City COVID-19 Response

2020 Election
Primary Aug. 11; General Nov. 3

Recreation on Page 12
City Connections
City Hall open Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Police Lobby open Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Closed: May 25 (Memorial Day)
www.crystalmn.gov

Main Switchboard ............................... 763-531-1000
Animal Control ................................. 763-531-5161
Assessing ......................................... 763-531-1118
Code Enforcement ............................ 763-531-1143
Communications .............................. 763-531-1136
Community Center/Recreation .......... 763-531-0052
Crime Tip Hotline ............................ 763-531-1020
Elections/Voting ............................... 763-531-1145
Engineering ..................................... 763-531-1161
Fire: West Metro Fire-Rescue District ... 763-230-7000
Hennepin Recycling Group .............. 763-493-8006
Parks .............................................. 763-531-1158
Police Records ................................. 763-531-1014
Police/Fire Emergencies ................. 911
Rental Properties ............................. 763-531-1144
Streets .......................................... 763-531-1164
Utilities ......................................... 763-531-1166
Utility Billing .................................. 763-531-1120
Zoning ........................................... 763-531-1142

Deaf and hard-of-hearing callers can contact the
MN Relay Service at 711 or 1-800-627-3529 V/TTY

Council Members

Mayor Jim Adams
612-805-5101
(Call or Text)

Nancy LaRoche (Section I)
612-399-6791
nancy.laroche@crystalmn.gov

Olga Parsons (Section II)
612-217-2337
olga.parsons@crystalmn.gov

Therese Kiser (Ward 1)
763-458-0030
therese.kiser@crystalmn.gov

Brendan Banks (Ward 2)
763-312-8221
brendan.banks@crystalmn.gov

John Budziszewski (Ward 3)
612-207-3704
john.budziszewski@crystalmn.gov

Julie Deshler (Ward 4)
612-306-5808
julie.deshler@crystalmn.gov

Council Meetings
Meetings are generally the first and third Tuesdays of the
month at 7 p.m. During state at home orders, meetings are
virtual using the Zoom Application. Upcoming dates:
May 19 | June 2 and 16 | July 21 | Aug. 6, 13 and 18

Council Work Sessions
Work sessions are usually the second Thursday of the month
and before and/or after council meetings. The public is
welcome. Audio recordings are at www.crystalmn.gov.

Citizen Input Time
Citizen Input Time with City Manager Anne Norris, Mayor
Jim Adams and other council members is suspended during
the stay-at-home orders. They are typically the third
Tuesday of the month (excluding summer).

Meeting Broadcasts
All city meetings are broadcast live on Comcast channel 16
and CenturyLink channel 8208.
Rebroadcast Schedule:
Sundays, Wednesdays, Fridays at 6:30 p.m.
Mondays, Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.
Tuesdays, Thursdays at 1 p.m.

Streaming Video
Live and past public meeting webstreams can also be
viewed online at www.crystalmn.gov. Go to “How Do
I...?” and scroll down to “View” and “Council Meetings.”
ON THE COVER

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Learn more under “Police” and Services at police.crystalmn.gov.

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CITY of CRYSTAL

HEADLINES

CITY COVID-19 Response

State Primary and General Elections

Crystal Connection • www.crystalmn.gov
The City of Crystal is part of an Emergency Management Team that includes the City of New Hope and the West Metro Fire-Rescue District. This team is working closely with the Hennepin County Emergency Management and the Minnesota Department of Health to monitor and respond to the threat and spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), which is informing each city’s response to the virus.

To protect residents and staff from transmission of Coronavirus (COVID-19), the City of Crystal closed its public buildings and offices, and Mayor Jim Adams declared a state of emergency. The city continues to provide essential public safety and public works services without interruption, this includes police, fire, street and park maintenance, inspections, utilities, elections and more.

