

The Crystal Connection



FALL 2022



2022 Election Information Police Building Open House



PHOTO BY DAN JOHNSON

Turn Over for Recreation Brochure

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 30308
TWIN CITIES MN

City of Crystal
4141 Douglas Dr. N.
Crystal, MN 55422

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: Sept. 5 (Labor Day); Nov. 11 (Veterans Day)

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	763-531-1143
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 Meetings

Meetings are generally the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m. Meetings are also virtual using the Zoom teleconferencing application. Upcoming dates:
Aug. 16 | Sept. 6 and 20 | Oct. 3 and 18 | Nov. 15

Meeting Broadcasts

All city meetings are broadcast live on Comcast Channel 16.

Rebroadcast schedule:

Sundays, Wednesdays, Fridays at 6:30 p.m.

Mondays, Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.

Tuesdays, Thursdays at 1 p.m.

Live and archived public meeting webstreams are also available at crystalmn.gov. Go to "How Do I...?" and scroll down to "View" and "Council Meetings."

crystalmn.gov

Council Members



Mayor Jim Adams
612-805-5101 (Call or Text)
jim.adams@crystalmn.gov



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



David Cummings (Ward 4)
952-479-0816
david.cummings@crystalmn.gov

Residents are encouraged to contact and meet directly with their council members.

Council Work Sessions

Work sessions are usually the second Thursday of the month and before and/or after council meetings. During the pandemic, meetings are also virtual using the Zoom Application. Audio recordings are at crystalmn.gov.

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by Dan Johnson

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2022 GENERAL ELECTION

The 2022 General Election is Tuesday, Nov. 8, and the city will have three council seats on the general election ballot:

- Council Member Section II (representing Wards 3 and 4)
- Council Member Ward 1
- Council Member Ward 2

VOTER REGISTRATION

Check your voter registration status or register online at mnvotes.org.

Registration is required if any of these statements are true:

- Have never registered to vote.
- Have changed your name or address (including apartment change in the same building) since you last voted.
- Have not voted in the past four years.

Voters may only vote at their assigned polling location. Citizens can find their polling location by visiting the Secretary of State’s website at pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us.

The last day to pre-register for the General Election is Oct. 18.

ABSENTEE VOTING

Absentee voting is available by mail, or in person at city hall, from Sept. 23 – Nov. 7. General Election early voting extended hours are Saturday, Nov. 5 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. and Monday, Nov. 7 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Normal absentee voting hours at city hall are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

For your convenience, you may request an absentee ballot online at bit.ly/3zkoj3s. Applications are also available at city hall or by calling 763-531-1000. To track the status of your absentee ballot, visit bit.ly/3v2ICBI.

More information about absentee voting is available at bit.ly/3v2ICBI.

MORE INFORMATION: For questions about voter registration, absentee voting, redistricting/polling place changes or becoming an election judge, visit crystalmn.gov or contact the city clerk at 763-531-1145 or chrissy.serres@crystalmn.gov.

REDISTRICTING/POLLING PLACE CHANGES

Every ten years after the census, the redistricting process occurs. Earlier this year, updated congressional and legislative redistricting maps were released. As a result, the City of Crystal reestablished its ward and precinct boundaries as well as updated its polling places as part of redistricting requirements. The location of your ward, precinct and/or polling place may have changed since you last voted due to redistricting. We encourage you to verify your correct polling place before the Nov. 8, 2022, General Election.



Ward/Precinct	Polling Place
Ward 1/Precinct 1	Crystal City Hall, 4141 Douglas Dr. N.
Ward 2/Precinct 1	FAIR School Crystal, 3915 Adair Ave. N.
Ward 2/Precinct 2	
Ward 3/Precinct 1	Crystal Community Center, 4800 Douglas Dr. N.
Ward 4/Precinct 1	Cornerstone Church, 5000 West Broadway

WHAT’S ON MY BALLOT: Citizens can view their sample ballot by visiting the Secretary of State’s website at bit.ly/3RZprB8. Sample ballots are also posted at city hall.

