.com.

E-billing and Payment Available for Water Utility Billing

Water bills can be emailed and paid from a bank savings or checking account at no charge. Through Payment Service Network (PSN), residents can create an account with the option to receive an emailed bill and either auto-pay or log in to pay bills. To create an account go to www.ci.newport.mn.us and click on the green button half way down the page on the right-hand side stating "Pay On-line and/or Set Up Email Billing." Residents will need the name on the account and the account number.

Paying your water utility bill with your bank saving or checking account is free. If you prefer to pay with a credit/debit card, the fee is 3.3 percent (+.50 for payments under \$100).

Compost Site - Opens Saturday, April 9th

The Newport Compost and Brush Site will be open for the season on Saturday, April 9th. The hours 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. All brush must be less than six inches in diameter and incurs a fee of \$5 per cubic yard. Grass and leaves incur a fee of \$5 per vehicle load. Please note that only brush and leaves in compostable bags will be accepted. Otherwise, you must remove the leaves and brush from non-compostable bags and take the bags with you.

Change Batteries in Smoke Alarms & Carbon Monoxide Detectors When You "Spring" Ahead!

This year our clocks will "spring forward" on Sunday March 13th. The Newport Fire Department wants to remind everyone, this is also a good time to change the batteries in all of your home's smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Replacing batteries in smoke alarms and CO detectors should be done at least once a year and changing them while changing your clocks serves as a perfect reminder. This is also a good time to check the date on your detectors. Replace smoke detectors that are 10 years old, and CO alarms that are 5 to 7 years old. Check the manufacturer's guidelines for more details.

Be sure to test your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors once a month and replace the battery anytime you hear the alarm "chirp!" The National Fire Protection Agency reports that three out of five fire related deaths occurred in structures without working smoke alarms.

Recreational Fires: Safety Tips & Reminders from the Newport Fire Department

- Recreational fires in Newport do not require a permit
 - Fires cannot be larger than three feet in diameter by three feet high.
 - Only clean unpainted and untreated wood is allowed.
 - In addition, no brush, yard, building or household waste may be burned
 - A garden hose connected to a water supply, fire extinguisher or other means of extinguishment must be available while the fire is burning
 - An adult must be present at all times
 - The fire must be fully extinguished before being left unattended
 - Never use gasoline or other flammable liquids, even if you think the fire is completely extinguished
 - Keep children and pets a safe distance away from the fire
 - Be a good neighbor, be aware of wind conditions & where the smoke from your fire is traveling
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City of Newport
596 7th Avenue
Newport, MN 55055

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 : Mon & Wed 2:00-8:00 p.m.
Tues 2:00-6:00 p.m.
Thurs 2:00-5:00 p.m.
Sat 12:00-5:00 p.m.

Please email library@newportmn.com or
call or call City Hall to verify hours.

Phone: (651) 459-9631

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Voucher for FREE Bulky Item Disposal

The City of Newport and Washington County are partnering together to provide one voucher to each Newport household for the free disposal of **one** bulky item at the Recycling and Energy Center located at 100 Red Rock Road in Newport. Residents will enter the center from Red Rock Road which is located off of Maxwell Avenue, north of 494. Residents can use the voucher for: tires, tire rims, furniture (excluding mattresses/box springs), and appliances. The Recycling and Energy Center is open Monday - Thursday from 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., Friday from 6:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 6:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Please bring the voucher printed below along with a form of ID showing that you are a Newport resident when you are dropping off your item.**

Below is a list of all bulky items accepted at the Facility and their non-voucher rates:

- **Tires:** \$8.00 each
- **Tire Rims:** \$10.00 each
- **Mattress/Box Spring:** \$30.00 each plus tax
- **Large Furniture:** \$20.00 each plus tax
- **Appliances:** Non-Freon - \$16.00 Each, Freon - \$20.00 Each
- **Electronics:** \$30.00 each

Please note that electronics and several other items can be disposed of for free at the Washington County Environmental Center, 4039 Cottage Grove Drive, Woodbury, MN 55129. The Environmental Center is open Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Visit the County's website at www.co.washington.mn.us and click on "Environmental Center" to view a full list of what's accepted at the Center.

City of Newport Voucher - Good for the Disposal of One Bulky Item

Recycling and Energy Center, 100 Red Rock Road, Newport, MN 55055, (651) 768-6670

Hours: Monday - Thursday 6:00 am.to 8:00 pm, Friday 6:00 am-5:00 pm, and Saturday 6:00 am to 4:00 pm

Voucher is good for the following items: tire, tire rims, furniture (excluding mattresses), and appliances.

This voucher is only for Newport residents. Please bring a form of ID showing your Newport address when dropping off your free item.

Expires: December 31, 2022