Residents and customers are asked to conduct city-related business remotely, utilizing phones, text messaging, mail, email or online information and documents via the city website. For assistance on any non-emergency, call 763-531-1000, customerservice@crystalmn.gov, or visit crystalmn.gov. If you have an emergency, including emergencies for public works, call 911.

**City Council**
The city council and other public meetings are temporarily hosted online using the Zoom video conferencing application. The public is welcome to watch or participate in these meetings. Links are available on the city’s website calendar and social media accounts found on the city’s website. Meetings are broadcast on Comcast Channel 16, CenturyLink Channel 8208 and available on demand at bit.ly/2SkGK2i.

**Recreation**
The community center is closed to rental groups and recreation activities are canceled until further notice; however, senior meal programs continue. Efforts will be made to reschedule canceled activities. Activity cancellations and updates are communicated via email to registered participants as soon as possible.

The opening of the Crystal Cove Aquatic Center is being postponed to at least Monday, July 6. In the coming weeks, the city will evaluate whether and how to open Crystal Cove safely. Watch the city’s recreation page for updated information in early June at parksandrec.crystalmn.gov.

City parks and trails are open. The city encourages their use; however, practice appropriate distancing and safety measures. Pick-up games, team sports or other group gatherings should not take place. Playground use is discouraged. Picnic shelter and sport field rental are not available. Visit the city’s recreation website to stay updated on alerts and changes at parksandrec.crystalmn.gov.

**Community Development**
Information regarding building permits and inspections can be found on the city website at crystalmn.gov/resident/community_development. Building inspections continue. Permit applications may be submitted online or mailed to the city.

**Community Events**
With the uncertainty of COVID-19, popular community events including Crystal Frolics and the Crystal Airport Open House have been canceled, and many others have been postponed.

Health concerns and social distancing will most likely continue for many months to come, so watch the city’s website and social; media account available at for updates on summer events and activities in Crystal at crystalmn.gov.
State Primary and General Election Coming

The 2020 State Primary is Tuesday, Aug. 11 and the General Election is Tuesday, Nov. 3. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

To be eligible to vote, you must:
- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Be at least 18 years on Election Day.
- Be a resident of Minnesota for 20 days immediately preceding Election Day.
- Have finished with all parts of any felony sentence.
- Not be under court-ordered guardianship where a judge has revoked your right to vote.
- Not have been ruled legally incompetent by a court of law.

Voter Registration
Check your voter registration status or register online at tinyurl.com/zgbo77a.
Visit the city’s website and click on “City Government,” then “Voting and Elections” for more information.

Voters may only vote at their assigned polling location. Use the state poll finder website to find your polling place at tinyurl.com/ya4r39th.

Municipal Election
The City of Crystal will have four council seats on the 2020 general election ballot. Any one of these offices could be on the Primary Ballot should three candidates apply:
- Mayor
- Council Member Ward 3
- Council Member Ward 4
- Council Member Section I (representing Wards 1 and 2).

City Council Candidate Filings
The candidate filing period opens May 19 at 8 a.m. and close June 2 at 5 p.m. City offices are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Contact the city clerk’s office at Chrissy.Serres@crystalmn.gov or 763-531-1145 for more information.

Absentee Voting
Absentee voting for the Primary Election is available by mail or in person at city hall (June 26 – Aug. 11). Absentee voting for the General Election is available by mail or in person at city hall (Sept. 18 – Nov. 2. City hall absentee voting hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Extended hours: Saturday, Oct. 31 (10 a.m. – 3 p.m.) and Monday, Nov. 2 (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.).

How to Apply
Minnesota Absentee Ballot Applications are available on the city’s website, at city hall, or by calling 763-531-1000. Voters can complete an application online at http://tinyurl.com/yvcmz862. Voted ballots must be received at city hall or Hennepin County Elections by 3 p.m. on Aug. 14.
Last week, the Crystal Police Department celebrated National Police Week (May 10 – 16) and honored officers killed in the line of duty on Peace Officer Memorial Day (May 15). We would like to thank you for your continued support of our police department. Citizens should never hesitate to contact our staff with questions.