SERVE AS AN ELECTION JUDGE

The city hires election judges to help voters at the polling place. Judges learn about elections and provide a vital service.

Learn more at go.crystalmn.gov/3kjmmw8.

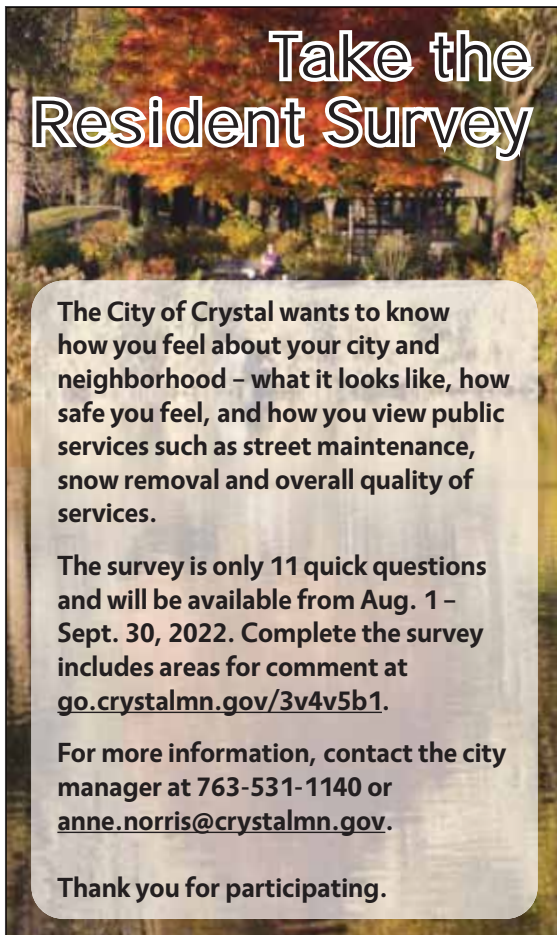


SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, Sept. 24 (*Date Subject to Change)

**CRYSTAL POLICE BUILDING
RIBBON CUTTING
& OPEN HOUSE**

Saturday, Sept. 24*, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
4141 Douglas Ave. N., Crystal, Minn.

Ribbon Cutting/Guest Speakers - 10 a.m.
Open House 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Refreshments



**Take the
Resident Survey**

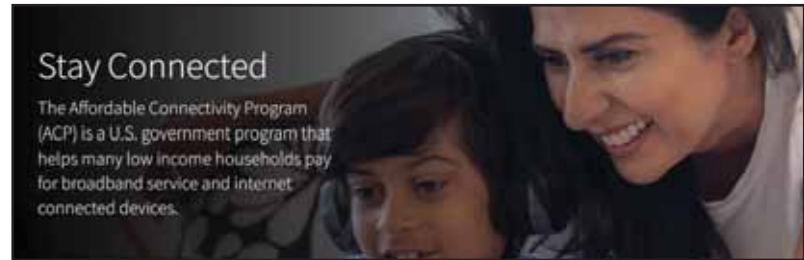
The City of Crystal wants to know how you feel about your city and neighborhood – what it looks like, how safe you feel, and how you view public services such as street maintenance, snow removal and overall quality of services.

The survey is only 11 quick questions and will be available from Aug. 1 – Sept. 30, 2022. Complete the survey includes areas for comment at go.crystalmn.gov/3v4v5b1.

For more information, contact the city manager at 763-531-1140 or anne.norris@crystalmn.gov.

Thank you for participating.

Discounted Internet Service



Stay Connected

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a U.S. government program that helps many low income households pay for broadband service and internet connected devices.

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) helps low-income households pay for internet service. Eligible household households can receive up to a \$30/month discount on internet service.

Some Internet providers also offer discounts on connected devices like a laptop or tablets. Only one monthly service discount and one device discount is allowed per household.

