

Crystal History Chronology

(this information was compiled by Ann Andersen in 1996 for the Crystal Community Salute held on October 5, 1996)

- 1887 Crystal Village* is incorporated on January 11, with an estimated population of 587.
- 1890 Census shows 1, 074 residents.
- 1891 First village hall is built at 5352 W. Broadway; it is used until 1951.
- 1893 Eastern portion of Crystal Village withdraws to become Village of Robbinsdale.
- 1911 Crystal Village re-organizes and re-incorporates; population has shrunk to 550.
- 1914-18 World War I
- 1920 Gene Shanks Flying Service opens on W. Broadway and 49th Ave. N.
- 1936 Crystal's final, major boundary change occurs when western half withdraws to form Township of New Hope.
- 1940 Harry Holcomb buys Shanks Flying Service.
- 1941-45 World War II
- 1946 First Park Commission is organized; village has 3 parks.
- 1948 The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) acquires property and establishes the Crystal Airport on Highway 81 between County Road 10 and 63rd Ave. N. (The Administration Building was built in 1950; due to increased air traffic, additional acreage was added for runway extensions in 1951 and 1954.) The Crystal Airport is now one of six reliever airports in the metro area.
- 1949 Don Voge builds Bearcat Speedway west of old flying service on W. Broadway.
- 1950 Crystal Volunteer Fire Department is organized, with 43 volunteers.
- 1951 North Fire Station is built at 5510 W. Broadway; village administrative offices locate there until 1959.

Glen Haven Memorial Gardens replace Bearcat Speedway at 5100 Douglas Drive.

- 1952 Timesavers, Inc., moves to Crystal from Kansas, to become the largest employer.
- Forest Elementary, 6800 – 47th Ave. N., and Adair Elementary, 3915 Adair Ave. N. (later re-named Jeanette A. Fair Elementary) open as first school building located in Crystal.
- 1954 Thorson Elementary opens at 7323 – 58th Ave. N. (later on, it was Thorson Family Resource Center, now torn down)
- Construction of village sewer system begins.
- 1955 Crystal Shopping Center opens on Bass Lake Road.
- 1957 Edward D. Neill Elementary opens at 6600 Medicine Lake Road.
- Crystal Post Office is approved by U. S. Congress.
- 1958 Cavanagh Elementary opens at 5400 Corvallis Ave. N. Now Cavanagh Early Childhood Center.
- 1959 Village administrative offices move to rental offices at 6424 – 54th Ave. N.
- 1960 Village of Crystal becomes Home Rule Charter City; population 24,283.
- North Star Center and Chalet Restaurant open on Hwy. 100 and 36th Ave. N
- 1962 Dayton's Target Store opens on east side of Crystal Shopping Center.
- 1963 Crystal, Golden Valley and New Hope for coalition to buy water from Minneapolis. Three-member Water Commission governs operation of the system.
- 1964 City's water system installation begins.
- 1965 Crystal Municipal Building is built at 4141 Douglas Drive; city garage/shops at 41st and Colorado.

- Crystal Heights Elementary opens at 34th and Louisiana Ave. N.
(Now is Olivet Baptist Church).
- 1968 Municipal swimming pool built at 4848 Douglas Drive.
- 1969 City of Crystal signs posted.
- City sends out first newsletter to residents. First Mayor's Message
is from Mayor Reuben Lundquist.
- 1972 Rockford Road Library is built at 6401 – 42nd Ave N. by Hennepin
County.
- 1975 South Fire Station is built at 4101 Douglas Drive.
- 1976 Former North Star Center becomes Anthony Center at Hwy. 100
and 36th Ave. N.; Chalet Restaurant becomes Nicklow's.
- 1985 North Fire Station is built at 5354 Douglas Drive; named John T.
Irving Station to honor his years as city manager (1963-87) and
water/sewer superintendent (1955-63).
- 1986 Crystal Gallery shopping center opens on Broadway and Bass Lake
Road.
- 1987 Performing Arts Center building opens in Becker Park.
- 1989 Crystal Community Center is built at 4800 Douglas Drive N.
- 1993 Crystal Municipal Building is remodeled; also nearby South Fire
Station.
- 1995 Cub Foods opens in remodeled shopping center at 36th and Hwy.
100.
- City of Crystal is named Star City for Economic Development.
- 1996 Population 23,788 (1990 census)
Area 3,712 acres (5.8 square miles)
Facilities: Municipal Building, Community Center, 2 Fire Stations, 2
Maintenance garages, 23 parks, Swimming Pool

* In 1852, Hennepin County established 21 townships within its borders.
Township #118 became Crystal Lake Township in 1860, consisting of 15,000
acres bordered on the north by the Township of Brooklyn, on the south by Lake
Street in Minneapolis, on the east by the Mississippi River and on the west by the

Township of Plymouth. Annexations by Minneapolis and Golden Valley led to the re-organization of the township as Crystal Village in 1887, but eastern acreage would be withdrawn in 1893 to become Robbinsdale and much later western acreage would be withdrawn in 1936 to become New Hope.