As the summer months approach, COVID-19 has changed things for all of us, including how we celebrate our upcoming summer events. We encourage everyone to enjoy events that take place, but remember the importance of social distancing and continue to protect yourself and others.

**Community Events**

Because of COVID-19, we are unsure whether our community engagement events will occur, but I want to share them with you so you can add them to your calendar if they do happen. We are partnering with Dairy Queen on June 25 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at 6827 Bass Lake Rd. for our annual Cone with a Cop event. Please join us at the Crystal Dairy Queen.

Also, the Junior Police Academy event hosted with Crystal Recreation from Aug.17 and 18 may be postponed or canceled. Those interested may still sign up. For more information, visit webtrac.crystalmn.gov.

Another important night for the department and the community is Night to Unite. This event has been postponed to Oct. 6 due to concerns regarding COVID-19. We will accept block party registrations as we get closer to this event, so watch the city’s website for updates at bit.ly/2GbqNEw.

Again, we are hoping that these events take place; however, things are up in the air due to COVID-19. Watch the city website closely at crystalmn.gov or visit the city’s and police department’s social media accounts to stay informed as each of these fun event gets closer.

Finally, there is much to be excited about in our great city, in large part thanks to our great citizenry and our connection to them. Thank you for the part you play in making Crystal a great place to live and work.

Most importantly, never hesitate to call 911 if you see something suspicious. I always tell residents that we can’t do our job without your help. You are truly the eyes and ears of the community.

As always, if you have a question or need additional information from the police department, contact me at stephanie.revering@crystalmn.gov, 763-531-1010. You can also keep in touch via Facebook or Twitter. Links are available at crystalmn.gov.
Recreational
Fire Guidelines

The state and city fire code governing the minimum distance that recreational fires must be from any structure or combustible material is 25 ft.

Use common courtesy toward your neighbors. Do not burn wood that would most likely smoke up the neighborhood, and don’t burn leaves or yard waste. These items are accepted for free at the Maple Grove Yardwaste Site at mgyardwaste.com.

Other recreational fire requirements include:

- Needing a garden hose or fire extinguisher within 15 feet of the fire.
- Portable fire places cannot be operated within 15 ft. of a combustible structure.

Before lighting a recreational fire, check for statewide fire danger and current burning restrictions at dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/firerating_restrictions.html. More information on recreational fires are available at bit.ly/2yVHvb.

The West Metro Fire-Rescue District appreciates everyone’s cooperation. For more information, call 763-230-7000.

CodeRED

Sign Up for Crystal’s Emergency Notification System

The City of Crystal, in cooperation with New Hope and the West Metro Fire-Rescue District, is part of the free emergency notification system known as CodeRed. This service delivers customized emergency messages to residents and businesses via phone calls, text messages and emails.

This system will not be overly used or become another source of routine information. It is intended to provide an immediate, direct way to communicate instructions to people during a significant emergency.

Emergency notifications address:

- Utility disruptions or drinking water contamination.
- Shelter in place, evacuation alerts, other major threats to life and safety.
- Major road closures due to an emergency.
- Missing persons.

Sign up on your phone today by texting “crystalnewhope” to 99411. Sign up on any device or computer at bit.ly/31JsJ1D.

Join the Multicultural Advisory Committee

The Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) is a group of committed volunteers who advise the Crystal Police Department on how to better communicate with, serve and understanding the needs of its diverse community.

The group meets monthly with police personnel to discuss issues important to Crystal’s diverse communities, open up channels of communication and develop mutual trust.

TO BE INVOLVED, YOU MUST...

- Live, work or worship in the City of Crystal.
- Embrace the diversity of Crystal.
- Participate in challenging and meaningful conversations.
- Act as a bridge and work collaboratively.

Learn more by contacting Crystal Community Liaison Stephanie Sanderson at 763-531-1043, Stephanie.Sanderson@hennepin.us.
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

EDA Home Improvement Grants & Loans
The City of Crystal offers financing assistance to homeowners for home maintenance and energy improvements.