Learn more at affordableconnectivity.gov.

Recycling News



FREE ORGANICS RECYCLING

Sign up to use the new free organics recycling drop-off at the northeast corner of the Crystal Cove Aquatics Center parking lot at 4848 Douglas Dr. It is open year-round. The most common organics include food scraps and non-recyclable paper such as napkins.

There's more information on organics recycling and a sign-up form at hrg-recycling.com on the Organics Recycling page.

Residents can also sign up with their garbage hauler for curbside organics recycling service for an additional fee. As an incentive, the Hennepin Recycling Group will pay 50% of the cost of the first year of service.

KEEP RECYCLING LOOSE IN THE CART

Place your recyclables in loose in the cart; do not put them in bags. Plastic bags get tangled in the recycling sorting machinery and end up in the trash, as does the material inside them. Bottles and cans get nested inside paper bags and can't be separated.

To recycle correctly, empty your bags of recyclables into your cart, reuse paper bags or put them on top of the other recycling, and take plastic bags back to the store for recycling.

PUMPKIN DISPOSAL

Pumpkins can be placed in your backyard compost bin. If you don't have a bin, use the free drop off container in Central Park across the street from Brooklyn Park's Operations & Maintenance facility, 8300 Noble Ave N., from Nov. 1 – 7. Please remove all candles, candle wax and decorations before disposal.



Chief's Corner



As we welcome fall and say farewell to summer, I would like to take a moment to give an update on your police department.

Ribbon Cutting/Open House

I would like to invite you to a ribbon cutting/open house of your new police building on Sept. 24, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (The event date is subject to change). The event will include guest speakers, displays, refreshments and an opportunity to explore the completed building.

Currently, exterior finishes are wrapping up, the lower-level parking lot curbing is complete and the asphalt has been installed. Inside, the tile work and glass is being finished and the offices and parking garage are being painted.

Learn more about the project at go.crystalmn.gov/3ROIqPC.

TRI-CITY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FORUM
Building upon the positive relationships and trust between the police and our communities.
Wednesday, Oct. 12
6:30 p.m.
Crystal Community Center
4800 Douglas Dr. in Crystal

- Discuss policies and procedures.
- Share in an open and honest conversation.
- Examine the challenges in your neighborhood and city.
- Address the Crystal, New Hope and Robbinsdale police chiefs.
- Focus on understanding and improving community well-being.

Community Forum

The department will partner with the cities of New Hope and Robbinsdale to host a Community Engagement Forum on Oct. 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Crystal Community Center.

The forum will be a great time to speak to your local police department on community policing issues such as policies and procedures, neighborhood challenges, community well-being and more. I look forward to seeing you there.

Community Academy

The Community Police Academy is a full-time adult program for those who want to learn more about their local police department. The free classes

are Tuesdays from 6 – 9 p.m. from September to October.

Night to Unite

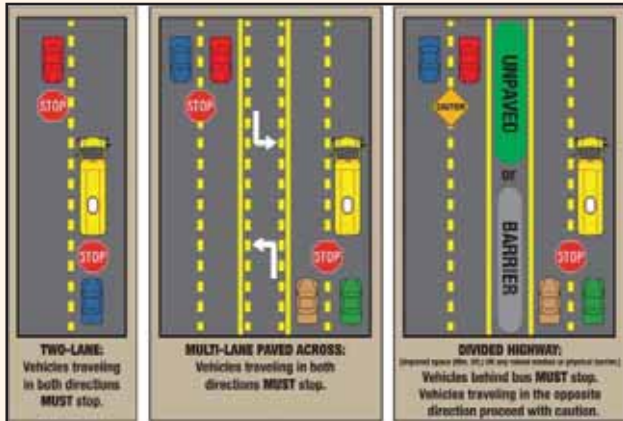
On Tuesday, Aug. 2, Night to Unite celebrations were held throughout the city. This annual community and police event fosters relationships between neighbors and law enforcement to make neighborhoods safer and heighten crime prevention awareness.

