

October
2023

We wish to recognize and thank the members of the Newfolden Fire Department for their time, hard work, and dedication to our communities safety!

NEWFOLDEN FIRE DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES 75 YEARS!



City Scene

Energy Assistance Providers

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council

Available for Newfolden residents
residing on the West side of US
Highway 59.
(218) 281-5832
(800) 264-3729

Northwest Community Action

Available for Newfolden residents
residing on the East side of US
Highway 59.
(218) 528-3258
(800) 568-5329

“Cold Weather Rule” – Annual Notification

Bills can pile up, just like snow! But the Minnesota Cold-Weather Rule is designed to protect people who have trouble paying their utility bills in the winter. The Minnesota Cold-Weather Rule applies from October 15 to April 15. The rule, established by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, means that your utility provider cannot disconnect your residential electric service during the winter if the customer meets the following requirements:

1. The utility disconnection would affect the customer’s primary heating source;
2. The customer has formally declared inability to pay on forms provided by the utility (Note: Customers receiving “any form of public assistance, including energy assistance, are deemed to have qualified for the inability to pay status”);
3. The household income of the customer is less than 50 percent of the state median income level, as document by the customer to the utility; and
4. The customer’s utility account is current for the billing period immediately prior to October 15 or the customer has entered into a payment schedule and is reasonable current with payments under the schedule.

2024 PROPERTY TAX LEVY IS CERTIFIED AT A \$5,000.00 REDUCTION

On September 18, the City Council certified the 2024 Property Tax Levy. The Council was notified by Marshall County Assessor, Ryan Larson, that an error was discovered by the State of Minnesota. The error was an over-valuation, by the state, of approximately 2.5 million dollars of railroad track-miles, used to formulate the tax capacity of the railroad’s portion of the City Levy. The error has now been corrected for the tax year, payable 2024. This redistribution will result in all Newfolden properties seeing an increase to the City portion of their tax statement, without any actual increase to the City levy or Newfolden’s operating revenue.

The decision was made to reduce the 2024 tax Levy by \$5,000.00. It is important to the council to control costs so that we are able to incorporate this reduction into next year’s operating budget, while not sacrificing essential services. The intent is to reduce the negative impact this correction will have on our taxpayer’s next year. Taxpayers will see an increase to their taxes because of the corrected valuations, however, the subsequent Levy decrease is anticipated to reduce this impact/increase by 50%.

In an effort to stabilize and maintain the City’s portion of your property tax statement, efforts to re-focus on cost reductions and long-term planning are being prioritized.

SHOW AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE! NOMINATE A KIND WORD OR DEED!

NAME OF NOMINEE: _____

WHY IS THIS PERSON WORTHY OF RECOGNITION OR APPRECIATION:

SUBMITTED BY (NOT REQUIRED): _____

ON-LINE BILL PAY FOR YOUR UTILITY BILL

Management of your utility account online is a safe and secure service that encrypts the utility bill until you enter your user name and password. You can opt to pay your bill online with a credit card or by e-check.

There is a small service fee. This service fee, in most cases, would be less than the late fee you could incur if your payment is delayed. The service is accessed at a fee of \$3.99 per \$100.00 utility bill. Follow registration instructions below for on-line bill paying options.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VIEW YOUR UTILITY ACCOUNTS ON-LINE

◆ To register go to: www.ub-pay.com

• You will need your first and last name, account numbers, and the City Code. NOTE: Each utility card you receive is a separate utility account with a unique account number. You will need to register one online account for each separate account number you wish to manage online. After you register one account number, log off, and begin the process anew for the next account number. The account numbers are located on each utility card. The City Codes are specific to the type of account. The codes ARE case sensitive.

• If you are registering to manage your Electric (CI and Mosquito) utility— The **CITY CODE is: NewFoldenElectric**

• If you are registering to manage your Water, Sewer, and Refuse utility— **The CITY CODE is: NewFoldenWater**

◆ Once you have registered to view your utility accounts, you are ready to make on-line utility payments!

AUTOMATIC UTILITY BILL-PAY IS AVAILABLE

If you bank at Newfolden's Marshall County State Bank, you can authorize the automatic payment of your monthly utility bill. Customers can request an authorization form, which will be approved by the City of Newfolden and Marshall County State Bank. Your account will automatically be debited each month for the timely payment of your utility bill. Visit the city website at www.ci.newfolden.mn.us or call 874-7135 to have information sent to you!

- Only the amount documented on each monthly utility statement will be deducted.
- Customers are responsible for any record-keeping related to this transaction. Utility billing statements are mailed monthly for this purpose.
- Financial account data will be kept confidential and will not be shared with any other entity. Authorizations will be documented and stored for a minimum of 7 years.
- Debits will be completed on or after the 15th of each month.
- An account will be removed from the automatic debit process if two or more transactions fail to clear the bank as contracted.