Home Improvement Grant
The city’s Economic Development Authority (EDA) provides a grant of 20% of the eligible costs for home improvement projects:
• Property must be owner-occupied.
• Household income cannot exceed 110% of metro area median income.
• Eligible costs must total at least $2,000.
• Grant is 20% of eligible costs (40% for some sanitary sewer projects).
• Property may not receive grants totaling more than $10,000 per year.
• Application must be submitted and approved before starting your project.
• The grant will be paid after the project is completed and inspected.

Fix-up Fund Loans
The city’s EDA provides an interest rate write-down for Community Fix-up Fund home improvement loans.
Loan amounts can be from $2,000 - $50,000. The loan term may be up to 20 years.

The interest rate is 3% (APR 3.165% for a 15-year loan of $50,000). The property must be owner occupied.

For more information, contact the Center for Energy and Environment at 612-335-5884, www.mncee.org.

Free Technical Assistance Available for Local Businesses
Open to Business provides one-on-one technical assistance at no charge to existing or proposed new businesses in Crystal.
Open to Business advisors can help local business people develop a business plan and provide guidance on essential business skills such as record keeping, cash flow analysis and marketing. Advisors can also help connect emerging businesses to loans and other financial resources.
For information, visit www.opentobusinessmn.org or contact Rob Smolund at rsmolund@mccdmn.org or 612-843-3260.

United States Census 2020
The U.S. Constitution requires a count of all people living in the United States every 10 years.
The Census counts everyone regardless of citizenship or immigration status. The City of Crystal is asking for your help to ensure a complete count of everyone who lives in our community.

What’s at stake?
• A complete count will reduce the chance of Minnesota losing a Congressional seat.
• Census data are used to allocate federal and state funding for local needs.
• Census data are also used by the private sector to decide where to make economic investments.

What’s the process?
• In mid-March, all residential addresses were mailed an invitation to respond to the Census online.
• Citizens living at addresses that did not respond online were mailed a paper Census form in mid-April.
• Citizens living at addresses that do not respond using the online or paper forms will be visited by a Census worker later this year.

For more information, visit 2020census.gov.
Did You Know?
Residents can add another dwelling unit to their single family home?

The illustrated buildings and additions above are called Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and they can take many forms:

• An interior ADU is located within the existing home, such as a basement apartment.
• An attached ADU is located in a proposed addition to the existing home.
• A detached ADU is located in a separate building on the same lot as the home, such as a “tiny house” in the backyard or the second floor of a detached garage.

For more information, contact Dan Olson at 763-531-1142 or dan.olson@crystalmn.gov.

Scattered Site Lots for New Homes
The City of Crystal sold seven lots in 2019 and the new homes will be completed and available for purchase in 2020.

For more information about available lots, contact Dan Olson dan.olson@crystalmn.gov, call 763-531-1142, or visit the Community Development webpage under “Our City” at crystalmn.gov.

New home to be built at 5244 Scott Ave. N.
Public Works Infrastructure Projects Are Underway

The city’s street maintenance mill and overlay pavement work on 6.25 miles of city street in southern Crystal started in late April (see map at right) and is anticipated to be wrapped up mid-summer.

The project will remove approximately 1.5 inches of the existing street surface and replace it with new asphalt. As part of this project, damaged, deteriorated, settled and severely cracked sections of curb and gutter will be replaced, including some pedestrian sidewalk curb ramps. Repairs will also be made to deteriorating manhole and storm sewer structures, and some minor drainage improvements will be made in specific locations.

In addition to the street maintenance project, Kentucky Ave. (Medicine Lake Rd. to 30th Ave.) and Jersey Ave. (30th Ave. to 32nd Ave.) are planned to have a utility reconstruction project with the water main and sanitary sewer main being replaced. Updates on the schedule will be mailed to all the impacted properties once they are known. Unfortunately, this project will be extremely disruptive as the streets will be completely removed during the replacement of both the water and sanitary sewer mains. Additionally, CenterPoint Energy will be replacing their gas mains in conjunction with this project.