The City of Crystal has a strong tradition of high neighborhood participation in this event. This year was no different. Thank you to the many block club leaders who organized parties on behalf of their neighborhoods.

Events such as Night to Unite and programs like the Citizens' Academy allow officers to learn about residents' concerns while residents learn about the department's crime prevention strategies. Crime intervention and suppression occurs best when the community is active, engaged and willing to report concerns and suspicious activities.

In closing, 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.

Stop for the Stop Arm



In September, kids head back to school. Help keep children safe by stopping for school bus stop arms.

The law requires that drivers in both directions stop at least 20 feet away when they see a school bus with its red lights flashing and stop arm extended. The fine for failing to stop is \$500.

School bus drivers can report these violations directly to the police department. The registered owner of the violator vehicle can receive a ticket in the mail – even if they were not driving the vehicle at the time of the offense.

The only time it is okay to pass a bus with flashing lights is if you're going the opposite direction on a divided roadway (see above diagram).

In 2021 and part of 2022, there were eight reports of stop arm violations in Crystal.

Citizens' Academy Offers Insight Into Local Policing

The Crystal, New Hope and Robbinsdale Community Police Academy is for adults of all ages and backgrounds who live or work within the three cities and want to learn about their local police department.



The no-cost classes are held each fall and run seven weeks, starting in September. Space is limited and participants must commit to attend all seven classes.

The free classes are Thursdays from 6 – 9 p.m. on Sept. 13, 20, 27 and Oct. 4, 11, 18 and 25. Space is limited and participants must commit to attend all six classes. The deadline to apply is Sept. 13 at 3 p.m. A brief background check is conducted on all applicants.

Most instructors are New Hope, Crystal or Robbinsdale police officers. Topics include patrol tactics, investigations, narcotics, crime scene processing, juvenile crime, dispatching, court procedures, use of force, canine demonstrations, crime prevention strategies and mental health in law enforcement.

Online registration forms are available at go.crystalmn.gov/3NGFDDP.

For more information, contact Sergeant Brandon Dorr at 763-531-1047, brandon.dorr@crystalmn.gov.

Become a Part-time West Metro Fire-Rescue District Firefighter

The West Metro Fire-Rescue District (serving Crystal and New Hope) is seeking paid-on-call firefighters interested in a fulfilling and exciting part-time opportunity.

Paid-on-call firefighters are teachers, mechanics, engineers, social workers, students, parents and more. Do you have what it takes?

The application deadline is Aug. 22 at 4:30 p.m.

For more information, go to wmfrd.org/about-us/hiring, or contact Assistant Chief Joel Nelson at jnelson@westmetrofire.com, 763-230-7007.



Construction Update



Crystal Suite Living opened their 32-unit assisted living facility at 3501 Douglas Dr. in August 2022.



Crystal Vision Clinic's new building at 5730 Bottineau Blvd. is under construction.



Odam Medical Group demolished the former Rostamo's building at 6014 Lakeland Ave. N. and is building a family practice clinic on the site. The first phase will be one floor but they plan to add two more floors within the next several years.

Senior Community Services

Are you age 60 years or older and having difficulty maintaining your property?

The city is partnering with Senior Community Services to help with indoor and outdoor chores such as lawn care, snow removal, housekeeping, minor repairs and painting. Fees are on a sliding scale based on income.

For more information, call 952-746-4046 or visit seniorcommunity.org/services/home-program.



Thanks to Local Businesses That Sponsor Planter Boxes

- Nokomis Shoes (3)
- Toni's African Deli
- Bella's Beauty Supply
- Hired Guns Tattoo
- Elegant Clothing (2)
- B&R Transmission (4)
- Almsteds Fresh Market (6)
- Bella's Shoppe (2)
- Intrepid Dance Company (3)
- Cardell Floral (3)

Blue Line Light Rail Extension Update



In June, Hennepin County and the Metropolitan Council approved a Route Modification Report for the Blue Line Extension Light Rail Project that would run in the median of Bottineau Blvd. through Crystal, with a station at Bass Lake Rd.

The project now moves into the environmental review and municipal consent phases. For the environmental review, the city has requested that alternatives maintaining six lanes from Hwy. 100 to Bass Lake Rd. be evaluated, in addition to the four lane alternative currently being planned by the project. The environmental review will help inform the Crystal City Council's municipal consent vote anticipated in summer 2023.

For more information, visit go.crystalmn.gov/3ObDBMp.



FALL CLEAN-UP

With fall fast approaching and summer projects ending, plan to have all your construction materials properly stored.

Materials and equipment not appropriate for permanent outdoor use must be stored in a garage or storage shed. This includes construction lumber, household appliances, indoor furniture, and deteriorated or wrecked property left unprotected from the elements.

Yard Work

When performing yard work, keep in mind that it is unlawful to throw, spill or leave sweepings, compost, grass clippings, leaves or brush in a street, alley or sidewalk. If not properly stored, wood, branches, leaves and grass clippings are considered refuse and must be removed from the property.

Yard Waste

Crystal residents may drop off yard waste at the Maple Grove Yard Waste Site at no charge, at 10300 Maple Grove Pkwy.

The site is open Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Accepted materials include grass clippings, leaves, garden materials and tree limbs up to 10 inches in diameter.

For more information, contact the site at 763-420-4886, info@mgyardwaste.com, or visitmgyardwaste.com. The site closes for the season on Nov. 30 and will not reopen until April 1, 2023.

Remember, a well-kept neighborhood increases the livability of the community and the value of your property.

Ask code enforcement-related questions or report possible code violations at 763-531-1143 or jason.zimmermann@crystalmn.gov.

Home Improvement Assistance



CITY of CRYSTAL

Home Improvement Grants

Home improvement Grants are funded by the Crystal Economic Development Authority and administered by the Center for Energy and Environment.

- The property must be **owner occupied**.
- Maximum household income:

Number of People in the Household	Maximum Household Income
1	\$66,150
2	\$84,000
3	\$94,500
4	\$104,900
5	\$113,300
6	\$121,700
7	\$130,100
8	\$138,500

- The eligible costs must total at least **\$3,000**.
- The grant is **20%*** of eligible costs.
**40% for some sewer projects.*
- A property may not receive grants totaling more than **\$8,000** per year.
- The application must be submitted and approved **before** starting your project.
- The grant will be paid **after** the project is completed.

Deferred Loans

Deferred loans use federal funds and are administered by Hennepin County.

Deferred, no-interest home rehab loans to homeowners up to 80% of metro area median income:

Number of People in the Household	Maximum Household Income
1	\$55,950
2	\$63,950
3	\$71,950
4	\$79,900
5	\$86,300
6	\$92,700
7	\$99,100
8	\$105,500

- The loan term is 15 years and repayment is deferred while the recipient continues to own and occupy the property.
- If the recipient ceases to own and occupy the property at any time during the 15-year term, then the loan must be repaid in full.

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

EVENT CALENDAR

More events at go.crystalmn.gov/3EozTLT.

AUG. 21

Pool Closes for the Season
Pool to reopen June 2023.



SEPT. 23 – NOV. 7

Absentee Voting Open
General Election
Election Information on Page 4



SEPT. 24*

Open House/Ribbon Cutting
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
* Event Date Subject to Change
Crystal Police Building



SEPT. 27

Farmer's Market Last Day
3 – 7 p.m.
Becker Park



OCT. 8

Special Materials Drop-off
8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Brooklyn Park Facility
8300 Noble Ave. N.



OCT. 11

Coffee with a Cop
9 – 10 a.m.
Crystal Community Center



OCT. 12

Police Community Forum
6:30 p.m.
Crystal Community Center



NOV. 8

General Election Day
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
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DEC. 3

Winterfest
10 a.m. – noon
Crystal Community Center