Crystal’s 2019 Drinking Water Report

The City of Crystal Consumer Confidence Water Report provides information on drinking water and how to protect this precious resource. Drinking water comes from a surface water source and is purchased from Minneapolis, and the city seeks to ensure residents have safe and reliable drinking water that meets federal and state water quality requirements.


The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water. This ensures that tap water is safe to drink for most people. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

For more information about Crystal’s drinking water, contact the public works department at 763-531-1139 or publicworks@crystalmn.gov.
Handling Neighborhood Issues or Code Violations

Maintaining an Attractive Lawn
Lawns in Crystal cannot exceed 8 inches high. The city will send a 10-day notice to the property owner if there is a violation. If the lawn remains in violation, the city will hire a contractor to cut the lawn and bill the property owner. Unpaid bills are assessed against the property.

It is unlawful to throw, spill, or leave dirt, garbage, sweepings, compost, grass clippings, leaves, or brush in any street, alley, sidewalk, park, or other public place in the city. This degrades water quality as materials get washed into local streams, wetlands and lakes.

Do not allow your lawn to be worn down to dirt or mud. This can occur when vehicles are parked on or driven over lawns, which is not permitted. If your lawn is wearing down, please take the necessary steps to restore it.

Limiting Outdoor Storage
City Code prohibits the outdoor storage of litter and refuse including garbage, household appliances and furniture; wood, branches, leaves and grass clippings; deteriorated or wrecked property in unusable condition or left unprotected from the elements and inoperable, unlicensed, partially dismantled or abandoned motor vehicles, trailers, boats and machinery.

Landscaping and construction materials currently being used on the property may be stored outdoors. When the project is completed, excess materials must be removed from the property.

If you have any code enforcement-related questions or would like to report a possible violation, contact the code enforcement specialist at 763-531-1143, jason.zimmermann@crystalmn.gov.

In Recycling, One Size Does Not Fit All

When Hennepin Recycling Group (HRG) started its single-stream recycling program, all residents received a 64-gallon or medium size recycling cart. Since then, the organization has expanded the types of materials it accepts, so residents may need a bigger recycling cart. There’s no extra charge to get a different size cart or even a second cart.

Carts are available in small (35 gallon), medium (64 gallon) or large (96 gallon) sizes.

To request a different size cart or a second cart, call HRG at 763-493-8006 or email bpom@brooklynpark.org.

Sign Up for Alerts

Don’t miss out on important city news, city council news, winter parking restrictions or community events such as a park grand opening, a public building open house, Cheers to Crystal or the Bulky Waste Curbside Clean-up.

Subscribe to one, or all four, email alerts offered by the City of Crystal at bit.ly/2BAznxH.
Becker Park is a new destination in the City of Crystal centered on play and connecting community. The city will be celebrating the official opening of the park in the near future.

Once open, the park will provide many free opportunities for visitors to be active and socialize with friends, family and the greater community. Please follow social distancing guidelines as you safely use the park amenities and trails. Visit www.beckerpark.com for an updated timeline of opportunities.

The Crystal Frolics Committee decided to pause the fireworks, softball tournament, music and other events planned for 2020, citing anticipated public health conditions. The event was scheduled for July 23-26 at Becker and Welcome park.

The decision to cancel was in partnership with the City of Crystal and local service organizations, with sensitivity to community sponsors/businesses and with respect to the many volunteers who help make the festival one of the best in the area.

Like our Facebook page and learn about upcoming events and get regular updates in your news feed.

www.facebook/crystalrec

Join our email list on Crystal Recreation webpage, under “Sign Up.”
- Select your interest and preferences
- Convenient links to online registration.

One Stop For Recreation Resources
- Select your interest and preferences.
- Convenient links to online registration.

parksandrec.crystalmn.gov